

BEFORE THE IDAHO PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

IN THE MATTER OF IDAHO POWER)
COMPANY'S APPLICATION FOR A) CASE NO. IPC-E-23-01
CERTIFICATE OF PUBLIC CONVENIENCE)
AND NECESSITY FOR THE BOARDMAN TO)
HEMINGWAY 500-KV TRANSMISSION)
LINE.)
)
)
)
_____)

IDAHO POWER COMPANY

DIRECT TESTIMONY

OF

LINDSAY BARRETTO

1 Q. Please state your name and business address.

2 A. My name is Lindsay Barretto. My business
3 address is 1221 West Idaho Street, Boise, Idaho 83702.

4 Q. By whom are you employed and in what capacity?

5 A. I am employed by Idaho Power Company ("Idaho
6 Power" or "Company") as the 500 kilovolt ("kV") and Joint
7 Projects Senior Manager.

8 Q. Please describe your educational background.

9 A. I received a Bachelor of Science degree in
10 Civil Engineering from Purdue University, West Lafayette,
11 Indiana in 2005. In 2007, I earned a Master of Science
12 degree in Civil Engineering from Purdue University. I am a
13 registered professional engineer in the state of Idaho.

14 Q. Please describe your work experience with
15 Idaho Power.

16 A. I began my employment with Idaho Power in 2010
17 as an engineer in Power Production's Civil Engineering
18 department. As an engineer I worked on hydroelectric and
19 hatchery projects and regulatory compliance. In 2015, I
20 moved to Transmission and Distribution Engineering and
21 Construction as a project manager leading power line and
22 substation projects. In 2018, I became an Engineering
23 Leader, responsible for the Stations Engineering and Design
24 department. In 2020, I was promoted to my current
25 position, Senior Manager of 500kV and Joint Projects, where

1 my responsibilities include supervision over Idaho Power's
2 500-kV projects.

3 Q. What is the purpose of your testimony in this
4 proceeding?

5 A. My testimony begins with a description of the
6 Boardman to Hemingway transmission line ("B2H project")
7 design and the standards and guidelines for which it is
8 constructed and operated. Next, I describe the siting and
9 permitting process that has spanned nearly two decades,
10 including the federal, state, and local permits necessary
11 for construction and operation of the B2H project.
12 Finally, I will discuss the costs associated with the B2H
13 project.

14 Q. Have you prepared any exhibits?

15 A. Yes. Exhibit No. 8 presents a cross-section of
16 a transmission tower. Exhibit No. 9 identifies the federal,
17 state, and local permits needed for construction and
18 operation of the B2H project in both Idaho and Oregon.
19 Exhibit No. 10 represents Idaho Power's final B2H route
20 choice among the alternatives approved by Oregon's Energy
21 Facilities Siting Council ("EFSC"). Confidential Exhibit
22 No. 11 includes a summary of the B2H project cost estimates
23 by cost category as well as a comparison of B2H project
24 cost estimates prepared between 2018 and 2022 in support of
25 Integrated Resource Plan ("IRP") preparations and the

1 Company's request with the Public Utility Commission of
2 Oregon for a Certificate of Public Convenience and
3 Necessity ("CPCN").

4 **I. THE B2H PROJECT DESIGN**

5 Q. Please describe the design of the B2H project.

6 A. The B2H project is a 500-kV transmission line
7 between Boardman, Oregon and the Hemingway substation in
8 southwestern Idaho. It consists of approximately 298 miles
9 of electric transmission line, with 274 miles located in
10 Oregon and 24 miles in Idaho. The B2H project will require
11 298 miles of single-circuit 500-kV transmission line,
12 removal of 12 miles of existing 69-kV transmission line,
13 rebuilding of 0.9 miles of a 230-kV transmission line, and
14 rebuilding of 1.1 miles of an existing 138-kV transmission
15 line into a new right-of-way. The B2H project is designed
16 to withstand a wide range of physical conditions and
17 extreme events. Because transmission lines are so vital to
18 the electrical grid, design standards are stringent. B2H
19 will adhere to, and in most cases, exceed, the required
20 codes or standards observed for high voltage transmission
21 line design. This approach to the design, construction, and
22 operation of the B2H project will establish utmost
23 reliability for the life of the transmission line.

24 Q. What are the components of a transmission
25 line?

1 A. The basic components of a transmission line
2 are the structures/towers, conductors, insulators,
3 foundations to support the structures, and shield wires to
4 prevent lightning from striking conductors. See Exhibit No.
5 8 to my testimony for a cross-section of a transmission
6 tower. For a single-circuit transmission line, such as B2H,
7 power is transmitted via three phase conductors (a phase
8 can also have multiple conductors, called a bundle
9 configuration). These conductors are typically comprised of
10 a steel core to give the conductor tensile strength and
11 reduce sag and of aluminum outer strands. Aluminum is used
12 because of its high conductivity to weight ratio.

13 Shield wires, typically either steel or aluminum and
14 occasionally including fiber optic cables inside for
15 communication, are the highest wires on the structure.
16 Their main purpose is to protect the phase conductors from
17 a lightning strike.

18 Structures are designed to support the phase
19 conductors and shield wires and keep them safely in the
20 air. For the B2H project, structures will primarily be
21 steel lattice tower structures, which provide an economical
22 means to support large conductors for long spans over long
23 distances.¹ The typical structure height for B2H is

¹ H-frame towers, rather than lattice towers, will be used in certain locations to mitigate potential impacts to visual resources.

1 approximately 160 feet tall, but structure height will vary
2 depending on location, with a structure located roughly
3 every 1,400 feet on average. The tower height and span
4 length were optimized to minimize ground impacts and
5 material requirements; taller structures could allow for
6 longer spans (fewer structures on average per mile) but
7 would be costlier due to material requirements. Again, the
8 B2H tower and conductors were engineered to maximize
9 benefits and minimize costs and impacts.

10 Q. Are there guidelines or standards for which
11 the structure of a transmission line is designed?

12 A. Yes. Overhead transmission lines have been in
13 existence for over 100 years, and many codes and
14 regulations govern the design and operation of transmission
15 lines. Safety, reliability, and electrical performance are
16 all incorporated into the design of transmission lines.
17 Several notable standards include the: (1) American
18 Concrete Institute 318-*Building Code Requirements for*
19 *Structural Concrete*, (2) American National Standards
20 Institute standards (for material specifications), (3)
21 American Society of Civil Engineers ("ASCE") Manual No.74-
22 *Guidelines for Electrical Transmission Line Structural*
23 *Loading*, (4) National Electrical Safety Code ("NESC"), (5)
24 Occupational Safety and Health Administration 1910.269
25 April 11, 2014 (for worker safety requirements), and (6)

1 National Fire Protection Association 780—*Guide for*
2 *Improving the Lightning Performance of Transmission Lines.*
3 NESC provides for minimum guidelines and industry standards
4 for safeguarding persons from hazards arising from the
5 construction, maintenance, and operation of electric supply
6 and communication lines and equipment. The B2H project will
7 be designed, constructed, and operated at standards that
8 meet, and in most cases exceed, the provisions of NESC.

9 Q. Why is Idaho Power designing and constructing
10 the B2H project to exceed NESC provisions?

11 A. Physical loads induced onto transmission
12 structures and foundations supporting the phase conductors
13 and shield wires for the B2H project are derived from three
14 phenomena: wind, ice, and tension. Under certain
15 conditions, ice can build up on phase conductors and shield
16 wires of transmission lines. When transverse wind loading
17 is also applied to these iced conductors, it can produce
18 structural loading on towers and foundations far greater
19 than normal operating conditions produce. Design weather
20 cases for the B2H project exceed the requirements in the
21 NESC. As an example, for a high wind case, NESC recommends
22 90 miles per hour (mph) winds. The criteria proposed for
23 the B2H project is 100 mph wind on the conductors and 120
24 mph wind on the structures. There are multiple loading
25 conditions that will be incorporated into the design of the

1 B2H project, including unbalanced longitudinal loads,
2 differential ice loads, broken phase conductors, broken
3 sub-phase conductors, heavy ice loads, extreme wind loads,
4 extreme ice and wind loads, construction loads, and full
5 dead-end structure loads.

