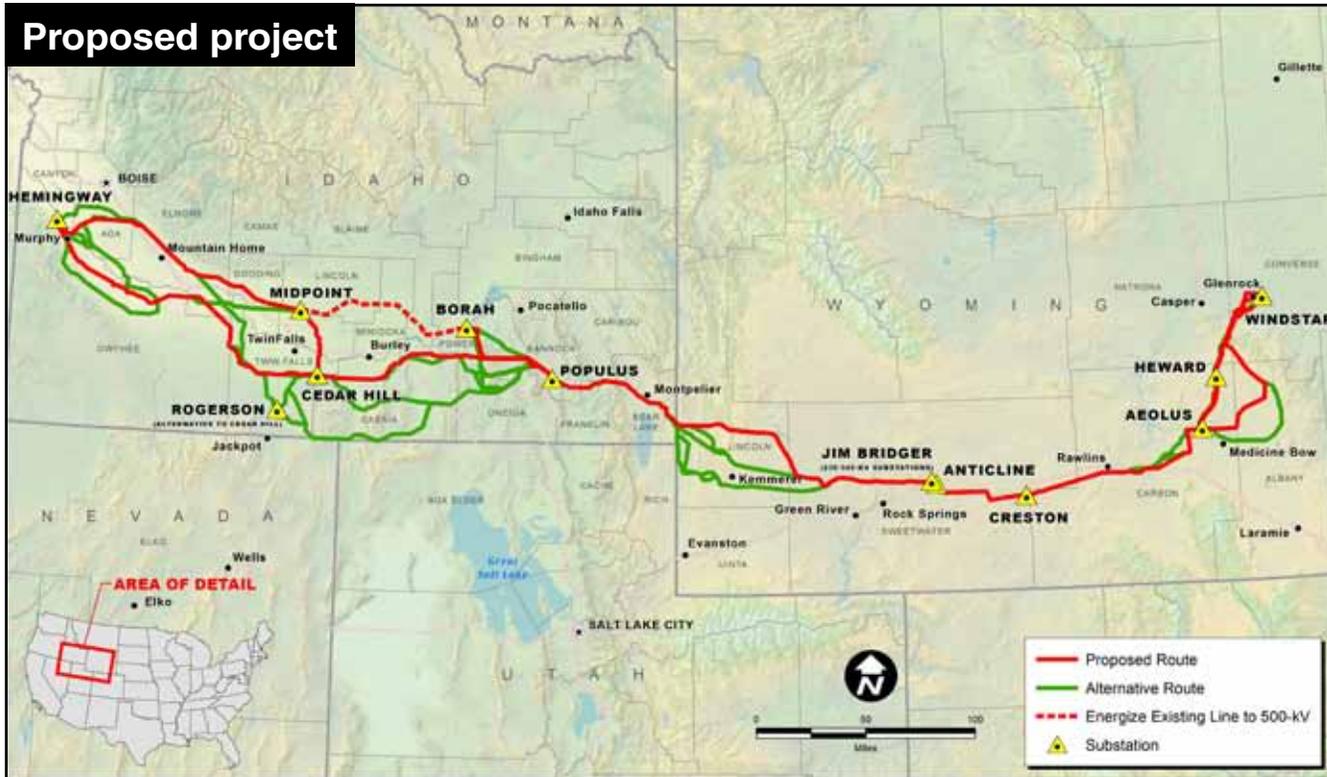


Gateway West Transmission Line Project

Draft Environmental Impact Statement Released



The Bureau of Land Management has released the draft environmental impact statement for the Gateway West Transmission Line Project, proposed by Idaho Power Company and Rocky Mountain Power. This project would add approximately 1,100 miles of new high voltage transmission lines across southern Idaho and southern Wyoming.

The release of the draft EIS marks an important milestone in the project's environmental review process. This document analyzes the potential effects of the proposed route and considers several alternatives, including a no action alternative.

