

Boardman to Hemingway Transmission Line Energy Facility Siting Council Review Summary

Boardman to Hemingway Project Description

- Single circuit, 500-kilovolt line 300 miles in length
- Approximately 1,300 towers (primarily steel lattice towers from 110 to 195 feet high)
- Fiber-optic communication systems
- Substations
- Over 200 miles of new permanent roads and improvements to over 200 miles of existing roads
- Temporary construction laydown areas, helicopter fly yards and wire pulling sites
- 250 500 feet wide right of way
- Includes four alternative rout segments

Project Location

From

- Boardman in north-central Oregon
- Bonneville Power's proposed Longhorn substation this connects into BPA's northwest grid

Crossing

- Morrow, Umatilla, Union, Baker, and Malheur counties in Oregon
- Owyhee County in Idaho
- Private lands Approximately 66%
- State Lands Approximately 32%
- Federal Lands Approximately 1%

То

- Near Melba in Southwest Idaho
- Idaho Power's existing Hemingway substation. This connects into Idaho Power's and PacifiCorp's Intermountain west grid and the Gateway West and Gateway East transmission line projects.

Project Proponents

- Idaho Power Corporation (IPC), the applicant
- Bonneville Power Administration
- PacifiCorp

Jurisdiction

Oregon

 Energy Facility Siting Council (EFSC) – seven residents appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate who issue a site certificate if the applicant can meet all standards (see list of standards below)



Federal

- Bureau of Land Management (BLM) the lead federal agency who issues a Right of Way authorization if all federal requirements are met.
- Forest Service Special Use Authorization
- Bureau of Reclamation Special Use Authorization
- Navy Use of Reclamation Managed Lands

Purpose of Project as Described by Idaho Power

- Relieve existing transmission constraints between the Pacific Northwest and Intermountain West regions.
- Increase opportunities for the exchange of energy between the regions.
- Ensure sufficient capacity for the applicant to meet its forecasted customer demand requirements.
- Improve system reliability as demands on the transmission system continue to grow.

Review Chronology

Joint State and Federal Review*

IPC started the project by submitting to EFSC and BLM simultaneously.

Month and Year	Review Step
August 2008	Joint Notice of Intent to both EFSC and BLM filed.
November 2008	IPC initiated Community Advisory Process to gather information from public to reevaluate project location due to the volume of concerns expressed about initial proposal to site on productive agricultural lands.
July 2010	New Joint Notice of Intent to both EFSC and BLM filed with changed project location.
Feb 2013	Preliminary Application for Site Certificate submitted to Oregon Department of Energy.

* May not include all details or steps in federal review

Federal Review*

Between 2013 and 2016, IPC decided to bifurcate the state and federal review and first focus on the federal review. This was because the National Environmental Policy Act review allows the lead federal agency to request applicants to look at different locations than proposed by the applicant, whereas EFSC can only evaluate what is proposed by the applicant. While IPC still did some work with ODOE staff in preparation of re-submitting their preliminary application during this time, most of their focus was on the federal review.

Month and Year	Review Step
December 2014	BLM Draft Environmental Impact Statement Published
November 2016	BLM Final Environmental Impact Statement Published
November 2017	BLM Issues Record of Decision approving Right of Way for project

* May not include all details or steps in federal review

Oregon Department of Energy Boardman to Hemingway Transmission Line Review Overview | September 2024 House Interim Committee on Climate, Energy, and the Environment

State Review

Month and Year	Review Step
July 2017	Amended Preliminary Application for Site Certificate submitted
September 2018	Application for Site Certificate determined complete. Held completeness information meetings in each of the five counties in Oregon.
May 2019	Draft Proposed Order (ODOE's initial recommendation evaluating application requirements against standards) recommending approval of the project was issued. EFSC/ODOE held Draft Proposed Order hearings in each of the five counties in Oregon. Public was given approximately 100 days to comment. At the conclusion of the public comment period more than 400 commenters and over 6,300 pages of comments were submitted.
July 2020	IPC requested and was given approximately 100 days to respond to comments. Proposed Order (ODOE's second recommendation but includes an evaluation of all comments submitted and responses to all comments within EFSC jurisdiction and changes to some findings and conditions) recommending approval of the project was issued.
July 2020 – May 2022	 Contested Case Phase – run by an independent Hearing Officer 36 limited parties 78 issues Issues were related to: Fish and Wildlife
	 Historic and Archeological Resources Land Use Need for the Project Retirement and Financial Assurance Scenic Resources Protected Areas Soils Structural Threatened and Endangered Species Miscellaneous
	In her issuance of the Proposed Contested Case Order, the Hearing Officer recommended approval of the project, with some changes to findings and conditions from the Proposed Order.
July 2022	Council review of the Proposed Order standards that were not part of the Contested Case.
August 2022	 Council Review of Proposed Order standards that were part of the Contested Case Council Review Proposed Contested Case Order Council Hearing on sixteen Exceptions filed on the Proposed Contested Case Order This required three days of meetings in La Grande

September 2022	Material Change Hearing
	Hearing to adopt Final Order
	 EFSC approved project and issued a site certificate
March 2023	Supreme Court Opinion.
	There were three petitioners and 10 total issues.
	Per statute, the Supreme court has six months within which to issue their opinion. They were able to issue it in four months.
	The Supreme Court concluded that EFSC did not err in any of the ways contended by petitioners and affirmed EFSC's Final Order in full.
September 2023	EFSC approved Amendment 1 to make changes largely based on landowner requests.
	A party has challenged denial of a request for a contested case to circuit court.
August 2024	EFSC approved Amendment 2
	Appeal period is still open

EFSC Standards

- General Standard of Review
- Organizational Expertise Standard
- Structural Standard
- Soil Protection Standard
- Land Use Standard
- Protected Areas Standard
- Retirement and Financial Assurance Standard
- Fish and Wildlife Habitat Standard
- Threatened & Endangered Species Standard
- Scenic Resources Standard
- Historic, Cultural and Archaeological
- Recreation Standard
- Public Services Standard
- Wildfire Prevention and Risk Mitigation Standard
- Waste Minimization Standard
- Need for a Facility
- Specific Standards for Transmission Lines
- Noise Control
- Removal Fill
- Water Rights

See EFSC Standards handout for more details: <u>https://www.oregon.gov/energy/facilities-safety/facilities/Documents/Fact-Sheets/EFSC-Standards-in-OAR.pdf</u>