6 Q. What is the design of the transmission line
7 foundation?

8 A. The 500-kV single-circuit lattice steel
9 structures require a foundation for each leg of the
10 structure. The foundation diameter and depth will be
11 determined during final design and are dependent on the
12 type of soil or rock present. The foundations will be
13 designed to comply with the allowable bearing and shear
14 strengths of the soil where placed. Soil borings will be
15 taken at key locations along the project route, and
16 subsequent soil reports and investigations will govern
17 specific foundation designs as appropriate.

18 Q. Are there guidelines or standards for design
19 of transmission line foundations?

20 A. Yes. The 2017 NESC Rule 250A4 observes the
21 structure capacity obtained by designing for NESC wind and
22 ice loads at the specified strength requirements is
23 sufficient to resist earthquake ground motions.
24 Additionally, ASCE Manual No. 74 states transmission
25 structures need not be designed for ground-induced

1 vibrations caused by earthquake motion. Historically,
2 transmission structures have performed well under
3 earthquake events,² and transmission structure loadings
4 caused by wind/ice combinations and broken wire forces
5 exceed earthquake loads. It is common industry practice to
6 design transmission line structures to withstand wind and
7 ice loads that are equal to, or greater than, these NESC
8 requirements.

9 Q. How does the potential for lightning impact
10 the design?

11 A. The B2H project is in an area that
12 historically experiences 20 lightning storm days per year,³
13 which is relatively low compared to other parts of the
14 United States. The transmission line will be designed to
15 not exceed a lightning outage rate of one per 100 miles per
16 year. This will be accomplished by using proper shield wire
17 placement and structure/shield wire grounding to adequately
18 dissipate a lightning strike on the shield wires or
19 structures if it were to occur. The electrical grounding
20 requirements for the project will be determined by
21 performing ground resistance testing throughout the project

² Risk Assessment of Transmission System under Earthquake Loading. J.M. Eiding, and L. Kemper, Jr. Electrical Transmission and Substation Structures 2012, Pg. 183-192, ASCE 2013; see also Earthquake Resistant Construction of Electric Transmission and Telecommunication Facilities Serving the Federal Government Report. Felix Y. Yokel. Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). September 1990.

³ USDA RUS Bulletin 1751-801.

1 alignment, and by designing adequately sized counterpoise
2 or using driven ground rods with grounding attachments to
3 the steel rebar cages within the caisson foundations as
4 appropriate.

5 Q. What measures have been taken with respect to
6 the B2H project design for earthquakes?

7 A. Experience has demonstrated that high-voltage
8 transmission lines are very resistant to ground-motion
9 forces caused by earthquake, so much so that national
10 standards do not require these forces be directly
11 considered in the design. However, secondary hazards can
12 affect a transmission line, such as landslides,
13 liquefaction, and lateral spreading. The design process
14 considers these geologic hazards using multiple information
15 streams throughout the siting and design process. For the
16 final route, Idaho Power evaluated geologic hazards using
17 available geographic information system data, such as fault
18 lines, areas of unstable and/or steep soils, mapped and
19 potential landslide areas, etc. Towers located within
20 potential geologic hazard areas are investigated further to
21 determine risk. Additional analysis may include field
22 reconnaissance to gauge the stability of the area and
23 subsurface investigation to determine the soil strata and
24 depth of hazard.

25 Q. Did the Company identify any geologic hazards

1 that would be of risk to the structure?

2 A. At this time, no high-risk geologic hazard
3 areas have been identified. If, during the process of final
4 design, an area is found to be high-risk, the first option
5 would be to microsite, route around, or span over the
6 hazard. If avoidance is not feasible, the design team would
7 seek to stabilize the hazard. Engineering options for
8 stabilization include designing an array of sacrificial
9 foundations above the tower foundation to anchor the soil
10 or improving the subsurface soils by injecting grout or
11 outside aggregates into the ground. If the geotechnical
12 investigation determines the problematic soils are
13 relatively shallow, the tower foundations can be designed
14 to pass through the weaker soils and embed into competent
15 soils.

16 Q. Please describe Idaho Power's plans to reduce
17 risks associated with wildfire during operation of the B2H
18 project.

19 A. Idaho Power has developed a Wildfire
20 Mitigation Plan ("WMP").⁴ This plan details how the Company
21 uses situational awareness of wildfire and weather
22 conditions to change the way the system is operated. It

⁴ [2022 Wildfire Mitigation Plan \(idahopower.com\)](https://www.idahopower.com), see also *In the Matter of Idaho Power Company's Application for Review of the Company's Current Wildfire Mitigation Plan and Authorization to Defer Newly Identified Incremental Wildfire Mitigation Costs* (Case No. IPC-E-22-27).

1 also includes best practices that internal and contract
2 crews follow for construction and maintenance activities
3 during wildfire season, vegetation management practices,
4 and transmission system and distribution system hardening
5 efforts. B2H has been included in this analysis as part of
6 the planning process. The wildfire risk along the B2H
7 project route was assessed as part of the plan. This plan
8 will be reviewed annually and updated with new information
9 and lessons learned as required.

10 Q. Will the B2H project remain operational in the
11 event of a wildfire?

12 A. The transmission line steel structures are
13 constructed of non-flammable materials, so wildfires do not
14 pose a physical threat to the transmission line itself.
15 However, heavy smoke from wildfires in the immediate area
16 of the transmission line can cause flashover/arcing between
17 the phase conductors and electrically grounded components.
18 Standard operation is to de-energize transmission lines
19 when fire is present in the immediate area of the line.
20 Transmission lines generally remain in-service when smoke
21 is present from wildfires not in the immediate vicinity of
22 the transmission line. When compared to other resource
23 alternatives, the B2H project may be more resilient to
24 smoke. For example, the recent forest fire events in the
25 Pacific Northwest caused smoke along the proposed B2H

1 corridor and in the Pacific Northwest in general. While
2 generation from solar photovoltaic would likely operate at
3 a much-reduced capacity, the B2H project would likely still
4 operate so long as the fires are not in the immediate area.

5 Q. Are there any other hazards the B2H project
6 design must take into account?

7 A. As I mentioned earlier, the B2H project is
8 designed to withstand extreme wind loading combined with
9 ice loading. With respect to landslides, Idaho Power
10 avoided steep, unstable slopes through the siting and
11 design process, especially where evidence of past
12 landslides is evident. During the preliminary construction
13 phase, geotechnical surveys and ground surveys (light
14 detection and ranging surveys) help verify potentially
15 hazardous conditions. If a potentially hazardous area
16 cannot be avoided, the design process will seek to
17 stabilize the area. Finally, identification and avoidance
18 of flood zones was incorporated into the siting process and
19 will be further incorporated into the design process.
20 Foundations and structures will be designed to withstand
21 anticipated flood conditions.

22 Q. Was any consideration made in the event of a
23 direct physical attack?

24 A. Yes. A direct physical attack on the B2H
25 transmission line will remove the line's ability to deliver

1 power to customers. In the case of a direct attack, B2H is
2 fundamentally no different than any other supply-side
3 resource under a direct physical attack. However, because
4 the B2H project is connected to the transmission grid, a
5 direct physical attack on any specific generation site in
6 the Pacific Northwest or Mountain West region will not
7 limit the B2H project's ability to deliver power from other
8 generation in the region. In this context, the B2H project
9 provides additional ability for generation resources to
10 serve load if a physical attack were to occur on a specific
11 generation resource or location within the region and
12 therefore increases the resiliency of the electric grid as
13 a whole.

