

Gateway West Transmission Line Project

Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement

Why Are We Here?

October 2014

Rocky Mountain Power and Idaho Power have proposed building and operating approximately 1,000 miles of new high-voltage transmission lines across Wyoming and Idaho. Because portions of these lines would cross public land managed by the BLM and other agencies, the companies submitted an application for a right-of-way (ROW) grant across Federal lands in May of 2007. The BLM granted ROWs for segments 1 through 7 and 10 in 2013 but deferred a decision on segments 8 and 9 to allow additional time for Federal, State and local agencies to work together on identifying routes for these segments and on mitigation and enhancement measures for resources in the Morley Nelson Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area (NCA).

The companies have revised their application and identified a new proposed route for both segment 8 and segment 9. They have also proposed a package of mitigation and enhancement measures for impacts to resources and values in the NCA, in the event that any portions of segments 8 or 9 are sited there. The revised application and the proposed Mitigation and Enhancement portfolio (MEP) represent substantial new information that has not been analyzed under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

The BLM has determined that a supplemental EIS is needed to analyze this new information for segments 8 and 9 and to reach a decision whether to authorize and site segments 8 and 9 on Federal lands. No additional analysis is needed for segments 1 through 7 and 10.

PROJECT MILESTONES

2007

Initial ROW application

2008

May – July

Scoping for original 10-segment project

2011

July

Draft EIS published

2013

April

Final EIS published

November

Decision for segments 1-7 and 10

December

Boise RAC subcommittee convened

2014

May 30

RAC reports

August 8

Companies submit revised ROW application and Plan of Development

September 19 – October 24

Scoping for supplemental EIS for segments 8 and 9

2015 (estimated)

June

Publish Draft Supplemental EIS for segments 8 and 9

September

Public comment on Draft Supplemental EIS closes

2016 (estimated)

May

Publish Final Supplemental EIS for segments 8 and 9

June

Protest period closes

October

Record of Decision for segments 8 and 9



While the revised application and the MEP focus on the area in and near the NCA, the BLM has not made a decision on any portion of segment 8 or 9. The BLM is asking you to review and comment on the revised proposed routes, along with route alternatives considered by the Boise District Resource Advisory Council (RAC), and all routes considered in the original EIS. Additional route options may be identified through the scoping process. Information about all previously proposed routes for segments 8 and 9 is available at today's meeting and online at

http://www.blm.gov/id/st/en/prog/nepa_register/gateway-west.html.

The BLM will use information gathered during scoping to determine which routes to analyze in the supplemental EIS. The supplemental EIS will inform the BLM Idaho State Director's decision on whether or not to grant a right-of-way across Federal land, and, if a right-of-way is granted, what routes would be authorized and what enhancement and additional mitigation measures would be required for any portion of an authorized route that crosses the NCA.

Scoping began on September 19, 2014, and will close on October 24, 2014. Your comments will be most helpful if they are submitted during this period. There is a station at today's meeting where you can submit comments. You may also mail or email your comment to the one of the addresses listed at right, or submit your comments on the project Web site listed above.

How Best To Comment

The most helpful comments will:

- Provide new information pertaining to segments 8 and 9, including the proposed MEP;
- Identify new issues that should be considered;
- Identify a different way to meet the underlying need;
- Point out a specific flaw in the companies' proposal, in the information developed by the RAC, or in past NEPA analysis;
- Suggest methodologies that should be used in the NEPA analysis, including reasons why; and/or
- Identify a different source of credible research that should be used in the NEPA analysis.

Project information line: toll-free | 1-800-380-5828

eMail: blm_id_gateway_west@blm.gov

Mail, Courier or Hand Delivery:

Bureau of Land Management
Idaho State Office
Gateway West Transmission Project
1387 S. Vinnell Way
Boise, ID, 83709

Privacy Note: Comments, including names and addresses of respondents, will be made available to the public after the close of the official comment period. Please be advised that your entire comment, including your personal identifying information, may be made publicly available at any time. Although you may ask the BLM in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from the public, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so. All submissions from organizations and businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, will be available for public inspection in their entirety.