How to access the draft EIS:

- View and download a copy at www.wy.blm.gov/nepa/cfodocs/gateway_west/index.html.
- Review a copy at a public reading room, BLM or Forest Service Offices (see locations inside).
- Request a CD version of the draft EIS at www.wy.blm.gov/nepa/cfodocs/gateway_west/index.html or at 1-800-380-5828.
- Attend an upcoming public open house (see calendar inside).



About the project

This project is comprised of 10 segments between the Windstar Substation at Glenrock, Wyoming and the Hemingway Substation near Melba, Idaho. As proposed, this new transmission project would supplement existing transmission lines, relieve operating limitations, increase capacity and improve reliability in the existing electric transmission grid. In addition to 10 new transmission segments, this project also includes three proposed substations, an expansion at one planned substation to be constructed for other purposes and expansions at eight existing substations.

What is an environmental impact statement and why is it needed for this project?

Environmental impact statements are prepared under the National Environmental Policy Act for federal actions that may significantly affect the human environment. Authorizing a high voltage electric transmission line on federal lands is a major federal action. Approximately half of the Gateway West Project is proposed to traverse lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Forest Service, and the Bureau of Reclamation. An EIS provides citizens an opportunity to learn about and be involved in the federal decision making process for projects like Gateway West.



Effects

Potential effects of the Gateway West Project are fully analyzed in **Chapter 3** of the draft EIS. The effects that were analyzed include:

- Visual resources
- Cultural resources
- Socioeconomics
- Environmental Justice
- Wildlife and plants
- Soils, geologic hazards and minerals
- Paleontology
- Wetlands
- Water resources
- Land use and agriculture
- Air quality
- Noise
- Cumulative effects
- The electric environment and safety

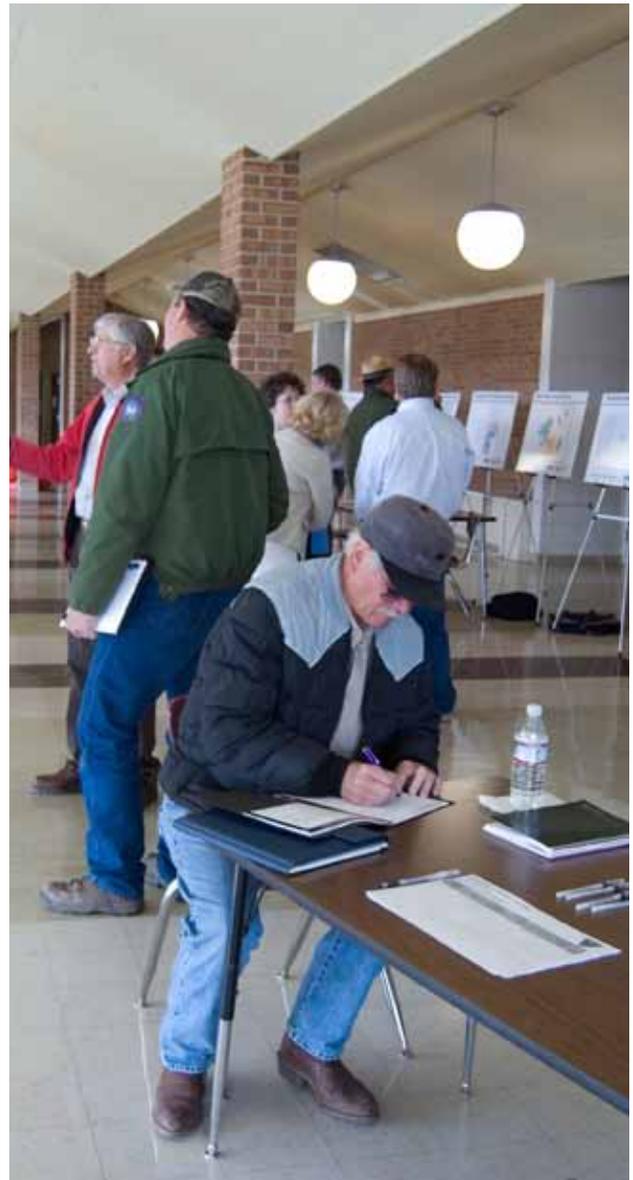
Routes analyzed

The proposed and alternate routes were initially presented to the public in spring 2008 during the project scoping period. Since that time, the routes and alternatives have been refined based on federal agency input as well as public comment and feedback. To view in detail the routes and alternatives that will be discussed in the draft EIS, please visit www.wy.blm.gov/nepa/cfodocs/gateway_west/index.html to access the BLM's interactive route map.

