
300482 **comment@boardmantohemingway.com**

From:

Sent: Tuesday, March 17, 2015 7:43 PM

To: comment@boardmantohemingway.com

Subject: Comment

Attachments: B2k form0001.pdf; B2H comment letter0001.pdf

Attached is a comment from _____, Baker City

March 17th, 2015

Boardman to Hemingway Transmission Line Project
P O Box 655
Vale
OR 97918

Dear Sirs

COMMENT : B2H TRANSMISSION LINE PROJECT - BAKER COUNTY SECTION

Baker City is a town with a high unemployment rate and a low job growth rate - 8.40% and -2.18% respectively, according to Sperling's Best Places. Many jobs were lost due to the closure of logging companies and the community needs to work towards attracting new employers and creating more jobs. Building on a previously established tourism base, is one way in which to do this.

The Oregon Trail Interpretive Center is, "the catalyst for vastly increased tourism opportunities in this rural Oregon county" (www.culturalheritage.org) Set on Flagstaff Hill, this center overlooks well preserved Oregon Trail ruts and spectacular views of the Elkhorn and Eagle Cap Mountain ranges, and provides visitors with a cultural and outdoor experience to remember. Baker County has miles of biking trails and country roads which attract bikers and motor cyclists from Oregon and many other states, all contributing to the city's revenue. The unspoiled views in Baker County play a big role in attracting tourism to the area. The B2H power line will be a negative factor and should not be constructed.

The Draft EIS Summary

Page S-21 line 22 states that the B2H line will cause minimum disruption to recreation. What about unsightly power lines detracting from the views that are part of a rewarding recreational experience for both locals and tourists?

Page S-22 line 30 'Once the transmission line has been constructed, the presence of large transmission towers *may* introduce long-term impacts to the setting of certain cultural resources particularly sensitive to changes in the visual field'. There is no *may* about it! Looking out over pristine landscapes through a web of power lines will definitely have a negative effect on the tourism experience.

Page S-24 lines 20 *potentially* is a misleading word. There is no doubt that a power line of the size envisaged, would have 'permanent impacts on visual resources, recreational experiences and historic and cultural settings.'

Page S-25 lines 17 – 27 Socioeconomics and Environmental Justice. Baker County will gain little economically from the construction and maintenance of the proposed line, and the line would detract from potential tourism growth.

I believe that this power line will be of no lasting benefit to Baker County and we do not require it for our power needs. We hope, that even though we are the 'small fry' in the project decision-making process, we will not be over-ridden by the demands of big business and an apparent, federal lack of concern for small rural areas.

Yours faithfully,