

comment@boardmantohemingway.com

From: Vaughan1843 <vaughan1843@comcast.net>
Sent: Wednesday, February 25, 2015 12:27 PM
To: comment@boardmantohemingway.com
Cc: tompkins@bctonline.com
Subject: B2H Project Public Comment
Attachments: B2H Project Draft EIS.pdf

Reference: B2H Project Environmental Impact Statement

Please refer to the attached pdf document for my letter of public comment.

Champ C. Vaughan
Lake Oswego, Oregon

17440 Holy Names Drive Unit 519
Lake Oswego, Oregon 97034

February 25, 2015

B2H Project
P.O. Box 655
Vale, Oregon 97918

Reference: Boardman to Hemingway Draft Environmental Impact Statement

It is with great concern that I share my views and comments regarding the proposed Boardman to Hemingway 500 KV Transmission Line Project. Portions of the project's proposed route would pose a significant negative impact on the visual aspects associated with National Historic Oregon Trail.

As a retired lands and minerals adjudication program manager with the Bureau of Land Management, a historical geographer, a past president of the Sons and Daughters of Oregon Pioneers, and a member of the Oregon-California Trails Association, I have a broad understanding and appreciation of utility corridors and cultural resource values. I believe this relevant background gives credence to my objective statements in this response.

It is only natural and economical for utility corridors to follow the path of least physical resistance, just as transportation highway and railroad routes have been located with topography a major factor of consideration. The difficulty with the B2H Project proposed route is not that it follows the most logical route, but that the route as proposed would severely interfere with the public's ability to view the relatively few remaining preserved sections of the historic Oregon Trail without the distraction of transmission lines and towers. This is particularly true with the National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center at Flagstaff Hill. I was fortunate to have personally participated in the grand opening of this exceptional historical facility in 1993 and experience the same extraordinary views and pristine wagon trail ruts observed by the Oregon pioneers more than 150 years ago.

The proposed transmission line would cross the Oregon Trail route eleven times. It is critical that every effort be made to route the proposed transmission line out of view from the few remaining preserved segments of the Oregon Trail.

Thank you for the opportunity to express my views.

Champ C. Vaughan