

Gateway West Transmission Line Project

Project background

The Gateway West Transmission Line Project is proposed by Idaho Power Company and Rocky Mountain Power. These two companies applied to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and U.S. Forest Service (USFS) for the necessary permits to build, operate and maintain the transmission line where it or its ancillary facilities cross federally-managed land.

The proposed project is comprised of ten segments with a total length of approximately 1,150 miles across southern Wyoming and southern Idaho. The project is proposed to cross approximately 500 miles of public land managed by the BLM.

The BLM is the lead federal agency responsible for the environmental review process under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) for the proposed

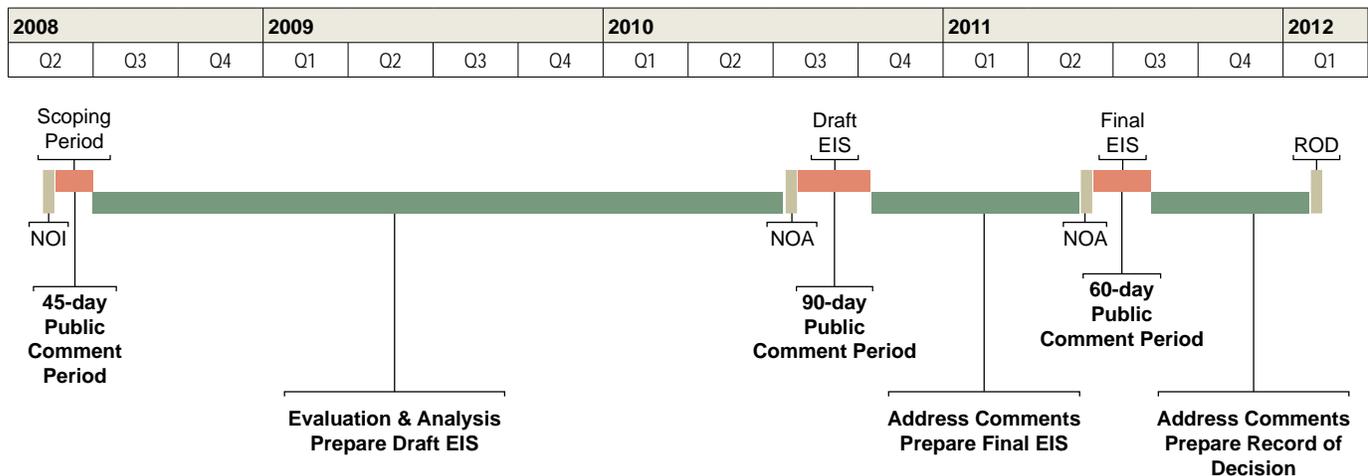
project. The BLM is working with cooperating agencies to conduct the environmental analysis and prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS). Cooperating agencies include other Federal agencies, state and local governments. The draft EIS is scheduled to be released in summer 2010.

Environmental review process

The environmental review process, as specified by NEPA, began in spring 2008 with a scoping period to present a preliminary range of alternatives and key issues and to gather public comment on these alternatives and issues. Public meetings were held throughout Idaho and Wyoming.

The BLM is currently preparing the draft EIS. The draft EIS will document the environmental studies and the potential impacts of the proposed action and the range of alternatives.

NEPA timeline and milestones



NEPA snapshot

- The BLM announced which routes will be considered for full analysis in the draft EIS – please see inside for details.
- The BLM is currently conducting analysis and preparing the draft EIS, which will be released in summer 2010.
- Following release of the draft EIS, there will be a 90-day public comment period and public meetings in Idaho and Wyoming.

NOI = Notice of Intent
 NOA = Notice of Availability
 EIS = Environmental Impact Statement
 ROD = Record of Decision



Routes carried forward for environmental analysis

This map shows routes which will be analyzed in the Gateway West Transmission Line Project draft EIS.

