

Welcome

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is hosting this scoping meeting for the Gateway West Transmission Line Project.

The BLM requests your input on the following topics to be evaluated in the environmental impact statement (EIS):

- Human, natural and environmental issues that should be studied
- Proposed corridor and route alternatives that should be studied
- Ways to avoid, minimize or mitigate the effects of the project

Roles and responsibilities

- **Bureau of Land Management (BLM)**
Responsible as the lead agency for complying with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and preparing the environmental impact statement (EIS).
- **Cooperating agencies**
Assist the BLM in preparing the EIS. Cooperating agencies include federal agencies, such as the U.S. Forest Service, the states of Idaho and Wyoming and some county governments.
- **Public**
Participate in the scoping process and provide comment on the EIS.
- **Idaho Power and Rocky Mountain Power**
Apply to the BLM and U.S. Forest Service for authorization to construct, operate and maintain the proposed transmission lines on federal property. The companies will also apply for all necessary permits and approvals from other federal agencies, state agencies and local jurisdictions.



National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) overview

NEPA is a law that requires federal agencies to complete an environmental impact statement (EIS) for actions that may significantly affect the quality of the environment.

Important milestones in the NEPA process are:

Scoping

- Identify a range of alternatives and key issues
- 45-day comment period
- Scoping meetings

Draft environmental impact statement (EIS)

- Documents the environmental studies and the potential impacts of the proposed action and the range of alternatives
- 60-day public review and comment period
- Public meetings

Final EIS/record of decision

- Addresses public concerns and comments
- Identifies the agency's preferred alternative
- 30-day public review and comment period

Issue areas

There are a range of issues to be evaluated as part of the environmental review process including:

- Wildlife habitat, plants and animals including threatened, endangered and sensitive species
- Visual resources and existing view sheds
- National Historic Trails and view sheds
- Native American traditional cultural properties and respected places
- Soils and water from surface disturbing activities
- Land use conflicts and consistency with land use plans
- Public health, safety and reliability
- Public access and recreation
- Local and regional socioeconomic conditions
- Invasive plant species and land reclamation
- Avoidance of sensitive areas
- Routing through chokepoints
- Cumulative impacts

Please give us your comments

The comment period for this scoping process is
May 16, 2008 to July 3, 2008

You can provide comments in the following ways at this meeting:

- Complete a paper comment form and drop it in the comment box
- Note your comments on the large format maps
- Fill out an electronic comment form on one of the computers
- Use a tape recorder at the comment table