

B2H Project
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B2H Boardman to Hemingway NEWSWIRE

Boardman to Hemingway Transmission Line Project



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What's Inside

- The upcoming release of BLM's DEIS
- A newly proposed route variation in Morrow County
- Idaho Power's EFSC Application for Site Certificate
- Important milestones for the federal and state processes



Stay up-to-date about the project by visiting www.boardmantohemingway.com for the latest maps, future comment periods and public meeting dates, key documents and more!

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Summer 2014

Project Overview

The Boardman to Hemingway Transmission Line (B2H) Project is a proposal by Idaho Power Company (Idaho Power) to design, construct, operate and maintain a new single-circuit, 500 kilovolt (kV) power line between Boardman, Oregon and Melba, Idaho. The proposed route is approximately 300 miles long and crosses federal, state and private lands in six counties in Oregon and Idaho. The B2H Project would provide additional capacity for exchanging energy between the Northwest and the Intermountain West regions, depending on which region is experiencing the highest demand. The project is advancing through two separate, but simultaneous review processes:

- Federal process under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) led by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to obtain a Right of Way Grant from BLM and Special Use Permits from the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) and U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) for the portion of the project crossing federal lands
- State process administered by the Oregon Department of Energy (ODOE) to obtain a Site Certificate from the Oregon Energy Facility Siting Council (EFSC)

What's New?

- The BLM expects to release the draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) in fall 2014. Idaho Power requested the federal agencies consider a route variation in the DEIS, in response to community feedback on the project. This variation of the Longhorn Alternative, called the Longhorn Variation, runs on the east side of Bombing Range Road in Morrow County. See inside for details and a map of the variation.
- The B2H project team recently briefed cooperating agencies and BLM, BOR, and USFS managers on the status of the DEIS and recommendations for the environmentally and agency preferred alternatives for the route. The agency preferred alternative will be identified in the DEIS.



For Project Information

Project Website

www.boardmantohemingway.com

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This newsletter was developed by the Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Forest Service and the Oregon Department of Energy to keep you informed about the proposed Boardman to Hemingway Transmission Line Project.

Federal Process (NEPA)

Following the publication of the DEIS in the Federal Register, the public will have 90 days to submit comments on the DEIS. Comments may either address the project overall or provide specific feedback on routing, environmental analysis, or other issues.

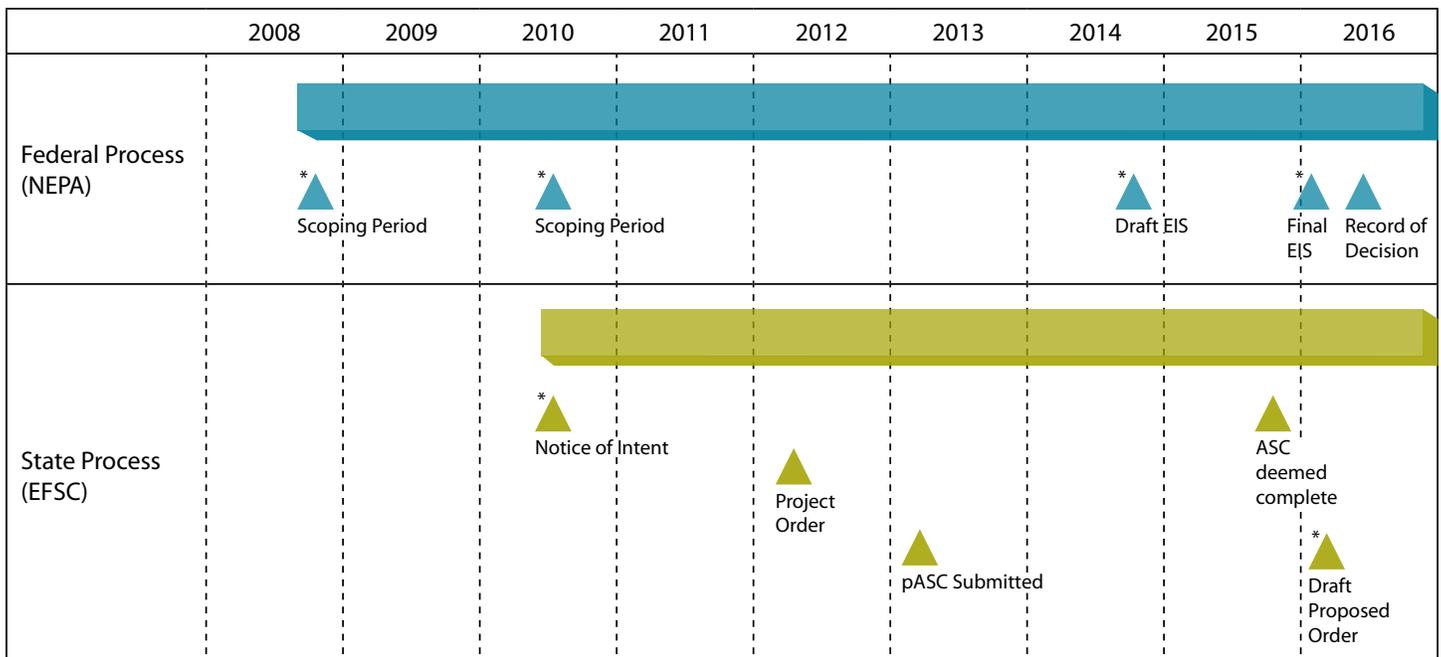
The BLM expects to host seven public meetings along the project route to provide communities in the area time to ask questions, review maps, and submit public comments. Please reference the B2H website (www.boardmantohemingway.com) for meeting locations and schedule as the DEIS release date approaches. Tentative meeting locations include:

- Boardman, Oregon
- Pendleton, Oregon
- La Grande, Oregon
- Baker City, Oregon
- Durkee, Oregon
- Ontario, Oregon
- Marsing, Idaho

All public comments must either be submitted online, in-person during the meetings, or postmarked by the end of the comment period in order to be considered in the Final EIS.

Project Milestones

In addition to the release of the DEIS, there are a number of upcoming milestones for both the federal and state processes. The graphic below illustrates these milestones and when they are expected to occur.



* Formal opportunities for public participation

State Process (Oregon EFSC)

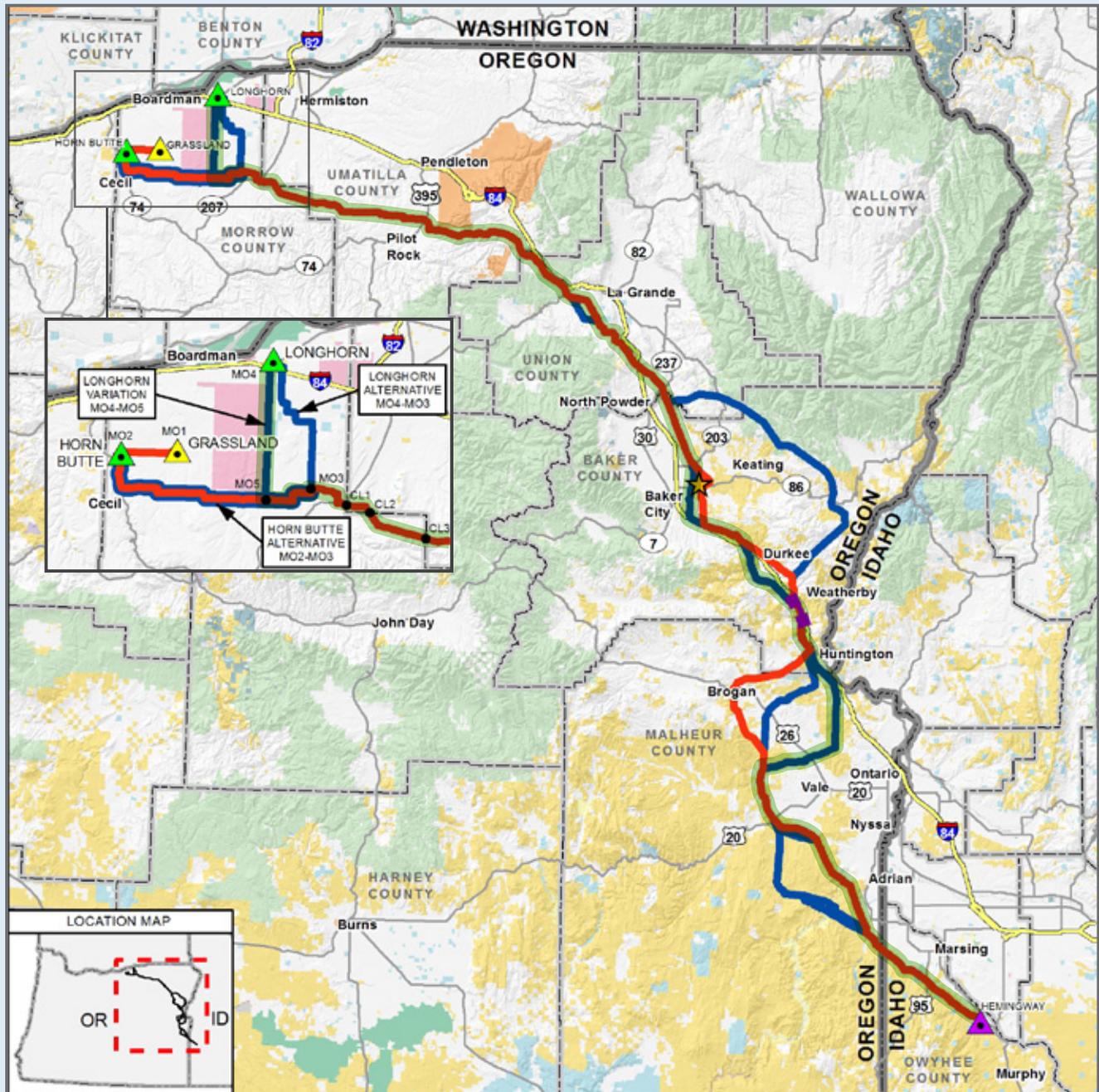
In early 2013, Idaho Power submitted a Preliminary Application for Site Certificate to EFSC through ODOE. Because there have been numerous changes to the project design, including route refinements, Idaho Power intends to submit an application amendment to ODOE in spring 2015.

ODOE is not expected to make a determination on the completeness of the application until fall 2015. ODOE will provide public notice and host information meetings along the route after deeming the application complete and final.

ODOE expects to issue the Draft Proposed Order (DPO) for public review and comment in early 2016. The DPO will include ODOE's recommendation to EFSC on whether to grant Idaho Power a site certificate for the proposed project, and ODOE's recommended site certificate conditions. When the DPO is issued EFSC will hold a series of formal public hearings to hear comments on the application and the DPO.

After consideration of the comments on the DPO (including those from EFSC), ODOE will revise the DPO and then issue the Proposed Order with a Notice of Contested Case. EFSC will not make its final decision on the site certificate until after the contested case proceeding has concluded. Please review the information at www.boardmantohemingway.com (ODOE-EFSC) to learn more about the next steps in the Oregon siting process.

Routes Analyzed for the DEIS



Longhorn Variation

In May 2013, Idaho Power formally asked the federal agencies conducting the NEPA process to include the Longhorn Variation in the DEIS. This variation of the Longhorn Alternative runs along the east side of Bombing Range Road in Morrow County (see map). The Longhorn Variation is now the Preliminary Environmentally Preferred Alternative in this area of the project. BLM's analysis of routes and its preferred alternative will be documented in the DEIS.

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Request a digital copy of the draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS)

Beginning in late October 2014, the DEIS will be available for a 90-day public comment period and accessible to download from the project website (www.boardmantohemingway.com). Copies of the DEIS will be available for viewing at regional locations (see website for details) and made available on DVD upon request. To receive a DVD version of the DEIS, please send a request to info@boardmantohemingway.com or fill out the request form at (www.boardmantohemingway.com/dvdrequests.aspx). Requests will be fulfilled after the public release of the DEIS.



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