14 If a direct physical attack were to occur on the B2H
15 transmission line and force the line out of service, the
16 rest of the grid would adjust to account for the loss of
17 the line. Per the Western Electricity Coordinating Council
18 facility rating process, the B2H capacity rating is such
19 that an outage of the B2H line would not overload any other
20 system element beyond equipment emergency ratings. Idaho
21 Power also keeps a supply of emergency transmission towers
22 that can be quickly deployed to replace a damaged tower
23 allowing the transmission line to be quickly returned to
24 service. Transmission lines add to the resiliency of the
25 grid by providing additional paths for electricity should

1 one or more generation resources or transmission lines
2 experience a catastrophic event.

3 Q. Is there any incremental value the B2H project
4 may provide in the event of emergency conditions?

5 A. During non-emergency conditions, the transfer
6 capability between the Pacific Northwest and Idaho will be
7 limited by real-time-contingency-analysis to ensure a
8 single transmission system element outage does not result
9 in overloading any remaining element above its emergency
10 rating (i.e. loss of the B2H project does not result in a
11 remaining system element overloaded above its emergency
12 rating). Per North American Electric Reliability
13 Corporation ("NERC") requirement TPL-001-4, the system must
14 be designed to accommodate single contingency element
15 losses without using load tripping as mitigation. However,
16 during emergency conditions, transfers across the B2H
17 project could be increased above the normal rating by
18 implementing a remedial action scheme, also pursuant to
19 NERC TPL-001-4 for emergency conditions starting from an
20 outage scenario.

21 **II. SITING AND PERMITTING**

22 Q. When did siting and permitting of the B2H
23 project begin?

24 A. In 2007, Idaho Power filed a Preliminary Draft
25 Application for Transportation and Utility Systems and

1 Facilities on Federal Lands and began scoping routes. The
2 following year, in 2008, the Company submitted application
3 materials to the Bureau of Land Management ("BLM") as the
4 lead agency for the federal National Environmental Policy
5 Act ("NEPA") review and a Notice of Intent to the Oregon
6 Energy Facility Siting Council ("EFSC" or "Council"). The
7 NEPA and EFSC processes are separate and distinct
8 permitting processes and not necessarily designed to work
9 simultaneously. At a high level, the NEPA process requires
10 federal agencies take a "hard look" at the environmental
11 consequences of their actions along with reasonable
12 alternatives, but NEPA does not mandate a particular
13 result. The comparative analysis is conducted at a
14 "desktop" level. Information is brought into the process on
15 a phased approach. A more detailed analysis must be
16 conducted on the final route prior to construction, which
17 generally occurs once final design is complete. On the
18 other hand, the Oregon EFSC process is a standards-based
19 process based on a fixed site boundary. For a linear
20 facility, like a transmission line, the process requires
21 the transmission line boundary to be established (one or
22 more routes selected) and fully evaluated to determine if
23 the project meets established standards.

24 Q. What occurred when the application was
25 submitted to the BLM?

1 A. The BLM responded with a Notice of Intent to
2 prepare an Environmental Impact Statement ("EIS"),
3 officially initiating the BLM-led federal NEPA process. It
4 was at this time that Idaho Power embarked on a more
5 extensive public outreach program to determine the
6 transmission line route.

7 Q. Did the Company involve public participation
8 when determining the route for the B2H project?

9 A. Yes. In 2009, Idaho Power paused the NEPA and
10 EFSC activities to work with community members throughout
11 the siting area to identify a proposed route that would be
12 acceptable to both the Company and the public. The year-
13 long community advisory process ("CAP") had four objectives
14 and steps: (1) identify community issues and concerns, (2)
15 develop a range of possible routes that address community
16 issues and concerns, (3) recommend proposed and alternate
17 routes, (4) follow through with communities during the
18 federal and state review processes. Through the CAP, Idaho
19 Power hosted 27 Project Advisory Team meetings, 15 public
20 meetings, and 7 special topic meetings. In all, nearly
21 1,000 people were involved in the CAP, either through
22 Project Advisory Team activities or public meetings.

23 Q. Was a proposed route selected through the CAP
24 process?

25 A. Yes. Forty-nine routes and/or route segments

1 were considered through the CAP and ultimately the route
2 recommendation from the CAP was the route Idaho Power
3 brought into the NEPA process as the proponent-recommended
4 route, submitted in 2010.

5 Q. What occurred following conclusion of the CAP?

6 A. With a final route recommendation developed
7 through the CAP, Idaho Power resubmitted the proposed route
8 to the BLM and published its B2H Siting Study. At this
9 point, the Company also filed a new Notice of Intent with
10 EFSC.

11 Q. Was this the end of public involvement in the
12 final selection of the B2H project's route?

13 A. No, public involvement and outreach continued
14 for years. The NEPA process, which the BLM re-initiated
15 following the Company's resubmittal of a proposed route,
16 included additional opportunities for public comment at
17 major milestones, and Idaho Power worked with landowners
18 and communities along the way. Throughout this process,
19 Idaho Power worked with landowners, stakeholders, and
20 jurisdictional leaders on route refinements and to balance
21 environmental impacts with impacts to farmers and ranchers.
22 For example, Idaho Power met with the original "Stop Idaho
23 Power" group in Malheur County to help the group
24 effectively comment and seek change from the BLM when the
25 Draft EIS indicated a preference for a route across Stop

1 Idaho Power stakeholders' lands. The BLM's decision was
2 modified, and the route moved away from an area of highly
3 valued agricultural lands in the Final EIS almost two years
4 later.

5 Idaho Power also worked with landowners in the Baker
6 Valley, near the National Historic Oregon Trail
7 Interpretive Center ("NHOTIC"), to move an alternative
8 route along fence lines to minimize impacts to irrigated
9 farmland, where practicable. This change was submitted by
10 the landowners and included in the BLM's Final EIS and
11 ultimately the Record of Decision. Another change in Baker
12 County was in the Burnt River Canyon and Durkee area, where
13 Idaho Power worked with the BLM and affected landowners to
14 find a more suitable route than what was initially
15 identified as the preferred route in the Draft EIS. Idaho
16 Power has worked with landowners and local jurisdictional
17 leaders to microsite in these areas to minimize impacts.

18 Finally, in Union County Idaho Power worked with
19 local jurisdictional leaders, stakeholder groups, such as
20 the Glass Hill Coalition and some members of Stop B2H
21 (prior to that group's formation), to identify new route
22 opportunities. The Union County B2H Advisory Committee
23 agreed to submit a route proposal to the BLM that followed
24 existing high-voltage transmission lines, which was later
25 identified as the Mill Creek Alternative. In that same

1 area, Idaho Power proposed the Morgan Lake Alternative as
2 an alternative to the Mill Creek Route, providing a route
3 that was farther from and not visible from the City of La
4 Grande.

5 Q. What was the status of the EFSC application at
6 this time?

7 A. In 2012, concurrent with the BLM NEPA process,
8 the Oregon Department of Energy ("ODOE") conducted informal
9 meetings, solicited comments, and issued a Project Order
10 outlining the issues and regulations Idaho Power must
11 address in its Application for Site Certificate ("ASC").
12 Also, due to the route modifications and refinements
13 submitted to the BLM, the Company issued a Siting Study
14 Supplement, and began conducting field surveys for the ASC.
15 Idaho Power submitted to ODOE its preliminary ASC in 2013,
16 which included a request that the site certificate include
17 and govern the local land use approvals related to siting.

