

**comment@boardmantoemingway.com**

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**From:** Whit Deschner <deschnerwhit@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 02, 2015 8:06 PM  
**To:** comment@boardmantoemingway.com  
**Subject:** submitted comment  
**Attachments:** Ltr to Editor - Whit v 2-1.docx; second letter to editor.docx; suess vs idaho powwer.docx

My name is Whit Deschner and attached are my comments (3 pieces) regarding the B2H power line.

Recently I emailed Idaho Power a letter voicing my concerns over the proposed Boardman to Hemingway high voltage transmission line. The issues are many: ruining our endangered way of life, a visual eyesore, eminent domain and EMFs. In time I received a reply but instead of opening their response through the usual channels I accidentally opened it through my translation program. My computer opened the letter in English and proceeded to translate it into...English. Here is Idaho Power's response, translated:

Thank you Mr. Deschner for your recent letter listing your concerns regarding the proposed Boardman to Hemingway high voltage power line. We are still laughing: you rural folk actually think you can stop us. Let's cut straight to the quick. Idaho Power is in business for itself, we trade on the NYSE under IDA, and we are out to make a profit. Period. If we toast a few sage grouse in the process, tough cookies. Our primary concern is our stockholders, most of whom live in the Caribbean in tax-free fiefdoms. We don't wish to upset them. If Idaho Power doesn't grow by 15% a year they grow edgy. If they are forced to buy inferior Vermouth for their Martinis, lord have mercy on us all. As we are hoping you will eventually come to realize, this power line is exactly about that: POWER. It certainly is not about you and your petty local concerns. With a majority of our stockholders living, like I say, in the Caribbean, this is a global issue.

However, to address your trifling worries:

- 1) Concern over *"ruining your county's unique life style."* Come on! Get with it. Baker County is at least 20 years behind the times. You have no traffic on your roads; everyone is friendly; and people actually work for a living. A power line down the middle of your valley will bring you right up to date and let the world know you are not Arkansas.
- 2) *"A visual eyesore."* Pure nonsense, we have many different colors we can disguise the towers with. Just think of the colors as a pill. You are going to swallow it no matter what. As for ruining the view from the Oregon Trail Interpretive Center overlooking the longest stretch of Trail remaining? You're looking at this from the wrong perspective: Think of how the pioneers would have looked at it, all those watts they could have used for air-conditioning in their wagons or for heat or TV to keep the kiddies occupied and an oven to roast the lame ox. They would be downright proud that a power line should follow their route. Think of the power line as a pioneer route in itself. Visitors to the Interpretive Center can get double pleasure looking out and seeing which route the power line took. All you have to do is change the name to *Oregon Trail and Boardman to Hemingway Transmission Line Interpretive Center*. We won't even have to camouflage the towers.
- 3) *Eminent Domain*. Totally unnecessary. We always get our way before we have to go there.
- 4) *"Isn't there a designated corridor already that runs through an even less populated area than the beautiful Baker valley?"* Of course there is, but as stated above, we are a company, not some wishy washy government agency. We're out to make a profit and shortcutting the line through Baker will tickle our stockholders pink.

- 5) *Your concern over EMF's.* Please, we wish you wouldn't bring this up but since you must, despite what you say about heart pacemakers, electronic brain implants for people with Parkinson's Disease, and people who have fried in electric chairs, Electro Magnetic Fields is a totally unproven science, just pure speculation and any evidence to the contrary you supply us with will be considered totally subjective. The fact you state that wherever the transmission line is near a gas pipeline, the pipeline needs to be zinc lined because of electrolysis is just plain fear mongering. The energy emitted from this power line *actually helps pump* whatever is in the pipe along. You also say you are worried because the proposed line runs over your house, well worry no more. Our plans say your house is the soon-to-be new happy home for a power line pylon. Although we will destroy your house and property values, think of it as a blessing; you can move your tent to someplace that doesn't have power lines.
- 6) You accuse us of wanting this power line to feed into the national grid so we can increase our profits rather than what we are claiming: that we need to provide power to our local customers. This is an unsubstantiated fact that can only be qualified after the line goes through.
- 7) *"Why weren't we allowed to vote on allowing passage of the power line through Baker County?"* Because you would have voted the wrong way.
- 8) Finally you ask, *"What about the fish ladders you promised as a compromise in building Hells Canyon dam? And never did?"* Simple. We lied.

