

## Boardman to Hemingway Transmission Line Project

### La Grande Landowner Meeting Summary

**Location:** La Grande, Oregon

**Date:** March 22, 2011

**Time:** 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

**Purpose and introduction:** Idaho Power conducted a landowner meeting for the Boardman to Hemingway Transmission Line Project to provide information about the project, share the Boardman area routing changes, answer questions, solicit feedback and identify siting concerns.

**Notification and attendance:** Fifty-five landowners in the La Grande area along the proposed and alternate routes (within the 4,140 foot-wide notification corridor) and local government staff and officials were notified by mail and invited to attend. Thirty-seven people attended, including Union County Commissioner Mark Davidson and Mayor of La Grande Daniel Pokorney.

**Format:** The meeting began as an open house and project staff encouraged attendees to take informational materials and review project display boards. Project staff also provided general information about the project, answered questions, and helped identify specific parcels on landowner maps. Presentations included:

- Welcome and introductions: Keith Georgeson (Idaho Power)
- Project and routing update: Justin Hitt (Idaho Power)
- Questions and answers: Idaho Power Project Team

#### Key questions and themes:

- Why not run the new transmission line along the existing gas pipeline/230 kV transmission line right of way corridor, since there would be fewer impacts to natural resources (e.g. forested areas)? *This corridor has several challenges, including the 1500' separation criteria for transmission lines, steep slope issues, and public opposition to potential visual impacts.*
- Why not run the new transmission line through the Ladd Marsh area? *There are many constraints in this area (sensitive environment, terrain and view shed issues, for example). Also, it is difficult to determine if using this area is discouraged or prohibited. Idaho Power will work to get an official determination on this from Oregon Department Fish and Wildlife.*
- What is the status of citizens of La Grande discouraging a route on the valley floor due to visual impacts? Are citizens of La Grande truly firmly opposed to the line? *There are challenges in this area with visuals and other environmental and social constraints. Idaho Power will re-examine the feedback received from La Grande citizens and in the future will return to them and directly address their concerns.*