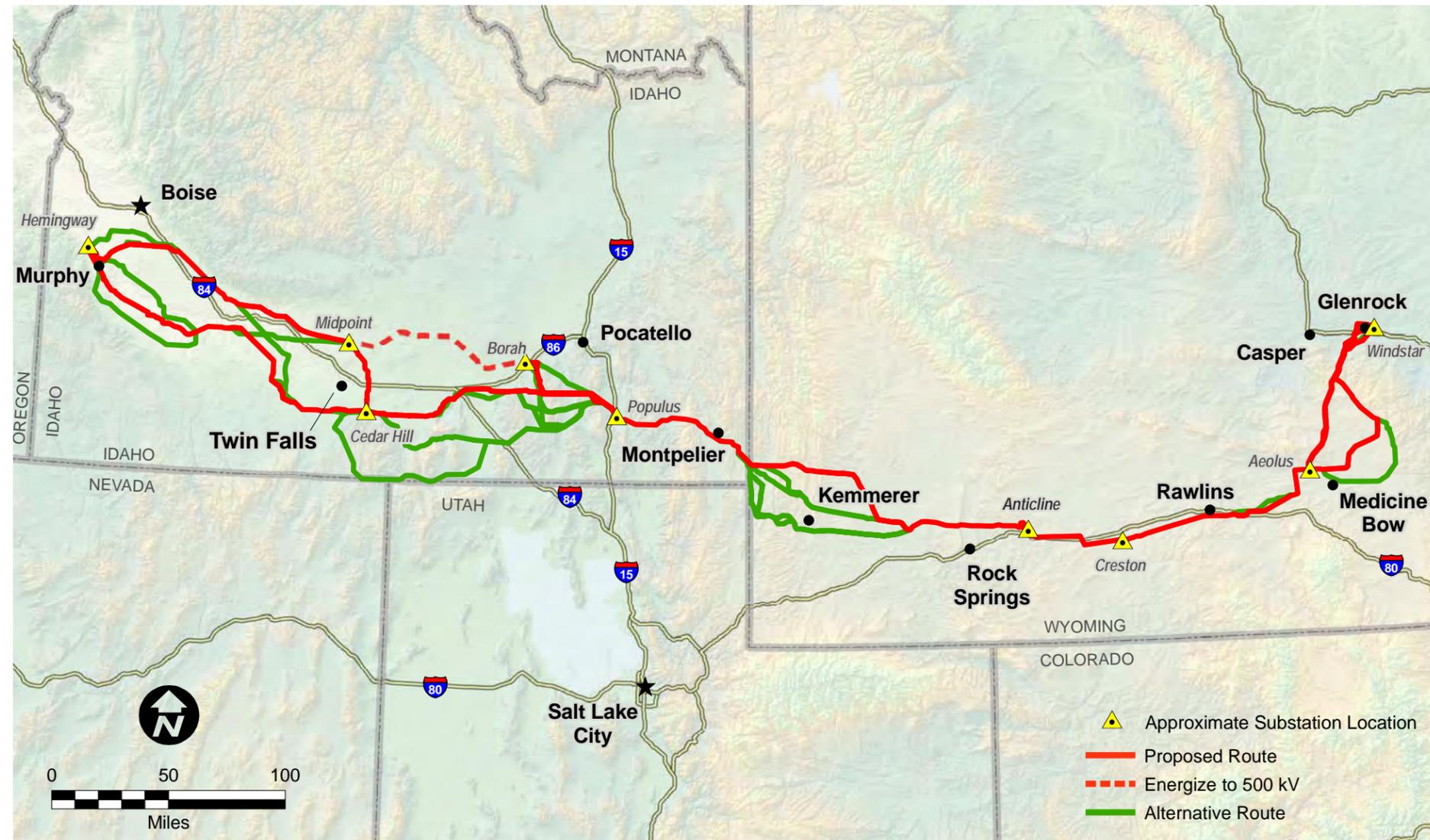
Route colors indicate:

- Red - Proposed route
- Green - Alternative route

Both types of routes will be fully analyzed. These routes were selected using information from the scoping period, evaluation criteria, public comments and cooperating agency input.

The BLM opened the proposed project to public comment during the scoping period at the beginning of the NEPA process in May 2008. Scoping is designed to identify issues and alternatives regarding the proposed project. The BLM extended an opportunity to develop additional recommendations on alternative routes through September 4, 2009.

Visit the BLM project Web site for an interactive map and additional details on specific routes: www.wy.blm.gov/nepa/cfodocs/gateway_west/



Stay involved

Get the latest Gateway West Transmission Line Project information on the Web:

BLM project Web site:
www.wy.blm.gov/nepa/cfodocs/gateway_west/

Idaho Power and Rocky Mountain Power Web site: www.gatewaywestproject.com/

Comment on the draft EIS:

The next opportunity to comment will be during the 90-day public comment period after the draft EIS is released in summer 2010.

Attend a public meeting:

The BLM will be hosting a series of public meetings after the draft EIS is released. Watch for announcements of dates and locations in summer 2010.

Contact us by:

- U.S. mail:
Bureau of Land Management
Gateway West Project
PO Box 20879
Cheyenne, WY 82003
- E-mail: Gateway_West_WYMail@blm.gov

How were the proposed and alternative routes selected?

- The companies' initial proposed route would interconnect nine substations which define the 10 segments of the project. Over the last 18 months, the proponents have refined the proposed route based on opportunities (a resource or condition that may accommodate a transmission line route) and constraints (a resource or condition that may limit where these transmission line routes may be sited).
- During the formal public scoping period, the BLM presented preliminary alternative routes for public review. Additional alternative routes were suggested by members of the public and cooperating agencies. Some preliminary routes were modified and others were dropped from further consideration. In some cases, the companies responded to the input by modifying their proposed route.
- After the formal public scoping period and during an internal review by the BLM and cooperating agencies, non-federal cooperating agencies requested additional time to develop more alternative routes. In some cases, the companies responded to these suggestions by additional modifications to their proposed routes.
- The BLM is conducting detailed environmental analysis of the companies' proposed route, as modified over the last several months, and the alternatives. When that analysis is available in draft form, the public will have the opportunity to review the draft and offer comments. The BLM expects the draft to be available in the summer of 2010.

Roles and responsibilities

BLM:

- Lead federal agency for the NEPA process, with the primary responsibility for public involvement.
- Determines the range of reasonable alternatives to be carried into environmental analysis together with the companies' proposed route.
- Conducts environmental analysis of proposed routes and alternatives by preparing an EIS.
- Determines if the proposed transmission line is consistent with BLM and USFS land use plans.
- Selects the most appropriate location for the transmission line on public land and issues a right of way grant.
- Conducts public involvement activities consistent with the NEPA process.

Idaho Power and Rocky Mountain Power:

- Applied to the BLM and USFS for authorization to build, operate and maintain the proposed transmission lines on federal property.
- Researches proposed and alternative routes.
- Conducts public outreach to landowners, elected officials and other stakeholders about the project.
- Identifies and modifies, if desired, the proposed route.
- Works with property owners to acquire rights of way for transmission lines on private land.
- Works with other permitting agencies, such as public utility or service commissions, and county governments, for other necessary permits.



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The Bureau of Land Management has announced the proposed and alternative routes for the Gateway West Transmission Line Project, which will be carried forward and analyzed in the draft environmental impact statement.

See inside for full details.

Thank you

BLM thanks everyone who submitted comments, attended meetings and visited our Web site. Your feedback is an important component of this process. Please be aware that the BLM responds to comments in the final environment impact study. The BLM welcomes your continued participation and we look forward to hearing from you during the draft EIS comment period in summer 2010.

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