A few years back, there was a sign when you entered Idaho reading, "Idaho is too Great to Litter." It should have read, "Idaho is too Illiterate to be Great." The original sign eventually disappeared because, as discovered, Idaho wasn't so great after all, littered or not. Idaho's problem is politics by potato. Fine if you live there, but I live in Oregon and Idaho has no right dictating our standard of living, our values and how we conduct our business. Now (again) it's Idaho Power telling us we are about to be compromised by their unwanted and unneeded high voltage power line.

Last week there was an open house on the issue. I went to voice my concern that we were never given a vote whether we wanted their power line in the first place. Making this look like a democratic process we are now being asked where we want the power line to run: We are being force-fed poison with a choice of flavor. How open is a house where opinions are allowed, but ultimately ignored? Even if, say, John Steinbeck showed up with a novel about this social injustice, his book would have been trash-canned as soon as he turned away. However, this is an impossible scenario because Steinbeck is, of course, dead. Instead the room was filled with various Government agency personnel, like seventh graders standing in front of their science projects, an amusing scene until you begin adding up the tax dollars merrily burnt up by these clowns and to show what? Advocating that the power line doesn't disrupt archeological sites, sage grouse and ground squirrels. No one was there explaining how our lives have been already disrupted for five years fighting it. Where's the study showing it disturbing our health, our livelihoods, and Baker Valley's Kodachrome panorama? Where was the display table representing the people who don't want the power line period? Perhaps I got the wrong meeting because there was no such table. Each agency has bought into this sham, that this is a done deal. Where did they get *that* information? But that's a rhetorical question because Idaho Power's table was there also. It was sheepishly surrounded by staff who looked worried their mothers would find them and discover what they really did for a living. I sadly reflected that we used to live in a democracy where different voices are represented, valued and given weight; not a country run by Idaho Power.

Dear Idaho Power, please find in the enclosed parcel:

1 (one) GPS (Global Positioning System) navigator.

I am sending you this because you are obviously lost or your route planners are complete morons. You are definitely in the wrong place. Permission to run your power lines is, to the west of here, an Energy Corridor generously mapped out by our government to help you, a private company, shuffle your power around with minimum hassle to generate dividends for your shareholders, obviously none of whom live in this area. To find the correct lat/longs on this GPS you will have to read the instructions. This is a deluxe model sporting numerous women's voices to help guide you. I took the liberty to program Lucrezia Borgia's voice for you. She will tell you where you can go.

1 (one) Unabridged Merriam-Webster Dictionary dog-eared on page 969 where you will find the word, '**no**' highlighted with a yellow marking pen. It is a fascinating word, an adverb, usually used to answer a question. But you never asked any questions. You just barged your way in with wrong assumptions, such as:

i.e. #1 That we rural Oregonians wouldn't care if your unnecessary, ghoulish transmission lines scar and desecrate our rural landscape.

i.e. #2 That you could turn a quick buck compromising our lifestyle and values.

1 (one) hearing aid generously donated by the Dr. Seuss Audio Corporation. This hearing aid is top-of-the-line and you should have no problem hearing what we here in Baker County are saying and have been saying all along:

We do not want your transmission lines  
 We do not want to hear them whine  
 We do not want them here or there  
 We do not want them anywhere  
 We do not want them near our house  
 We do not want to disturb sage grouse  
 We do not like them high and spanned  
 We do not like them on our land  
 We do not want them through the trees  
 Why can't you just let us be?  
 We do not like your company  
 We like our vistas pylon free  
 We do not want lines near or far  
 Why can't you leave things as they are?  
 We do not want your power grid  
 We will not feed your greedy id  
 We do not want your lines here *or* there  
 We do not want them *anywhere!*

Sincerely yours,

Whit Deschner