COMMENT(S)

RESPONSE(S)

B20 **Joseph Millworks, Inc.**

comment@boardmantohemingway.com

From: Randy Joseph <randy@josephmillworks.com>
Sent: Monday, March 09, 2015 8:52 AM
To: comment@boardmantohemingway.com
Subject: website comment
Attachments: Comments to the BLM on B2H Transmission Line.pdf

Please find my comments on the B2H transmission line attached.

Thank You

Randy Joseph
President, Joseph Millworks Inc
37123 Hansen Lane
Baker City, OR 97814
Phone 541-894-2347
Mobile 541-429-3284
Lime 541-869-2052
www.josephmillworks.com
www.lime-wind.com

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COMMENT(S)

RESPONSE(S)

B20 **Joseph Millworks, Inc. (cont.)**

Comments to the BLM on B2H Transmission Line

by

Randy Joseph
37123 Hansen Lane
Baker City, OR 97814
randy@josephmillworks.com

From the DEIS:

1.4 IDAHO POWER COMPANY'S OBJECTIVES FOR THE PROJECT,

IPC's objective for the B2H Project is to provide additional capacity to connect the Pacific Northwest region with the Intermountain region of southern Idaho to alleviate existing transmission constraints between the two areas and to ensure sufficient capacity so that IPC can meet present and forecasted load requirements. The number of customers in IPC's service area is expected to increase from approximately 490,000 in 2009 to over 680,000 by 2029.

Capacity limitations also restrict transmission customers' operations and can create significant reliability problems.

The B2H Project would add capacity to transmit electricity during high summer-month loading conditions and to accommodate third-party transmission requests. The proposed transmission line is needed to avert resource capacity deficits during the summer months. During peak usage, there is:

No transmission capacity to transfer additional energy from the Pacific Northwest to Idaho and beyond

Limited transmission capacity to deliver resources from the east into the Pacific Northwest

No existing capacity to integrate new resources proposed for development in eastern Oregon

IPC has received more than 4,000 MW of transmission service requests on the Idaho to Pacific Northwest path between 2005 and 2014. Of the service requests, only 133 MW were granted up through 2007 due to the limited available transmission capacity of the system. There are currently active requests in study status that are expected to commence operations when the B2H Project is completed. The development of wind and other renewable resources in response to state renewable portfolio standards is anticipated to further increase the demand for transmission capacity between the Intermountain region and the Pacific Northwest (IPC 2011d)

3.2.11.6 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE
Selection of the No Action Alternative would result in no socioeconomic effects, either positive or negative, as a result of the B2H Project.

COMMENT(S)

RESPONSE(S)

B20 **Joseph Millworks, Inc. (cont.)**

Comments:

B20a

1. What is missing in the **NO ACTION ALTERATIVE** is evaluation of the statements made by IPC in Section 1.4 regarding population growth and capacity constraints. If these statements are true then what are the impacts on:

- Transmission capacity with additional population growth of 38% by 2029?
- Would the lack of transmission capacity curtail population and economic growth or would it force lifestyle changes?

Without the B2H there appears to be negative socioeconomic effects that have not been evaluated.

2. Will IPC, by not being able to meet the service requests for transmission, slow or stall the ability of new renewable energy projects to come on line?

- Will not having capacity for new renewable energy projects keep us from meeting the states renewable portfolio standards?
- Will less renewable energy increase the effects of climate change in Oregon and Idaho?

B20b

3. There is vague reference to relieving transmission constraints on the existing system but no reference to which existing transmission line would receive relief and by how much.

As a Baker county resident I am aware of renewable energy projects within the county that will need to interconnect to the existing transmission lines, such as the Mason Dam hydroelectric project proposed by Baker County. It must be noted that the cost of connecting to the B2H line is prohibitive to all but the very largest of projects and would not allow for local renewable energy development.

- Will there be increased capacity on existing transmission lines if the B2H is completed or will the ability to interconnect new renewable energy projects be constrained if the B2H is not completed?
- What are the present constraints on existing transmission lines and what would be their relief? There is need to evaluate this by existing transmission line so a clear understanding of the consequences of the **ACTION or NO ACTION** can be understood.
- Would there be benefit to the system to connect to an existing substation, such as Quartz, to increase the relief to existing transmission lines?
- Would increased capacity of existing transmission lines allow for future renewable energy production at the local level which would have greater economic benefit to the communities that are impacted by the B2H line than development elsewhere?

B20a

It is not BLM's role or responsibility to verify an applicant's interests and objectives for a proposed project. As a regulated utility, the need for transmission projects proposed by the Applicant is scrutinized and approved as appropriate by the Public Utilities Commission in each state. The Applicant's goals and objectives for a project are outlined in their IRP, which is updated every two years and can be found at http://www.pacificorp.com/es/irp.html.

