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From: EnviroLytical - B2H <info@envirolytical.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 08, 2015 11:43 AM
To: comment@boardmantohemingway.com
Subject: 4568: New Communication: The preferred route for the proposed Idaho Power 500 kilovolt line, immediately adjacent to Morgan Lake and visible from just about everywhere around it, is unacceptable. The sightlines are so poor th

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<https://el2.envirolytical.com/communication/view/102688>

The preferred route for the proposed Idaho Power 500 kilovolt line, immediately adjacent to Morgan Lake and visible from just about everywhere around it, is unacceptable. The sightlines are so poor that they beg the question of whether a view-shed analysis was ever done. Such an analysis is part of every project with this potential impact. Terrain maps can identify what the towers will look like from all points of view.

Idaho Power has much bigger questions to answer about that high-voltage line. David Crane, the CEO of NRG the largest power generator in the country, believes that the power grid we have is obsolete, and that high-tension lines, such as the Boardman-Hemingway 500KV line, are no longer needed. Moreover, investment analysts have told their clients, including retirement funds, to get out of commercial utilities. Idaho Power needs a new business model, not stranded assets. That's what this line will be in the very near future. It's a mistake to go into debt for this line. Your customer base is going to shrink.

Power will flow from the bottom up. It will come from communities, hospitals, schools, businesses and individuals all generating their own electricity from sources such as micro-turbines and solar. It will be stored locally, distributed using digitally controlled microgrids, and the excess sold back to a utility. If the individual generator wants to do that, the power will be fed onto a larger grid, but one that is much more local in scale. All of this is already happening in California, and that's an omen for all utilities.

Right now, in eleven states, the cheapest way to power new construction is solar. In three years, that number will be 25 states. A few years after that, developers will want to do that in just about the entire country. The interior NW, which Idaho Power serves, will be right there given its solar resources.

Small campus-scale digital grids that will allow for distributed generation, will give us a much more robust electric system, one that can't be brought down across an entire region when a tree touches a power line in the middle of nowhere. John Wellinghoff, the former FERC chair, has said just that, and he knows the energy grid as well as anyone.

For consumer/producers, distributed generation will mean a one-time investment that will result in evaporating power bills, and an opportunity to partner with utilities.

For Idaho power it's going to bring a sea-change in the way you do business. Is it time to kill that high-tension line and stop the flow of money into what increasingly looks like a bad bet? I believe it is, but your investors will want to take a hard look at that question for themselves. They'll want to that before this goes much further