18 Q. Had the BLM-led NEPA process concluded at this
19 point?

20 A. No. In 2013, the BLM released the preliminary
21 preferred route alternatives and began preparing their
22 Draft EIS, which was issued on December 19, 2014,
23 identifying an Agency Preferred Alternative.

24 Q. Was the route proposed through the CAP the
25 final route selected by the BLM?

1 A. No. The route preferences of Idaho Power and
2 the local communities are not always reflected in the BLM's
3 Agency Preferred route. For example, Idaho Power had worked
4 in the Baker County area to propose a route on the backside
5 of the NHOTIC to minimize visual impacts, and in the Brogan
6 area to avoid landowner impacts. However, both route
7 variations went through priority sage grouse habitat and
8 were not adopted in BLM's Agency Preferred route. However,
9 the Company worked with Umatilla County, local
10 jurisdictional leaders, and landowners to identify a new
11 route through the entire county, essentially moving the
12 line further south and away from residences, ranches, and
13 certain agriculture. This southern route variation through
14 Umatilla County was later included as part of the BLM's
15 final Agency Preferred route.

16 Q. What occurred following issuance of the Draft
17 EIS?

18 A. The BLM's issuance of the Draft EIS kicked off
19 the opening of a 90-day comment period. The BLM hosted
20 open houses for the public to learn about the Draft EIS,
21 route alternatives, and environmental analysis. On November
22 22, 2016, the BLM completed its NEPA process, issuing its
23 Final EIS. The preferred route was incorporated into the
24 EFSC application and a routing solution on Navy-owned land
25 for an easement on the Naval Weapons System Training

1 Facility in Boardman, Oregon. Field surveys necessary for
2 the EFSC application continued to be conducted. In 2017,
3 the Company submitted an Amended Preliminary ASC to ODOE.
4 On November 17, 2017, the BLM released its record of
5 decision for the B2H project, authorizing the BLM to grant
6 a right-of-way to Idaho Power for the construction,
7 operation, and maintenance of the B2H project on BLM-
8 administered land. The right-of-way was granted on January
9 9, 2018.

10 Q. Were any additional decisions required with
11 respect to rights-of-way for the B2H project?

12 A. Yes. The BLM's record of decision triggered
13 United States Forest Service ("USFS") and Navy decision
14 activities. The USFS and Navy issued their own separate
15 decisions regarding rights-of-way across lands under their
16 jurisdictions on November 13, 2018, and September 26, 2019,
17 respectively. With issuance of the Navy record-of-
18 decision, after nearly 10 years, the B2H project had
19 secured all federal records of decision.

20 Q. Was the final B2H project route proposed by
21 the Company in the EFSC ASC the route proposed by the BLM?

22 A. No. The route Idaho Power submitted to the
23 EFSC as part of the ASC is very similar to the BLM's Agency
24 Preferred route. When the ASC was finalized, which was
25 prior to issuance of the Final EIS, Idaho Power included

1 two alternative route segments in the La Grande area,
2 called the Morgan Lake Alternative and the Mill Creek
3 Alternative/Proposed Route. The BLM's Agency Preferred
4 route in that area was similar to a prior route concept
5 that was called the Glass Hill Alternative. Additionally,
6 the EFSC application included alternative route segments at
7 the northern end of the B2H project, near the Boardman
8 Bombing Range, and toward the southern end of the of the
9 B2H project in Malheur County near the Double Mountain
10 Wilderness Characteristic Unit.

11 Q. What is the current status of the Council's
12 review of the Company's ASC?

13 A. In July 2020, ODOE issued its Proposed Order,
14 proposing approval of the B2H project subject to certain
15 conditions. However, certain members of the public objected
16 to aspects of the proposed order, and EFSC initiated a
17 contested case hearing process to consider the issues that
18 those members of the public raised. The contested case
19 spanned nearly two years and included exchange of
20 discovery, live depositions, submission of written
21 testimony, live cross-examination hearings, and extensive
22 briefing. On May 31, 2022, at the conclusion of the
23 contested case, the hearing officer issued a Proposed
24 Contested Case Order, proposing approval of the B2H project

1 subject to certain conditions.⁵ The Council held a three-
2 day hearing to consider the parties' exceptions to the
3 Proposed Contested Case Order, and provided direction to
4 ODOE regarding modifications to the Proposed Order and the
5 Proposed Contested Case Order. ODOE implemented the
6 Council's direction and issued the draft Final Order on
7 September 16, 2022, and on September 27, 2022, EFSC made
8 its final decision in a unanimous (6-0) vote to approve the
9 B2H project subject to certain conditions.

10 Q. Has the EFSC issued their Final Order and Site
11 Certificate?

12 A. Yes. On October 6, 2022, EFSC executed their
13 Final Order and Site Certificate for the B2H project.⁶

14 Q. Has the Final Order been appealed?

15 A. Yes. In accordance with the statutory time
16 limitation for appeal of the final order, three parties
17 timely filed appeals to the Supreme Court of Oregon in
18 connection with EFSC's Final Order. However, in accordance
19 with Oregon Revised Statute ("ORS") 469.403(4), the filing
20 of a petition for judicial review does not stay the
21 Council's Final Order—and no party has requested stay—and

⁵ See Administrative Law Judge's Proposed Contested Case Order, page 296 of 337 (May 31, 2022) (I propose the Oregon Department of Energy, Energy Facility Siting Council, issue a Final Order granting the requested site certificate consistent with the Department's Proposed Order dated July 2, 2020, including the recommended site certificate conditions, and incorporating the following amendments to recommended conditions:).

⁶ See Final Order (Sept. 27, 2022) (available at: <https://www.oregon.gov/energy/facilities-safety/facilities/Facilities%20library/2022-09-27-Final-Order-on-ASC.pdf>)

1 thus, the EFSC Final Order and EFSC Site Certificate remain
2 in effect pending judicial review. Accordingly, Idaho Power
3 may begin construction in areas where it has site control
4 and where all pre-construction conditions have been met,
5 notwithstanding the appeal. Idaho Power filed Answering
6 Briefs on January 3, 2023, and Oral Argument is scheduled
7 for January 18, 2023. Pursuant to 469.403(6), the Oregon
8 Supreme Court must render a decision within six months of
9 the petitions for review, or in this case, on or before
10 June 6, 2023.

11 Q. What additional permits and land use approvals
12 are necessary for siting the B2H project?

13 A. Exhibit No. 9 to my testimony identifies the
14 federal, state, and local permits needed for construction
15 and operation of the B2H project in both Idaho and Oregon.
16 The permits and approvals beyond those I have discussed are
17 in various stages of their respective application and
18 approval processes, the status of which is also presented
19 in Exhibit No. 9. The Final Order and Site Certificate
20 include the land use approvals (and related conditions) for
21 the B2H project, and in accordance with Oregon Revised
22 Statute 469.401(3), following issuance of the site
23 certificate, the state and local agencies in Oregon will
24 issue the permits and land use approvals governed by the
25 site certificate without further hearings or other

1 proceedings.

2 Q. You indicated the EFSC application included
3 alternative route segments for portions of the B2H project.
4 Has the Company determined a final route for the B2H
5 project?

6 A. Yes. Exhibit No. 10 to my testimony
7 represents Idaho Power's final route choice among the
8 alternatives approved by EFSC, which includes the Morgan
9 Lake Alternative and the West of Bombing Range Alternative
10 routes.

