

## **Cassia County Gateway Transmission Line Task Force**

Meeting Minutes  
June 22, 2009

### **Opening:**

The second meeting of the Cassia County Gateway Transmission Line Task Force was called to order by Brent Stoker at 2:05 P.M., on June 22, 2009, in the City Hall Council Chambers, Burley, Idaho.

### **Present:**

(See Attached List)

#### **A. Welcome/Introductions/Approval of Minutes**

Brent Stoker welcomed those in attendance to this meeting and gave a brief overview of the meeting procedures. A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes from the June 15, 2009 meeting. The meeting was recorded in digital format and will be made available on the Cassia County website [www.cassiacyounty.org](http://www.cassiacyounty.org). Time stamps are included in these abbreviated minutes for reference purposes.

#### **B. Idaho Power Response to Action Items**

(2:08 P.M.) Todd Adams, Idaho Power, responded to action items one through four from the previous meeting. Kent Searle (2:24 P.M.) presented questions regarding foliage management under private ground. Jeff Steele/BLM (2:28 P.M.) presented information on BLM use of green strips for fire mitigation practices. Von Gibby (2:31) asked questions regarding Idaho Power's consideration of alternate routes. Discussion then occurred regarding this process followed by Idaho Power. Representative Scott Bedke (2:38 P.M.) submitted comments and questions for Idaho Power regarding PUC involvement. Senator Denton Darrington (2:44 P.M.) asked a clarification question to Idaho Power regarding PUC involvement in the process. Doug Pickett (2:46 P.M.) submitted comment and questions regarding the scoping process. Jim Nickerson, Tetra Tech (2:48 P.M.) responded to items five and six of the action items from the previous meetings regarding the feasibility of the proposed northern route. Discussion then occurred with questions and/or comments offered by Von Gibby (3:06 P.M.), Commissioner Vicki Meadows, Power County (3:08 P.M.) and Idaho Power/Tetra Tech responses.

#### **C. Southern Routes**

A review of the proposed southern routes was discussed, with Scott Nannenga, USFS (3:20 P.M.) offering comment regarding Inventory Roadless Area matters associated with the proposed alternative southern routes. Kent Searle (3:25 P.M.) asked questions and commented on Roadless designations. Commissioner Clay Handy (3:28 P.M.) and Mark Webb (3:31P.M.) provided comments. General discussion occurred regarding a possible route through the Elba Pass, and a far southern route along state (Idaho/Utah) lines.

#### **D. Information/Action Items**

Stoker (3:42) provided information for reference that is available on Idaho Power's website, regarding their four current plans and public processes. An Idaho Power video presentation (3:50 P.M.) of an overview of distribution power in the Magic Valley was displayed.

##### Action Items:

- 1) Stoker (3:38) requested from Idaho Power a more detailed, thorough study of the southern alternative routes.
- 2) Stoker (3:58) requested that Adams convey to Boise that this group wants involvement with this process, and requested evidence and confirmation from Idaho Power that this group's efforts are worthwhile.
- 3) Mike Courtney/BLM (4:01 P.M.) commented that Idaho Power is paying the bill, but Tetra Tech is working for the BLM, and that if the county is requesting a full analysis of alternative routes (both northern and southern) BLM is obliged to analyze it, and noted that real solid proposals would be beneficial for full analysis.
- 4) Commissioner Handy's (4:02) response to Courtney (BLM) was a request, based upon the county's Land Use Plan, that the Forest Service, BLM, Tetra Tech, Idaho Power, and Task Force get together and consider all alternative routes that go on as much public land as possible. Commissioner Meadows (4:03 P.M.) concurred with Handy and additionally requested that Idaho Power collaborate with all neighboring counties (Cassia, Owyhee, Power, and Oneida) to explore alternative routes focusing primarily on public lands.
- 5) Representative Bedke (4:04 P.M.) stated that a formal request in writing would need to be submitted to his office, for him to present matters to the Attorney General's office.

#### **E. Agenda for Next Meeting**

- 1) Representatives from the Idaho Tax Commission and local tax authorities will be in attendance to review tax matters.
- 2) Continue to review alternative routes.

**Adjournment:** Meeting was adjourned at 4:08 P.M. by Brent Stoker, with invitation for those interested to remain and view an Idaho Power video on transmission line routes over agricultural grounds. The next Cassia County Gateway Transmission Line Task Force meeting will be at 2:00 P.M. on Monday, June 29, 2009, at the Burley City Hall Council Chambers, Burley, Idaho.

**Minutes submitted by:** Susan M. Keck, Deputy Clerk, Cassia County  
06/29/09

**Approved by:** Task Force