Navigating the EIS

The Gateway West Project draft EIS is approximately 3,000 pages with seven chapters and 10 appendices. While the BLM encourages full review of the document, the following highlights some of the most important sections:

- **Executive Summary:** Provides a stand-alone summary of why the EIS has been prepared, descriptions of the proposal and alternatives, and the potential effects of this proposal.
- **Chapter 1, Purpose and Need:** Details the purpose and need for this project from Idaho Power and Rocky Mountain Power's perspective as well as the purpose and need for the BLM's environmental review.
- **Chapter 2, Alternatives:** Provides a detailed overview and summary of the proposed project, route alternatives, design schedule and structure variations and the no action alternative. Chapter 2 also summarizes the comparison between route alternatives, mitigation measures and the necessary plan amendments.
- **Chapter 3, Affected Environment and Environmental Effects:** Describes how the environment would be affected by the proposed project and alternatives by resource.
- **Appendix A:** Includes maps of the proposed and alternate routes.
- **Appendix C, Environmental Protection Plans and Measures:** Includes the proposed environmental protection measures proposed by Idaho Power and Rocky Mountain Power.



How to provide comments on the draft EIS:

- Submit comments online at www.wy.blm.gov/nepa/cfodocs/gateway_west/index.html.
- Email Gateway_West_WYMail@blm.gov.
- Send written comments to Bureau of Land Management, Gateway West Project, P.O. Box 20879, Cheyenne, WY 82003.
- Attend a public open house (see calendar inside).
- Comments postmarked by **October 28, 2011**, will be accepted.



**Gateway West Draft EIS
Now Available for Review
and Comment**

Gateway West Transmission Line Project

The Bureau of Land Management has released the draft environmental impact statement for public review and comment. Inside you'll find more information about:

- The draft EIS and its contents
- How to access and review the document
- How to provide comments
- Dates and locations of public open houses near you
- Locations of public reading rooms



For more information

- Go online to www.wy.blm.gov/nepa/cfodocs/gateway_west/index.html.
- Email Gateway_West_WYMail@blm.gov.
- Call our information line for up-to-date information at 1-800-380-5828.
- Write to the Bureau of Land Management Gateway West Project, P.O. Box 20879, Cheyenne, WY 82003.

Gateway West Transmission Line Project

Calendar of public open houses

The BLM will host a series of public open houses in cities and towns along the route to provide more information on the project and take public comments. These meetings will be held from **4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.**, except **Boise, which will be from 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.**

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
Week 1	<p>12 – SEPTEMBER</p> <p>Boise, ID (10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.) The Boise Hotel & Conference Center, 3300 S. Vista Ave.</p> <p>Kuna, ID (4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.) Kuna Senior Center 229 Ave. B</p>	<p>13</p> <p>Mountain Home, ID Senior Citizens Center 1000 N. 3rd E.</p>	<p>14</p> <p>Melba, ID Melba Valley Senior Center 115 Base Line Rd.</p>	<p>15</p> <p>Murphy, ID Oywee County Museum 17085 Basey St.</p>
Week 2	<p>19</p> <p>Twin Falls, ID Red Lion Canyon Springs Inn 1357 Blue Lakes Blvd. N.</p>	<p>20</p> <p>Jackpot, NV Cactus Petes Resort Casino 1385 Highway 93</p>	<p>21</p> <p>Burley, ID Best Western Burley Inn & Convention Center 800 N. Overland Ave.</p>	<p>22</p> <p>Almo, ID City of Rocks Visitors Center Shop Conference Room 3035 Elba-Almo Rd.</p>
Week 3	<p>26</p> <p>American Falls, ID American Falls Public Library 308 Roosevelt St.</p>	<p>27</p> <p>Pocatello, ID Clarion Inn 1399 Bench Rd.</p>	<p>28</p> <p>Fort Hall, ID Fort Hall Tribal Business Center 306 Pima Dr.</p>	<p>29</p> <p>Montpelier, ID The National Oregon/ California Trail Center 320 N. 4th St.</p>
Week 4	<p>3 – OCTOBER</p> <p>Kemmerer, WY South Lincoln Training and Event Center 215 Wyoming Highway 233</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Rock Springs, WY Bureau of Land Management 280 Highway 191</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Rawlins, WY The Jeffrey Center 315 E. Pine St.</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Douglas, WY Clarion Inn & Suite and Convention Center 1450 Riverbend Dr.</p>