11 Q. How did Idaho Power determine the final route
12 among the approved alternative options?

13 A. Idaho Power initially proposed the Mill Creek
14 Route in response to the request by Union County that the
15 B2H project be routed parallel to the existing 230-kV
16 transmission line. In that same area, Idaho Power proposed
17 the Morgan Lake Alternative as an alternative to the Mill
18 Creek Route, providing a route that was farther from and
19 not visible from the City of La Grande. Based on feedback
20 Idaho Power received from the local community and given
21 EFSC approved both routes, Idaho Power has decided to
22 develop the Morgan Lake Alternative and not the Mill Creek
23 Route.

24 **III. B2H PROJECT ROUTE IMPACT EVALUATIONS**

25 Q. Did Idaho Power evaluate the potential impact

1 of the B2H project on topography, geology, stream
2 crossings, or other similar conditions?

3 A. Yes. With respect to hydrologic systems, the
4 Company anticipates the impact will be minimal. For
5 example, any temporary impacts to regulated waters will be
6 mitigated by restoring the sites to existing conditions,
7 and the total amount of permanent impacts will be less than
8 0.5 acres.⁷ To mitigate those impacts, Idaho Power has
9 acquired the rights to develop a wetland and stream
10 restoration project along Catherine Creek, a tributary to
11 the Grande Ronde River.⁸

12 The Company does not anticipate that construction-
13 related blasting activity will impact landowners' springs,
14 wells, or other water sources. However, to address any
15 concerns the landowners may have regarding the same, Idaho
16 Power will test water sources if requested, as memorialized
17 in the site certificate condition, Soil Protection
18 Condition 4.b.⁹

19 Geological hazards are addressed in the ASC as well.
20 The B2H project will be designed in accordance with
21 multiple applicable engineering and building standards,
22 which address, directly or indirectly, hardness of rock and

⁷ As detailed in [Exhibit J \(Waters of the State\) to Idaho Power's ASC, page J-16](#) (Sept. 28, 2018).

⁸ As detailed in [Exhibit J \(Waters of the State\) to Idaho Power's ASC, page J-17 to J-18](#) (Sept. 28, 2018).

⁹ As detailed in [Site Certificate](#) at 24 (Sept. 27, 2022).

1 other geological considerations.¹⁰ Additionally, Idaho Power
2 is required to prepare, in consultation with the Oregon
3 Department of Geology and Mineral Industries, a geologic
4 report that addresses the suitability of the site for the
5 B2H project and any mitigation measures.¹¹ While the final
6 mitigation measures will be refined prior to construction
7 based on site-specific geological testing, generally, those
8 measures will include modifications to tower locations,
9 design changes to structure foundations, soil amendments,
10 or tower design modifications.

11 Q. Were any mitigation measures implemented for
12 scenic or recreational resources?

13 A. Yes. Per an agreement with the City of La
14 Grande, the Company will provide funding to the city for
15 recreational improvements at Morgan Lake Park.¹²
16 Additionally, Idaho Power will construct the B2H project
17 segment near Morgan Lake Park using shorter, H-frame towers
18 with a weathered steel finish to reduce visual impacts to
19 the park.¹³ Similarly, in the vicinity of the NHOTIC and the
20 Birch Creek Area of Critical Environmental Concern, Idaho
21 Power will construct the B2H project using shorter, H-frame

¹⁰ See [Exhibit H \(Geological Hazards and Soil Stability\) to the Company's ASC, page H-21](#) (Sept. 28, 2018).

¹¹ See [Exhibit H \(Geological Hazards and Soil Stability\) to Idaho Power's ASC, pages H-4 to H-5](#), and [Engineering Geology and Seismic Hazards Supplement, Attachment H-1](#) to Idaho Power's ASC.

¹² See EFSC's Final Order at 277-78 (Sept. 27, 2022) (available at [2022-09-27-Final-Order-on-ASC.pdf \(oregon.gov\)](#)) (last visited Sept. 29, 2022).

¹³ *Id.* at 557.

1 towers instead of lattice towers to reduce the visual
2 impacts to these resources.¹⁴

3 Q. Were potential cultural, environmental or
4 agricultural impacts evaluated?

5 A. Yes. To receive a site certificate from EFSC,
6 the B2H project must undergo a thorough review and meet the
7 Council's siting standards. Those standards address issues
8 such as soil protection, land use, protected areas, fish
9 and wildlife habitat, threatened and endangered species,
10 scenic resources, historic, cultural, and archaeological
11 resource, recreation opportunities, public services, waste
12 minimization, and others.¹⁵ Idaho Power addressed the EFSC
13 standards in the Company's ASC, where Idaho Power analyzes
14 the B2H project's potential impacts on those resources and
15 describes the measures the Company will employ to avoid,
16 minimize, or mitigate the potential impacts. Some of the
17 potential impacts that were analyzed and the commitments
18 the Company has made to address those potential impacts
19 include:

20 Historic, cultural, and archaeological resources:

21 Idaho Power conducted extensive records research,
22 literature review, and field surveys to inventory the
23 historic, cultural, and archaeological resources that

¹⁴ *Id.* at 451.

¹⁵ See OAR Chapter 345, Division 22.

1 potentially will be impacted by the B2H project.¹⁶ For
2 identified resources, Idaho Power will implement measures
3 to avoid or minimize adverse impacts, including relocation
4 of structures through the design process, realignment of
5 the route, relocation of temporary workspace, or changes in
6 the construction and/or operational design. Where impacts
7 are unavoidable, Idaho Power will implement mitigation
8 actions set forth in a Historic Properties Management Plan,
9 which was developed in coordination with various
10 governmental agencies, including environmental training,
11 data recovery, analysis, documentation, curation, resource-
12 specific treatments, restoration, public signage,
13 publication, and interpretive planning.¹⁷

14 Fish and wildlife habitat: Idaho Power catalogued
15 the various types of fish and wildlife habitat potentially
16 impacted by the B2H project through desktop analysis and
17 ground surveys.¹⁸ To avoid and minimize impacts to fish and
18 wildlife habitat, the Company will implement seasonal work
19 restrictions, map and flag sensitive resources, and
20 implement various other measures set forth in the Company's
21 Reclamation and Revegetation Plan, Vegetation Management

¹⁶ See [Exhibit S \(Historic, Cultural, and Archeological Resources\) to Idaho Power's ASC, pages S-21 through S-28.](#)

¹⁷ See [Historic Properties Management Plan, Attachment S-9 to the EFSC Final Order](#) (Sept. 27, 2022).

¹⁸ See [Exhibit P1 \(Fish and Wildlife Habitat\) to Idaho Power's ASC, pages P1-21 through P1-31.](#)

1 Plan, and Noxious Weed Plan.¹⁹ Unavoidable impacts will be
2 addressed through compensatory mitigation, as outlined in
3 the Fish and Wildlife Habitat Mitigation Plan.²⁰

4 In addition, to avoid and minimize impacts to avian
5 species during construction, Idaho Power will limit
6 construction activities to time periods outside of the
7 primary migratory bird nesting season of April 1 to July
8 15, unless the Company conducts surveys immediately prior
9 to such activities to identify avian nests to avoid, as
10 memorialized in the proposed EFSC site certificate
11 conditions, Fish and Wildlife Condition 13, Fish and
12 Wildlife Condition 14, and Fish and Wildlife Condition 20.²¹
13 During operations, Idaho Power will implement its Avian
14 Protection Plan, which includes mitigation measures to be
15 taken if avian mortalities are discovered along the
16 transmission line and modifications to the line that can be
17 made if elevated mortalities of avian species are
18 discovered.²² With respect to bat species, Idaho Power
19 avoided and minimized impacts by siting the B2H project to
20 avoid mines, caves, and known bat hibernacula.²³

¹⁹ See [Exhibit P1 \(Fish and Wildlife Habitat\) to Idaho Power's ASC, pages P1-86 through P1-90](#); [Reclamation and Revegetation Plan, Attachment P1-3](#) to EFSC's Final Order; [Vegetation Management Plan, Attachment P1-4](#) to EFSC's Final Order; and [Noxious Weed Plan, Attachment P1-5](#) to EFSC's Final Order.

