



# Boardman to Hemingway Transmission Line Project

Joint ODOE Information and NEPA Scoping Meetings  
August 2010

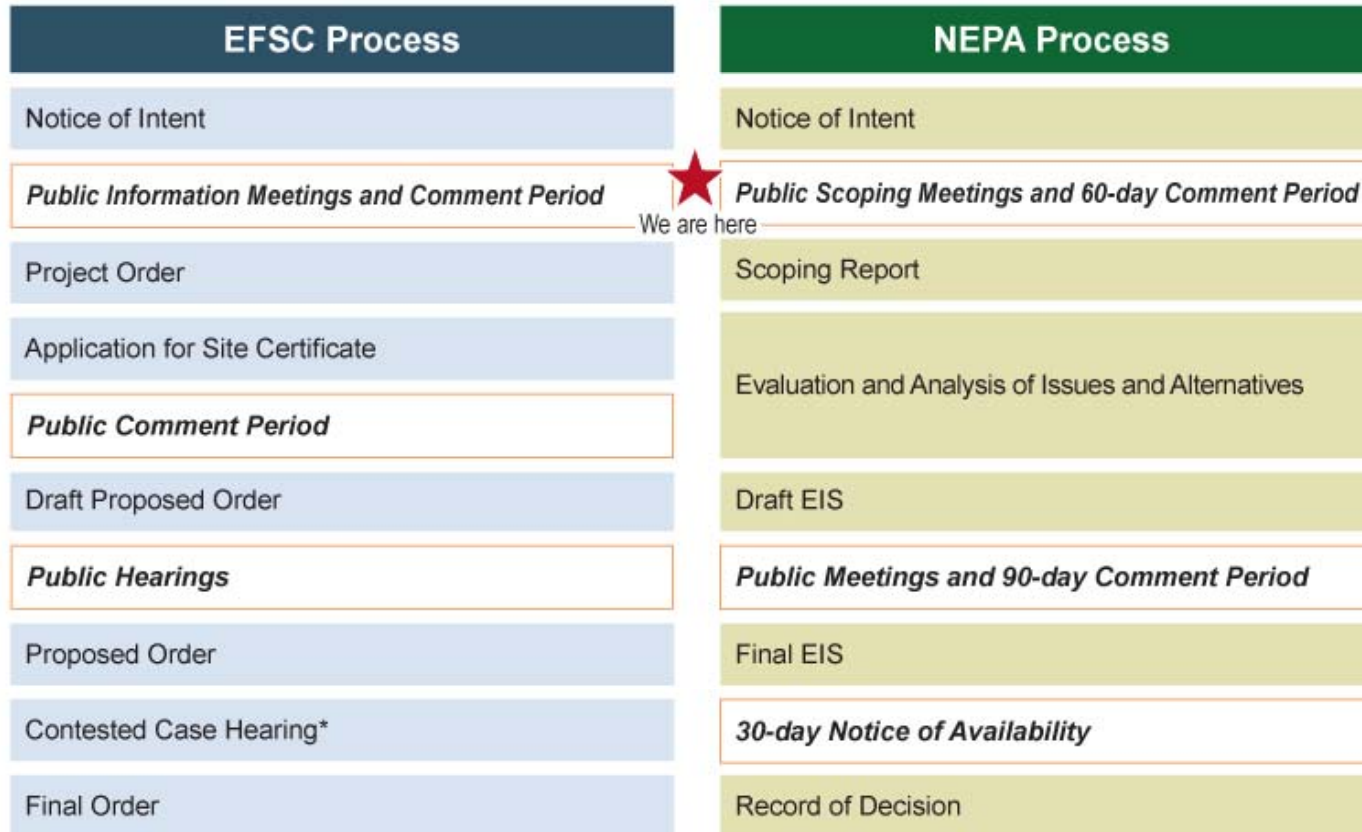
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# Agenda

- Project Overview
- Application Review Processes
- Ways to Participate
- Question and Answer Session

# Navigating the State and Federal Permitting Processes



 We are here

Orange/white boxes indicate public participation opportunities.

\*Anyone who commented on the Draft Proposed Order can participate in the Contested Case Hearing.