Gateway West Transmission Line Project

Public reading room locations

IDAHO

American Falls

American Falls District Library

Boise

Ada County Library
Boise Public Library
Boise State University Library
BLM – Boise District Office
BLM – Idaho State Office
Idaho Commission for Libraries, Boise

Bruneau

Bruneau Valley District Library

Buhl

Buhl Public Library

Burley

Burley Public Library
BLM – Burley Field Office
USFS – Sawtooth National Forest
– Minidoka Ranger District

Downey

South Bannock District Library

Filer

Filer Public Library

Garden City

Garden City Public Library

Glenns Ferry

Glenns Ferry Public Library

Gooding

Gooding Public Library

Grace

Grace District Library

Grand View

Eastern Owyhee County Library

Hagerman

Hagerman Public Library

Hansen

Hansen District Library

Jerome

Jerome Public Library

Kimberly

Kimberly Public Library

Kuna

Kuna District Library

Idaho Falls

BLM – Idaho Falls District Office
USFS – Caribou-Targhee
National Forest

Malad

Oneida County Library

Marsing

Lizard Butte District Library
BLM – Owyhee Field Office

Meridian

George Fox University Library
Meridian District Library

Montpelier

Bear Lake County Library
USFS – Caribou-Targhee National
Forest – Montpelier Ranger District

Mountain Home

Mountain Home Public Library

Nampa

College of Western Idaho Library
Nampa Public Library
Northwest Nazarene University,
John E. Riley Library

Oakley

Oakley District Library

Parma

Patricia Romanko Public Library

Pocatello

BLM – Pocatello Field Office
Idaho State University Library
Marshall Public Library
Portneuf District Library

Preston

Larsen-Sant Public Library
Rockland School Community Library

Rupert

Demary Memorial Library

Shoshone

Shoshone Public Library
BLM – Shoshone Field Office

Twin Falls

College of Southern Idaho Library
Twin Falls Public Library
BLM – Twin Falls District Office
USFS – Sawtooth National Forest

Wendell

Sherburn Smith Memorial Library

NEVADA

Elko

Elko-Lander-Eureka Counties Library
Great Basin College Library
BLM – Wells Field Office

Reno

BLM – Nevada State Office

WYOMING

Casper

BLM – Casper Field Office
Casper College Goodstein
Foundation Library
Natrona County Public Library

Cheyenne

State of Wyoming Library
BLM – Wyoming State Office

Douglas

Converse County Library
USFS – Medicine Bow-Routt National
Forest – Douglas Ranger District

Green River

Sweetwater County Library

Kemmerer

Lincoln County Library System
BLM – Kemmerer Field Office

Laramie

Albany County Public Library
Laramie County Community College,
Albany County Campus Library
University of Wyoming Libraries
USFS – Medicine Bow-Routt
National Forest

Rawlins

Carbon County Library System
BLM – Rawlins Field Office

Rock Springs

Western Wyoming Community
College, Hay Library
BLM – High Desert District Office
BLM – Rock Springs Field Office

UTAH

Ogden

USFS – Intermountain Region

COLORADO

Golden

USFS – Rocky Mountain Region