²⁰ See [Fish and Wildlife Mitigation Plan, Attachment P1-6](#) to EFSC's Final Order.

²¹ [EFSC Final Order at 375-76, 399.](#)

²² See [Avian Protection Plan at 15 included as Attachment P1-9](#) to EFSC's Final Order.

²³ See [Exhibit P1 \(Fish and Wildlife Habitat\) to Idaho Power's ASC, page P1-70](#) (Sept. 28, 2018).

1 Additionally, if previously unidentified hibernacula are
2 located, Idaho Power will develop additional avoidance,
3 minimization, and mitigation measures in consultation with
4 the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, as set forth in
5 the proposed site certificate condition identified as Fish
6 and Wildlife Condition 12.²⁴

7 Land use: Idaho Power analyzed, and demonstrated
8 compliance with, the affected cities and counties'
9 comprehensive plans and development codes.²⁵ The Company
10 addressed potential impacts to agricultural operations in
11 particular in the Company's Agricultural Lands Assessment.²⁶
12 In that document, Idaho Power includes various measures the
13 Company will undertake to avoid, minimize, and mitigate
14 impacts to agricultural lands and operations, including
15 locating towers outside cultivated fields where feasible,
16 scheduling construction activities around agricultural
17 operations, avoiding damage to drainage tiles, restoring
18 compacted soils, noxious weed control, and other measures.²⁷

19 Idaho Power has made a tremendous effort to design
20 the route of the transmission line to avoid irrigated areas
21 and has sited towers along agricultural field boundaries
22 where feasible. Of the approximately 1,461 transmission

²⁴ [EFSC Final Order at 374.](#)

²⁵ See [Exhibit K \(Land Use\) to Idaho Power's ASC.](#)

²⁶ See [Agricultural Lands Assessment, Attachment K-1 to EFSC's Final Order.](#)

²⁷ *Id.* at 37-42.

1 towers along the proposed route, only 26 are proposed to be
2 located within an irrigated portion of an agricultural
3 field, and Idaho Power may be able to further reduce this
4 total number through micrositing, which provides the
5 flexibility to marginally shift the transmission line
6 within a 500-ft wide site boundary.²⁸ The Company is
7 committed to working with each landowner to try to minimize
8 impacts to farming operations where feasible for the
9 construction of the line, and will move structures out of
10 cultivated fields where practical.

11 Q. Were any statewide or local economic impacts
12 associated with construction of the B2H project evaluated?

13 A. Yes. The B2H project will have positive
14 economic impacts for eastern Oregon communities include
15 construction jobs, economic support associated with
16 infrastructure development (e.g., lodging and food), and
17 increased annual tax benefits to each county for project-
18 specific property tax dollars, totaling an estimated \$5.8
19 million.²⁹ In addition, Idaho Power anticipates the project
20 will add about 500 construction jobs, which will provide a
21 temporary increase in spending at local businesses.

22 As explained in Company witness Mr. Ellsworth's
23 testimony, when energized, the B2H project will benefit

²⁸ *Id.* at 26.

²⁹ See [Idaho Power's 2021 IRP Appendix D](#).

1 local economies by providing cost-effective energy, adding
2 1,050 megawatts of transmission connectivity between the
3 Bonneville Power Administration ("BPA") and Idaho Power
4 systems. Currently, the transmission connections between
5 BPA and Idaho Power are fully committed for existing
6 customer commitments. Along the B2H project route, Idaho
7 Power currently serves customers in Idaho's Owyhee County
8 and in Oregon's Malheur County and portions of Baker
9 County. PacifiCorp, through Pacific Power, serves portions
10 of Umatilla County. BPA provides transmission service to
11 local cooperatives in the remainder of the project area in
12 Morrow, Umatilla, Union, and Baker counties. Cost-effective
13 energy also provides economic development opportunities in
14 these areas. Finally, additional transmission capacity can
15 create opportunities for new energy resources, which can
16 add to the county tax base and create new jobs.

17 Q. Are there any negative economic impacts that
18 may occur with construction of the B2H project?

19 A. The Company does not anticipate the B2H
20 project will have any negative economic impacts at a
21 statewide or regional level. However, Idaho Power
22 recognizes the B2H project may have negative economic
23 impacts on individual landowners in the form of removing
24 timber or agricultural land from production; interference
25 with timber, agricultural, or other land uses during

1 construction; and impacts on land values. To address those
2 concerns, the Company has developed management plans
3 containing best practices to avoid, minimize, and mitigate
4 such impacts. For example, the Company's Right-of-Way
5 Clearing Assessment includes a multitude of actions
6 designed to minimize and mitigate impacts to forested lands
7 and forestry operations, including logging best management
8 practices, fire protection practices, road maintenance and
9 improvements, and erosion controls.³⁰ Additionally, Idaho
10 Power's Agricultural Lands Assessment includes numerous
11 minimization and mitigation efforts to address impacts to
12 agricultural lands and operations, including tower
13 placement modifications, coordinated construction
14 scheduling, coordinated helicopter options, maintenance and
15 repair of drainage tiles, remediating soil compaction,
16 noxious weed control, topsoil separation and storage, dust
17 control, soil erosion protection, addressing inducted
18 voltage, livestock control measures, and protections for
19 organic crops.³¹ Finally, Idaho Power will compensate
20 impacted landowners where the B2H project will be located
21 for the use of their land through utility easement
22 negotiations.

³⁰ See the [Right-of-Way Clearing Assessment, Attachment K-2 to the EFSC's Final Order at page 16 to 21](#) (Sept. 27, 2022).

³¹ See the [Agricultural Lands Assessment, Attachment K-1 to EFSC's Final Order at pages 33 to 47](#).

1 **IV. B2H PROJECT COSTS**

2 Q. Does Idaho Power have an estimate of the costs
3 of the B2H project?

4 A. Yes. Based on the Company's most recent
5 forecast dated December 2022, the total cost of Idaho
6 Power's share of the B2H project on a system basis is
7 approximately [REDACTED], which is made up of costs
8 associated with the transmission facilities including a
9 contingency, overheads, Allowance for Funds Used During
10 Construction ("AFUDC"), property taxes, and local
11 interconnection costs. In addition, the Company estimates
12 ongoing operations and maintenance expenses associated with
13 the B2H project will be approximately \$300,000 per year on
14 a system basis. Confidential Exhibit No. 11 to my testimony
15 includes a summary of the B2H project costs by cost
16 category.

17 Q. You indicated the B2H project cost estimate is
18 based on a December 2022 forecast. How has the B2H project
19 cost estimate developed over time?

20 A. A number of updates have been made to the B2H
21 project cost estimates in the past five years, the
22 progression of which I will explain in detail and are also
23 presented in Confidential Exhibit No. 11 for comparison
24 purposes. First, B2H project cost estimates for the 2019
25 IRP through the 2021 IRP were based on a 10 percent

1 detailed design/indicative design.

2 Q. What is an indicative design?

3 A. A design starts with an indicative design
4 based on available data and as additional information is
5 made available, such as detailed topography captured by
6 light detection and ranging ("LiDAR"), the design
7 progresses. With more site-specific data, detailed
8 engineering progresses and economization occurs based on
9 on-the-ground data. The 10 percent detailed
10 design/indicative design included selection of a standard
11 tower series and conductor, the ASC proposed route location
12 and length, preliminarily sited towers and access roads,
13 and identified primary station equipment.

