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Sent: Monday, March 09, 2015 8:52 AM
To: comment@boardmantohemingway.com
Subject: website comment
Attachments: Comments to the BLM on B2H Transmission Line.pdf

Please find my comments on the B2H transmission line attached.

Thank You

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Comments to the BLM on B2H Transmission Line

by

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From the DEIS:

1.4 IDAHO POWER COMPANY'S OBJECTIVES FOR THE PROJECT,

IPC's objective for the B2H Project is to provide additional capacity to connect the Pacific Northwest region with the Intermountain region of southern Idaho to alleviate existing transmission constraints between the two areas and to ensure sufficient capacity so that IPC can meet present and forecasted load requirements. The number of customers in IPC's service area is expected to increase from approximately 490,000 in 2009 to over 680,000 by 2029.

Capacity limitations also restrict transmission customers' operations and can create significant reliability problems.

The B2H Project would add capacity to transmit electricity during high summer-month loading conditions and to accommodate third-party transmission requests. The proposed transmission line is needed to avert resource capacity deficits during the summer months. During peak usage, there is:

- No transmission capacity to transfer additional energy from the Pacific Northwest to Idaho and beyond*
- Limited transmission capacity to deliver resources from the east into the Pacific Northwest*
- No existing capacity to integrate new resources proposed for development in eastern Oregon*

IPC has received more than 4,000 MW of transmission service requests on the Idaho to Pacific Northwest path between 2005 and 2014. Of the service requests, only 133 MW were granted up through 2007 due to the limited available transmission capacity of the system. There are currently active requests in study status that are expected to commence operations when the B2H Project is completed. The development of wind and other renewable resources in response to state renewable portfolio standards is anticipated to further increase the demand for transmission capacity between the Intermountain region and the Pacific Northwest (IPC 2011d)

3.2.11.6 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE

Selection of the No Action Alternative would result in no socioeconomic effects, either positive or negative, as a result of the B2H Project.

Comments:

1. What is missing in the **NO ACTION ALTERATIVE** is evaluation of the statements made by IPC in Section 1.4 regarding population growth and capacity constraints. If these statements are true then what are the impacts on:

- Transmission capacity with additional population growth of 38% by 2029?
- Would the lack of transmission capacity curtail population and economic growth or would it force lifestyle changes?

Without the B2H there appears to be negative socioeconomic effects that have not been evaluated.

2. Will IPC, by not being able to meet the service requests for transmission, slow or stall the ability of new renewable energy projects to come on line?

- Will not having capacity for new renewable energy projects keep us from meeting the states renewable portfolio standards?
- Will less renewable energy increase the effects of climate change in Oregon and Idaho?

3. There is vague reference to relieving transmission constraints on the existing system but no reference to which existing transmission line would receive relief and by how much.

As a Baker county resident I am aware of renewable energy projects within the county that will need to interconnect to the existing transmission lines, such as the Mason Dam hydroelectric project proposed by Baker County. It must be noted that the cost of connecting to the B2H line is prohibitive to all but the very largest of projects and would not allow for local renewable energy development.

- Will there be increased capacity on existing transmission lines if the B2H is completed or will the ability to interconnect new renewable energy projects be constrained if the B2H is not completed?
- What are the present constraints on existing transmission lines and what would be their relief? There is need to evaluate this by existing transmission line so a clear understanding of the consequences of the **ACTION or NO ACTION** can be understood.
- Would there be benefit to the system to connect to an existing substation, such as Quartz, to increase the relief to existing transmission lines?
- Would increased capacity of existing transmission lines allow for future renewable energy production at the local level which would have greater economic benefit to the communities that are impacted by the B2H line than development elsewhere?