The BLM's purpose and need is to respond to the application for right-of-way across lands it administers.

Regarding transmission capacity with population and economic growth, please refer to the Applicant's 2015 Integrated Resource Plan (IRP).

The socioeconomic analysis in Section 3.2.17 has been updated to include a no action alternative.

B20b

It is not BLM's role or responsibility to verify an applicant's interests and objectives for a proposed project. As a regulated utility, the need for transmission projects proposed by the Applicant is scrutinized by the Public Utilities Commission. The responsibility of BLM and other land-management agencies is to respond to the application for right-of-way across lands it administers.

The Applicant's 2015 Integrated Resource Plan (IRP), a long-term resource planning study, recently reaffirmed that the B2H Project is essential to serving future growth in customer demand. Previous IRPs also identified the need for this transmission line project, going back to the 2006 IRP. The 2015 IRP indicates the need of the B2H Project remains strong. When finished, the B2H Project would help provide low-cost energy to the Applicant's customers in southern Idaho and eastern Oregon. The B2H Project also will interconnect with existing transmission systems owned by B2H Project partners PacifiCorp and the Bonneville Power Administration, allowing greater amounts of electricity to move throughout the Pacific Northwest. This helps meet a regional need and provides benefits to the entire area, much of which is served, directly or indirectly, by those two providers. In addition, the B2H Project allows the Applicant to serve its growing load without building carbon-emitting resource.

COMMENT(S)

RESPONSE(S)

B21 **Lower Valley Energy**

B2H Transmission Line Project

COMMENT FORM

Date: 1/12/15

First Name: NANCY Last Name: WINTERS

Organization or Affiliation (if any): LOWER VALLEY ENERGY, BOARD DIRECTOR

Address: POB.

City: AFTON, WY State: WY Zip: 83110

E-mail address: nwinters@silverstar.com Phone: 307-883-8531

Privacy Statement: *Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address or other personal identifying information in your comment, be advised that your entire comment – including your personal identifying information – may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold identifying information, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.*

☐ Please check here if you wish your personal information to remain confidential.

Comments must be submitted by March 19, 2015.

My comments on the Boardman to Hemingway Transmission Line Project are:

B21a

I AM SO GLAD TO SEE THE B2H PROGRESSING. I FEEL IT IS AN ESSENTIAL ~~PART~~ ELEMENT TO SECURING RELIABLE POWER TO EASTERN ID AND MY SMALL PART OF WY. MY CO-OP SERVES NEARLY 30,000 METERS. AND WE ARE GRATEFUL TO BE BPA CUSTOMERS USING SO MUCH HYDRO POWER

THE B2H WILL BRING SECURITY/RELIABILITY THRU REDUNDANCY. IT IS ESSENTIAL

CONSIDERATION OF WILDLIFE IS IMPT. I BELIEVE IDAHO'S PLAN FOR PROTECTING SAGE GROUSE AND SAGE GROUSE HABITAT IS A GOOD PLAN AND WILL ENHANCE COMPLETION OF THE LINE CONNECTING SE IDAHO.

CONSTRUCTION WITHOUT DELAY IS NEEDED. SO MANY PEOPLE WILL BENEFIT.

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

B21a Comment noted.

COMMENT(S)

RESPONSE(S)

B22 **Mackenzie Ranch LLC**

B2H Transmission Line Project
Boardman to Hemingway

COMMENT FORM

Date: 3/5/15

First Name: Beth Last Name: Mackenzie

Organization or Affiliation (if any): Mackenzie Ranch LLC

Address: 19265 Chandler Lane

City: Baker City, State:OR Zip: 97814

E-mail address: wanniebeth@hotmail.com Phone:

Privacy Statement: *Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address or other personal identifying information in your comment, be advised that your entire comment – including your personal identifying information – may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold identifying information, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.*

xxxxxxxx
Please check here if you wish your personal information to remain confidential.

Comments must be submitted by March 19, 2015.

My comments on the Boardman to Hemingway Transmission Line Projectare:

I am strongly opposed to the Boardman to Hemingway Transmission Line coming through historic Baker Valley. Baker valley is well known for its beauty and scenic surrounding areas. It is a town that is survived by year round tourism and hardworking residents. We have many resources that visitors and residents of Baker Valley appreciate and enjoy every day that will be damaged by the presence of a B2H Transmission Line. Our national historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center is part of the old Oregon Trail which has all the old roads and ruts. Placing a power line in this area would take away from the history that runs deep in Baker County. The proposed route is very disruptive to the habitat of the local sage grouse population, the alternative route not as much, so we would prefer the Alternative Route underneath the Interpretive Center versus the route across Virtue Flat. However, it has been stated that it's for the public, how about placing it on public land? (i.e. through USFS land near John Day, or up through Burns and along the west side of the Blue Mtns.) Other options for placement are Keating Valley where travelers and visitors to Baker Valley won't see it. As a final option, put the new transmission line along side of the existing one, if it does end up coming through Baker Valley.