# Siting Energy Facilities in Oregon

- Proposed energy facility developers must apply to the Energy Facility Siting Council (EFSC) for an energy facility site certificate in Oregon
- Oregon Energy Facility Siting Council
  - Seven-member citizen board
  - Makes policy and adopts administrative rules
  - Approves or denies site certificates

# Energy Facility Site Certificate

- The Site Certificate:
  - Is a binding contract with multiple conditions
  - Combines state and local requirements into a single decision
  - Applies to all lands within Oregon, except for lands managed by tribal governments
  - Sets the requirements for the construction, operation, and decommissioning of the facility.

# Steps to a Site Certificate

- Notice of Intent
  - Preliminary Application
    - Complete Application
      - Draft Proposed Order
        - Proposed Order
          - Contested Case proceeding
            - Council Decision

# The NOI and Project Order

- ODOE reviews all of the comments submitted on the Notice of Intent
- We then identify the rules and regulations that apply to the facility and issues of concern brought up during the comment process
- ODOE then issues a Project Order that tells Idaho Power what it must address in its application for site certificate

# EFSC Siting Standards

- Some of the siting standards that apply to a transmission line include:
  - Land use
  - Fish and wildlife habitat
  - Threatened and endangered species
  - Effects on public services (fire, police, etc.)
  - Scenic resources
  - Retirement and financial assurance
  - Need for the facility



# How is the Decision Made?

- ODOE and EFSC review the site certificate application using:
  - EFSC siting standards
  - Public and agency comments
  - Applicable state and local regulations
- If the proposed project can meet the EFSC standards, or can meet standards with mitigation, the project will be approved

# Federal Permitting

- Idaho Power has submitted and/or will submit applications for the project to cross federal lands managed by:
  - Bureau of Land Management (BLM)
  - U.S. Forest Service (USFS)
  - U.S. Department of Navy
  - Bureau of Reclamation
- These permit requests triggered the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process

# What is NEPA?

- Federal law requiring agencies to:
  - Disclose the environmental effects of their decisions
  - Inform and involve the public in the decision-making process
- Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is a major component of NEPA
  - Documents the environmental effects of the proposed actions and alternatives



# NEPA – Roles and Responsibilities

- BLM is the lead federal agency responsible for coordinating the NEPA process and producing the EIS
- USFS, ODOE and other federal, state and local agencies are cooperating agencies
  - Cooperating agencies have jurisdiction/expertise related to the project and assist the BLM with the NEPA analysis

# How will the EIS be used?

- The federal agencies will use the EIS analysis and other application requirements to either approve or deny the permit applications
- Analysis will include both private and public lands; however federal authorization applies only to the lands they manage



# Navigating the State and Federal Permitting Processes

EFSC Process	NEPA Process
Notice of Intent	Notice of Intent
<i>Public Information Meetings and Comment Period</i>	<i>Public Scoping Meetings and 60-day Comment Period</i>
Project Order	Scoping Report
Application for Site Certificate	Evaluation and Analysis of Issues and Alternatives
<i>Public Comment Period</i>	Draft EIS
Draft Proposed Order	<i>Public Meetings and 90-day Comment Period</i>
<i>Public Hearings</i>	Final EIS
Proposed Order	<i>30-day Notice of Availability</i>
Contested Case Hearing*	Record of Decision
Final Order	



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# How to Submit Written Comments

- BLM and ODOE are sharing all comments, which are also shared with Idaho Power
- Submit your written comments via the project website, mail, e-mail and/or fax
- Submit your comments by September 27, 2010

# Please Submit Specific Comments

- Comments are most useful when they are specific and relate to NEPA issue areas and/or to EFSC's siting standards

## Examples:

- *I don't want this project.* Needs to be more specific.
- *I don't want this project built here because it may impact my agricultural operations.* This comment helps BLM/ODOE understand the issue of concern. Include your property address so we know the issue location.



# What Happens Next?

## ODOE

- Review new comments
- Issue Project Order
- Idaho Power submits the Application for Site Certificate

## Federal Agencies

- Review and summarize new and previous comments in Revised Scoping Report
- Work with cooperating agencies
- Begin issues/alternatives analysis and develop Draft EIS

# How You Can Help!

- Tonight and during Scoping Period:
  - Attend the open house portion to learn more
  - Ask questions
  - Submit written comments
- Throughout the project:
  - Participate in future public meetings and comment periods
  - Review project documents
  - Ask questions
  - Invite BLM/ODOE to attend your group's meetings
  - Stay informed: [www.boardmantohemingway.com](http://www.boardmantohemingway.com)