

Cassia County Gateway Transmission Line Task Force

Regular Meeting Minutes
June 29, 2009

Opening:

The third regular meeting of the Cassia County Gateway Transmission Line Task Force was called to order by Brent Stoker at 2:05 P.M., on June 29, 2009, in the City Hall Council Chambers, Burley, Idaho.

Present:

(See Attached List)

A. Welcome/Introductions/Approval of Minutes

(2:05 P.M.) 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 22, 2009 meeting. The meeting was recorded in digital format and will be made available on the Cassia County website www.cassiacounty.org. Time stamps are included in these abbreviated minutes for reference purposes.

B. Idaho State Tax Commission

(2:09 P.M.) Alan Dornfest, Property Tax Policy Supervisor with the Idaho State Tax Commission, along with Gregory Cade, Operating Property Bureau Chief, provided a PowerPoint presentation (attached) on the effects of Value Changes in Cassia County. (2:52 P.M.) Jerry Evans asked a question regarding potential diminished values, with (2:53 P.M.) Cade response to the question. (2:56 P.M.) Lynn Steadman asked question regarding a comparison relating to property tax base of a ten mile length of transmission line on BLM property, versus on private property, with (2:57 P.M.) Cade responding to the question. (2:59 P.M.) Stoker invited any representative from the BLM or USFS to speak to the group regarding clarifying exempt grounds, regarding what rental fee and procedures Idaho Power pays on public ground. (3:00 P.M.) Scott Nannenga informed the group of their (USFS) process of the issuance of a special use permit/fee on an annual basis. (3:01 P.M.) Stoker asked the Idaho State Tax Commission representatives a clarification question regarding what the consequences are for revenue potential for our area, between private and public siting of this project. (3:02 P.M.) Cade responded. (3:05 P.M.) Lynn Steadman questioned if there would be a way to come up with a quasi-evaluation that would express the relationship between the cost to Idaho Power and to the private landowners of going over public versus private land. (3:06 P.M.) Cade responded that although it could be problematic, if a set of assumptions and a route were chosen, they might be able to at least offer an estimate of the tax consequences, with discussion also occurring regarding the investments of the siting improvements and what tax differences would be. (3:09 P.M.) Stoker summarized the presentation, noted that this topic may be an action item (with a proposed plan for comparison) in the future, and thanked the Tax Commission representatives for their information.

C. Tetra Tech Presentation

(3:10 P.M.) Walt Vering with Tetra Tech provided an overview of the proposed southern routes, as requested by this task force (map and draft spreadsheet analysis are attached for reference), reviewing the Alt 7-R route (over Elba Pass) and the Stateline Alternative route. (3:35 P.M.) Clay Handy commented regarding distance of alternate routes if the Cedar Hill substation is relocated. (3:35 P.M.) Scott Nannenga, USFS, asked if the Roadless areas could be avoided. Discussion on Land Use Patterns then occurred. (3:40 P.M.) Stoker redirected the group to discuss among themselves these routes and possibly meet as a task force prior to the next regular meeting to organize their questions. (3:42) Joe Tugaw asked a question regarding the criteria for deciding between a proposed route, feasible alternative route, or an alternative route. Vering responded. (3:45 P.M.) Tugaw further asked how the Task Force could change Stateline Route with Alternate B to be the proposed route. Vering responded that it wouldn't be considered the proposed route unless the companies changed their sf299 application, with discussion occurring regarding this possibility, and what would need to happen, from Tetra Tech's perspective. (3:49 P.M.) Lynn Steadman commented and suggested that the feasibility of moving some substations to accommodate less mileage concerns be explored. (3:50 P.M.) Doug Pickett asked a question regarding the data from the Nevada/Utah area. (3:52 P.M.) Stoker asked if the task members were satisfied with the current efforts of Tetra Tech to continue to pursue as they have been. Group acknowledge in the affirmative. (3:55 P.M.) Vering/Tetra Tech noted that if the task force could come with one very solid alternative rather than two with variations, BLM would possibly entertain one alternative much easier than multiple alternatives. (3:54) Jeff Steele/BLM responds and recommended for the groups to meet and make some refinements to the proposals presented today. (3:55 pm) Representative Scott Bedke asked a question regarding the northern route line through BLM ground, managed by Crater's of the Moon, if this would have fewer impacts than the southern route. Vering responded and noted that the biggest issue regarding this (northern) route was the Great Rift Wilderness Study area. (3:58 P.M.) Bedke asked Vering, in his opinion, which route which has the greater obstacle. Vering responded that the southern Alt-7R and Stateline routes would have a better opportunity. (3:59 P.M.) Bedke asked a follow-up question regarding the spreadsheet data presented, regarding the mileage all based on coming back around to Cedar Hill. Vering responded that the mileage data presented all goes back to Cedar Hill for comparison. (3:59:29) Dan Olmstead /Idaho Power, commented on the proposed Cedar Hill substation, and the need to connect back up to Midpoint. (4:00 P.M.) Clay Handy asked a question regarding the alternative substation. (4:00:47 P.M.) Bedke commented on moving the alternative substation. Olmstead replied. (4:01 P.M.) Bedke further asked Olmstead if, in his opinion, we would have to go through this process again with future lines (DC/AC) regarding ratings, siting, etc... (4:02 p.m.) Olmstead responded by stating that the processes would likely be different. (4:03 P.M.) Stoker requested that Doug Balfour brief the group regarding establishing designated corridors and the difference between eminent domain and siting issues throughout counties. (4:06 P.M.) Dave Nebeker asked a question of Olmstead regarding why a CAC wasn't created for this project, as it was with other current Idaho Power projects. (4:07 P.M.) Olmstead responded by noting that this project is different, in that agencies (BLM) are taking the lead with the NEPA process, and also noted that Idaho Power has been and is in the process of holding several county

public meetings regarding this project. (4:09 P.M.) Nebeker asked a follow-up question asking how BLM has a say in this when this proposed route is made of 72% private ground. Olmstead responded that BLM does take private ownership into account. (4:10 P.M.) Olmstead asked a clarification question of Tugaw, regarding proposed airport on their private ground. (4:10:18 P.M.) Tugaw responded. (4:11 P.M.) Stoker noted that two irrigation dealers have been contacted to provide information on facts on what they think might be the consequences regarding irrigation equipment. (4:12 P.M.) Stoker then asked the task force if there were specifics for action list for Tetra Tech other than the data they are waiting on from Utah/Nevada.

D. Action Items

- 1) Task Force to continue to review southern proposed alternate routes to possibly determine one route to recommend.
- 2) Stoker requested from Tetra Tech to let Task Force know how many lines the proposed southern corridors could possibly accommodate.
- 3) Tetra Tech will continue to await data from Utah and Nevada, regarding proposed Stateline route.
- 4) Olmstead to let Task Force know if they could attend the July 22, 2009 NTTG meeting in Boise.

Adjournment:

Meeting was adjourned at 4:14 P.M. by Stoker. Next regular meeting is scheduled for Monday, July 6, 2009 at 2:00 P.M.

Minutes submitted by: Susan M. Keck, Deputy Clerk, Cassia County

Approved by: Gateway Transmission Line Task Force, 07062009