Obviously, we don't feel like the B2H Transmission Line should come through Baker Valley at all, because it will ruin the historic meaning of our county. We pride ourselves in our local ranching, historic building and tourism. We try to keep things as they once were, why would tourists come to the Oregon Trail to stare at a large power line? Let's keep the beautiful historic aspects of Baker Valley just as they are!

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

B22a

B22a Based on comments received by the BLM on the Draft EIS, collaboration with the counties, and on further discussion between the Applicant and landowners, a number of recommended routing options were incorporated into the network of alternative routes analyzed for the Final EIS. Refer to Sections 2.1.1.3 and 2.5.2. Analysis of the alternative routes is reported throughout Chapter 3.

COMMENT(S)

RESPONSE(S)

B23 **Matheny Ranch**

comment@boardmantohemingway.com

From: EnviroLytical - B2H <info@envirolytical.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 08, 2015 5:24 PM
To: comment@boardmantohemingway.com
Subject: 4570: New Communication: We are a fourth generation family farm. It is unsettling that a company can come into our community and try to dictate how our land is going to be used. Having the power line run along the edge of o

Flag Status: Flagged

Patty Matheny <mathenyranch@machmedia.net>
https://el2.envirolytical.com/communication/view/102689

B23a We are a fourth generation family farm. It is unsettling that a company can come into our community and try to dictate how our land is going to be used. Having the power line run along the edge of our 1700 acre farm for 2.5 miles would affect us greatly. First, it would take acres of farm ground that we depend on out of production. It would increase our spray costs. Spray planes would be unable to spray our farm ground under the power line. We would have to use a ground applicator only to spray under the line. The ground applicator on dry dusty days will not apply the chemical as well as a spray plane. Applicator tire dust will not allow chemical to adhere to the plant.

B23b The power line will also jeopardize our wind tower lease that is in place. Who knows how many wind towers we would potentially lose due to this line.

B23c We have strived to make our No-Till farming practices viable on our farm. With these practices comes the control of wind erosion, soil erosion due to flooding, and soil compaction. When building the power lines the equipment would compact and disturb the ground. We do not like the idea of potential roads on our ground. This again would take acres out of production, would bring people on our ground year round, and would create dust and compaction to the soil. During harvest we load our semi trucks with our wheat by the county road. Working under power lines not only is life threatening due to electrical shock, but also cancer causing. Our operation would require us to have to work under the line. We are a family ran farm. We refuse to jeopardize the lives of our family members working under these potentially hazardous lines.

B23d Visual impacts are real. Having the power lines visible from our house would affect us daily. Not to mention it would lower the property value of the land. Would you like a power line in your back yard?
FIND ANOTHER WAY!!! Someway use your existing infrastructure and route. It is our understanding that lines potentially could be doubled up.
Leave peoples homes, farm and pasture grounds, pristine mountain grounds, and livelihoods alone!
Matheny Ranch
Patty Matheny
Shane & Sarah Matheny
Stefan & Chelsea Matheny

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B23a The impacts on crop production and aerial spraying have been updated. Refer to Section 3.2.7.6 for revisions.

B23b Idaho Power will negotiate with affected land owners to ensure that property owners are appropriately compensated if any private property interests are impaired by the final location.

The analysis has been expanded to include alternative route variations with careful consideration of private lands. The impact on property rights will be carefully considered by Idaho Power during micro-siting to ensure adverse impacts to private property interests are minimized by the final placement and design. Landowners will be appropriately compensated for any unavoidable damage.

B23c Impacts on soils important for farming are discussed in Section 3.2.7.6 (Types of Potential Effects for Important Farmland, High-value Soils, and CRP Lands).

Input from the landowner and the impact on property will be carefully considered by Idaho Power during final design and engineering, which could include micro-siting of the transmission line along the selected route. Idaho Power will negotiate with the owners of real property interests to ensure that, if any private property interests are impaired by the final location, they are appropriately compensated.

B23d See response to Comment B23a.

COMMENT(S)

RESPONSE(S)

B24 **Meenderinck Dairy, LLC**

comment@boardmantohemingway.com

From: Rhonda Arbaugh <rhonda@pioneerfeed.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2015 10:05 AM
To: comment@boardmantohemingway.com
Subject: B2H Project Comment
Attachments: B2H Project Comment - Meenderinck Dairy LLC.pdf; Dairy letter to BLM 2.docx

I have attached a pdf and signed copy of comment and attachment as well as the unsigned original Word document for submission. Let me know if you need anything else. Can I please receive confirmation of this email so I know the comments were received?