14 Q. How does this translate to a cost estimate?

15 A. Based on the design, Owner's Engineer HDR,
16 Inc. ("HDR") utilized their utility and industry experience
17 with current market values for materials, equipment, and
18 labor to arrive at the B2H estimate, including experience
19 with the specific towers and conductor BPA has installed
20 that the B2H project is using. They start with preparation
21 of a preliminary transmission line design that locates
22 every tower and access road needed for the project based on
23 the proposed route location and length. The design included
24 the selection of a standard tower series and conductor
25 design for 500-kV lines. HDR accomplished a partial

1 material take off for all major items (towers, conductors,
2 foundations, roads, rights-of-way, etc.) using the fewest
3 assumptions possible.

4 In 2021, Idaho Power hired the firm Leidos
5 Engineering, LLC ("Leidos"), to provide engineering
6 services to develop a detailed transmission line design for
7 the project. In 2022, the Company hired the firm Quanta
8 Infrastructure Solutions Group ("QISG") as the
9 constructability consultant for the project. QISG has
10 significant experience overseeing and managing construction
11 of high voltage transmission projects. Leidos completed a
12 30 percent detailed design package, providing engineering
13 design criteria, the project alignment with structure
14 locations based on LiDAR, and structure tower class
15 development for all structures required for the line. With
16 this 30 percent detailed design package, QISG performed a
17 constructability review of the design and provided a
18 revised cost estimate for the transmission line component
19 of the project based on their expertise. The 30 percent
20 detailed design package and corresponding estimate by QISG
21 was the basis for the cost estimate used in the Company's
22 Petition for Certificate of Public Convenience and
23 Necessity filed with the Public Utility Commission of
24 Oregon on September 30, 2022, Docket No. PCN 5 ("PCN 5").

25 Q. Is the cost estimate provided in this case the

1 same as provided in the initial filing in PCN 5?

2 A. No. The Company's initial filing with the
3 Public Utility Commission of Oregon in PCN 5 reflected a 30
4 percent design estimate. In late December, the Company
5 filed supplemental testimony providing a cost update
6 reflecting the 60 percent design package from Leidos, and
7 the estimate provided here is consistent with the December
8 2022 PCN 5 update. The 60 percent design package includes
9 more site-specific constraints to meet height limitations,
10 as well as right-of-way considerations. At this point, the
11 transmission line structure locations are generally
12 confirmed, structure types and class are finalized, and
13 access roads are near finalized. With this 60 percent
14 detailed design package, QISG performed a constructability
15 review of the design and provided a revised cost estimate
16 for the transmission line component of the project based on
17 their expertise. The 60 percent detailed design package
18 and corresponding estimate by QISG was the basis for the
19 cost estimate used in this proceeding.

20 Q. Are the varying percentage levels of detailed
21 design indicative of the percentage accuracy of the cost
22 estimate?

23 A. No. The difference between preliminary design
24 and the levels of detailed design are some of the areas
25 around which assumptions must be made about project

1 requirements. As with any large project, the goal is to
2 increase certainty over time and reduce contingencies and
3 unknowns as the project matures. The design percentage is
4 indicative of the unknowns that have been eliminated.
5 Therefore, the B2H project estimate has included a budget
6 for those various unknowns since the beginning.

7 Q. Were any additional adjustments made to the
8 cost estimates received under each of the 10-, 30-, 60
9 percent design packages?

10 A. Yes. For modeling of the 2019 IRP, Idaho Power
11 included a 20 percent contingency on B2H project costs, as
12 is standard and reflective of the status of the overall
13 project which was prior to any pre-construction work and
14 prior to execution of competitively bid contracts for
15 materials or construction. However, for modeling of
16 resources in the 2021 IRP, including the B2H project, no
17 contingency amounts were included. Therefore, it would have
18 skewed the IRP modeling results to have included a
19 contingency amount in the B2H cost estimate. For comparison
20 purposes in Confidential Exhibit No. 11, however, the
21 Company has added a 20 percent contingency to the 2021 IRP
22 B2H project costs. In addition, Idaho Power's ownership
23 share of the B2H project was updated from 21.21 percent for
24 modeling in the 2019 IRP to 45.45 percent for modeling of
25 B2H project costs in the 2021 IRP. Finally, the cost

1 estimate was updated to reflect increased material and
2 labor costs due to inflation and supply chain issues. Idaho
3 Power's ownership share of the resulting December 2022 B2H
4 project cost estimate is [REDACTED].

5 Q. Does Idaho Power have cost controls in place
6 for the B2H project?

7 A. Yes. The Company has strict project cost
8 controls for internal and external personnel. Regular
9 monthly forecast updates, including the tracking of budgets
10 and schedules, are part of the project controls suites that
11 the project management team employs. During the current
12 preconstruction phase, Idaho Power's constructability
13 consultant, QISG, aided in certain preconstruction reviews
14 and tasks. This early integration of the construction team
15 allows for constructability feedback, identification of
16 risks, and opportunities to economize the design. As the
17 B2H project transitions into the construction phase, all
18 material and construction services will be competitively
19 bid and be pulled into a guaranteed maximum price ("GMP")
20 that will serve as the construction pricing if awarded.
21 This GMP is tied to a schedule that Idaho Power and the
22 construction manager will have developed together that the
23 Company, and as a result of the contract, the construction
24 manager will be responsible for meeting that schedule.
25 Milestone dates will be tied to monetary penalties for the

1 construction manager if key dates slip.

2 Q. Is the B2H project cost estimate based on
3 executed master contracts for construction of the project?

4 A. No. Idaho Power has not yet selected
5 contractors for the construction phase but anticipates
6 issuing Requests for Proposals for materials and
7 contractors during the first quarter of 2023. In addition,
8 the Company anticipates selecting a construction manager in
9 the third quarter of 2023. The B2H project cost estimate is
10 based on Idaho Power's most recent forecast of project
11 costs. As described in the direct testimony of Mr.
12 Ellsworth, B2H project costs included in the modeling of
13 the 2021 IRP were reviewed and approved by BPA and
14 PacifiCorp, both of whom have recent 500-kV transmission
15 line construction projects to calibrate against. In
16 addition, Idaho Power worked collaboratively with NV Energy
17 and Southern California Edison to calibrate the B2H project
18 cost estimate using their experience on two recent 500-kV
19 projects.

20 **V. CONSTRUCTION OF THE B2H PROJECT**

21 Q. Now that the Company has received an EFSC
22 Order and Site Certificate, when does Idaho Power
23 anticipate commencing construction of the B2H project?

24 A. As discussed earlier, in April 2022 the
25 Company contracted with QISG for constructability

1 consulting services, who reviewed and analyzed the project
2 details, and subsequently advised that a construction start
3 date in the summer of 2023 is recommended to ensure
4 energization of the line to meet the 2026 resource deficit.

5 Q. Is Idaho Power required to obtain any other
6 regulatory approvals prior to construction of the B2H
7 project?

8 A. Yes. Oregon Revised Statute 758.015 requires
9 a CPCN if condemnation of land or an interest therein is
10 necessary for construction of a transmission line. Idaho
11 Power is currently negotiating with landowners in good
12 faith to obtain options for easements, but the Company
13 anticipates it may need to initiate condemnation
14 proceedings to gain access to certain parcels along the B2H
15 project route. As such, on September 30, 2022, immediately
16 following EFSC's final decision approving the B2H project
17 subject to certain conditions on September 27, 2022, Idaho
18 Power initiated the PCN 5 proceeding with the Public
19 Utility Commission of Oregon in order to obtain the CPCN in
20 time for construction to commence in 2023. The Public
21 Utility Commission of Oregon is targeting an order by June
22 30, 2023.