Thank you,
Rhonda

Rhonda Arbaugh
Office Assistant
rhonda@pioneerfeed.com
208-324-9844 P
208-324-6934 F
Pioneer Commodities, LLC
Pioneer Trucking, Inc.
Meenderinck Dairy, LLC
PO Box 485
Jerome, ID 83338

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COMMENT(S)

B24 **Meenderinck Dairy, LLC (cont.)**

Meenderinck Dairy LLC

218 East 100 South
PO Box 485
Jerome, ID 83338

74906 Homestead Lane
Hermiston, OR 97838
208-324-9844

February 17, 2015

To whom it may concern at the BLM:

This letter is in concern of the B2H power transmission lines, in particular the longhorn alternative route, and what the impacts would be to Meenderinck Dairy LLC financially, mentally, and addressing the first in time, first in right philosophy.

Pete and Tressa Meenderinck bought the farm located in Hermiston, Oregon, back in the year 1999 with the goal of constructing a healthy, thriving dairy. With the land's isolated location, abundant feed, and minimal amount of dairy cows in the area, it fit the needs of such construction wholly. Due to the volatility in the price of milk, we have had to invest a hefty amount of our life savings into this project. With the various trials, tribulations, and amount of time it takes to construct a dairy farm, it wasn't until 2012 that we were able to get the dairy farm up and running.

With so much of our time and money invested into the dairy farm, the concerns of the power lines are obvious. The impacts of having power lines go over the top our living breathing animals would be catastrophic to Meenderinck Dairy. In comparison, would you want such power lines to place strain on your own cultivated land, affecting not only your property, but also any living creatures residing there as well?

The environmental impacts on Meenderinck Dairy would have an everlasting effect on both the land and the ground water that resides underneath the property.

B24a With such power lines crossing over Meenderinck Dairy, Meenderinck Dairy would be forced into breaking federal environmental confined animal feeding operation, national pollutant discharge elimination system permit PO161636cati, and general permit number 01-2009. This will happen in a two-fold way. In order to properly use all of the area waste in our permit, we need all of our land to properly discharge dairy waste and keep nutrients in the top feet of our spill profile. In doing so, we avoid breaking federal laws and having the nutrients leak in the critical ground water that resides underneath the dairy. This permit, if broken, has federal charges that can be brought against me personally.

B24b Another concern with the construction of power lines being raised above our dairy farm is that the land would be broken up into cookie cutter type sections, creating dead zones underneath the power lines where pests, bugs, and diseases can easily start and, in turn, have ill effects on the crops growing near those dead zones. So as you can see, environmentally, these power lines will

RESPONSE(S)

B24a The Final EIS includes a discussion of impacts on confined animal feeding operations, including NPDES permits, in Sections 3.2.7.2, 3.2.7.5, and 3.2.7.6.

B24b The Applicant has indicated that most agricultural uses can be continued under the transmission line in the right-of-way. The transmission line tower structures would have long-term impacts on operations, but their locations would be selected in coordination with the landowner so as to minimize these impacts.

Refer to Section 3.2.7.6 for further discussion of impacts to confined animal feeding operations, aerial spraying, pivot irrigation, and irrigated agriculture.

COMMENT(S)

RESPONSE(S)

B24 **Meenderinck Dairy, LLC (cont.)**

B24b

not only cause federal laws to be broken, but the moral laws of being a good steward of the land and to people that receive drinking water from below the dairy to be broken as well.

Rights

Meenderinck Dairy LLC was conceived in 1999 with the purpose of feeding a hungry world with Nature's most perfect protein, milk. Meenderinck Dairy will continue to contribute more financially, socially, and environmentally to the eastern Oregon infrastructure than any power line ever could.

Financially, I've paid 134% more in property taxes than we did when it was a farm, as well as contributing over $300,000 a month to the local economy. Socially, we have made it one of our top priorities to provide a safe, high-quality work environment for the dozen or so workers we employ at the dairy, making their lives better. We are helping environmentally by using the most organic source of water and turning it into fertilizer.

I would like to close with this in mind – Pete and Tressa Meenderinck's dairy was there first and the power lines second – first in time, first in right. The power lines foot print needs to go somewhere else for the benefit of Meenderinck Dairy LLC and for the B2H project.

Sincerely,

Pete Meenderinck
Owner
Meenderinck Dairy LLC

Attachments:
Google earth map of Meenderinck Dairy LLC

COMMENT(S)

RESPONSE(S)

B24 **Meenderinck Dairy, LLC (cont.)**