23 Q. Is the Company requesting the Commission issue
24 a CPCN by June 30, 2023, in this proceeding as well?

25 A. Yes. Idaho Power is requesting the Commission

1 issue a CPCN no later than June 30, 2023, as a final
2 Commission decision is critical to allowing the Company to
3 construct the B2H project in time to meet the 2026 resource
4 deficit. If a Commission's order in this proceeding is
5 delayed beyond June 2023, Idaho Power may not be able to
6 begin construction in 2023 and accordingly meet the B2H
7 project's 2026 in-service date.

8 **VI. CONCLUSION**

9 Q. Please summarize your testimony.

10 A. The B2H project will be vital to the
11 electrical grid and designed to adhere to, and in most
12 cases, exceed, the required codes or standards observed for
13 high voltage transmission line design to establish utmost
14 reliability for the life of the transmission line. As part
15 of the route determination, the Company evaluated numerous
16 potential impacts, including topography, geology, stream
17 crossings, cultural resources, environmental and
18 agricultural uses. After extensive public participation,
19 Idaho Power submitted its final proposed B2H project route
20 including four alternative route segments to the Council.
21 On October 6, 2022, EFSC executed their Final Order and
22 Site Certificate for the B2H project.

23 The B2H project is moving into the preliminary
24 construction phase and construction must start in the
25 summer of 2023 to ensure energization in time to meet the

1 2026 resource deficit identified in Idaho Power's 2021
2 Integrated Resource Plan. Idaho Power must commence the
3 CPCN proceeding in order to obtain the CPCN in time for
4 construction to commence in 2023.

5 Q. Does this conclude your testimony?

6 A. Yes.

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DECLARATION OF LINDSAY BARRETTO

I, Lindsay Barretto, declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the state of Idaho:

1. My name is Lindsay Barretto. I am employed by Idaho Power Company as the 500kV and Joint Projects Senior Manager.

2. On behalf of Idaho Power, I present this pre-filed direct testimony and Exhibit Nos. 8 through 11 in this matter.

3. To the best of my knowledge, my pre-filed direct testimony and exhibits are true and accurate.

I hereby declare that the above statement is true to the best of my knowledge and belief, and that I understand it is made for use as evidence before the Idaho Public Utilities Commission and is subject to penalty for perjury.

SIGNED this 9th day of January 2023, at Boise, Idaho.

Signed:



**BEFORE THE
IDAHO PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

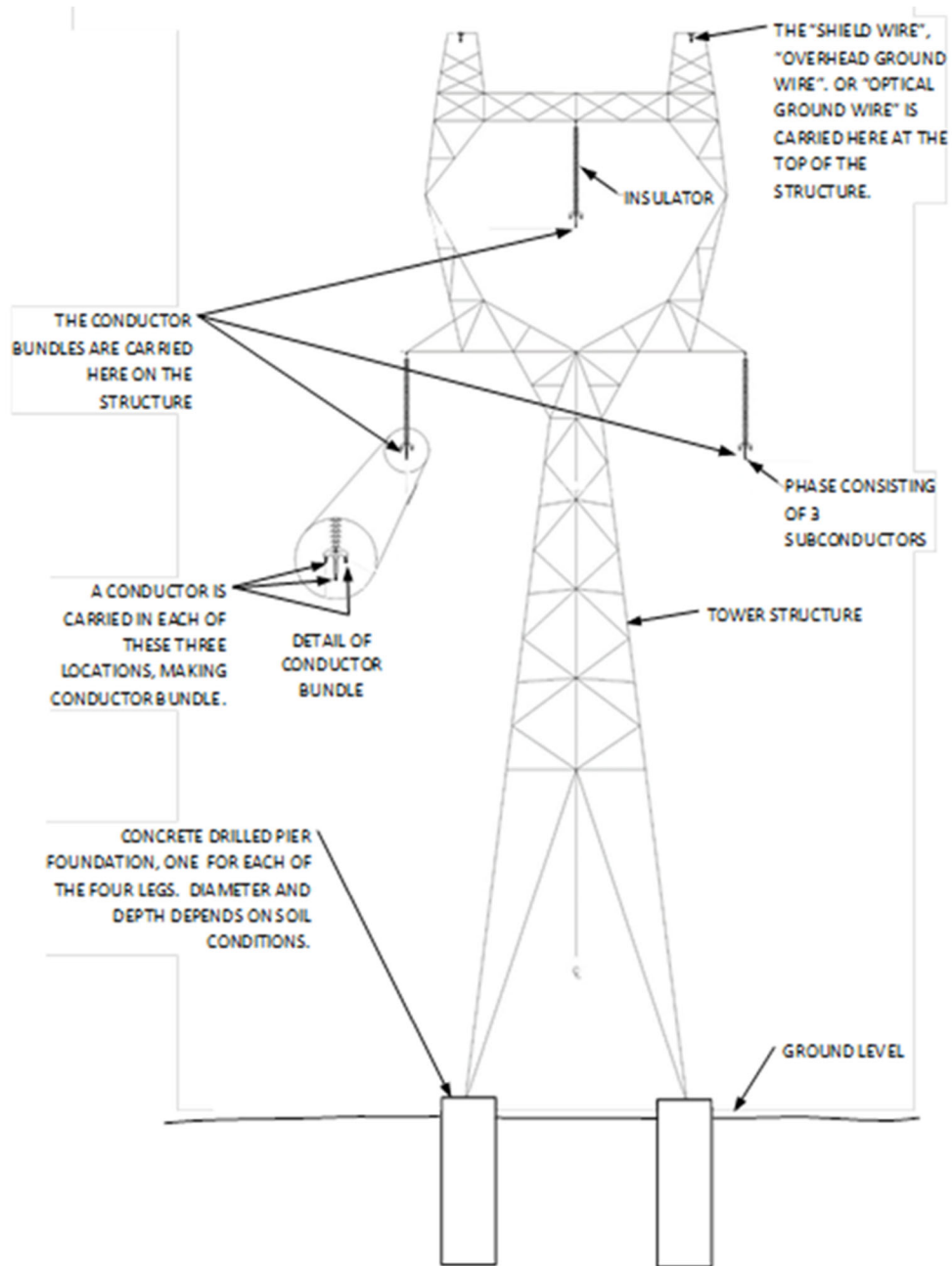
CASE NO. IPC-E-23-01

IDAHO POWER COMPANY

**BARRETTO
TESTIMONY**

EXHIBIT NO. 8

Transmission Tower Components



**BEFORE THE
IDAHO PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

CASE NO. IPC-E-23-01

IDAHO POWER COMPANY

**BARRETTO
TESTIMONY**

EXHIBIT No. 9

Land Use Approvals and Permits Required for the B2H Project

Permit or Approval	Regulatory Authority	Federal /State/ Local	Included in EFSC Site Certificate	Status	Date Issued or Expected
Bureau of Land Management ROW Grant	U.S. Bureau of Land Management	Federal	No	Issued	January 2018
Cultural Resource Use Permit and Site-Specific Authorizations	U.S. Bureau of Land Management	Federal	No	Issued	June 2022
Permit for Archaeological Investigations	U.S. Bureau of Land Management	Federal	No	Issued	Contractor-held ¹
Paleontological Resources Use Permit	U.S. Bureau of Land Management	Federal	No	Issued	Contractor-held
Navy Easement	U.S. Department of Navy	Federal	No	Issued	March 2020
Forest Service Easement	U.S. Forest Service	Federal	No	Issued	May 2019
Special Use Authorization for Archaeological Investigations	U.S. Forest Service	Federal	No	Issued	July 2022
Archaeological Excavation Permit	Oregon State Historic Preservation Office	State	No	Issued	August 2022
Energy Facility Site Certificate	Oregon Energy Facility Siting Council	State	Yes	Issued	October 2022
Baker County Land Use Permits	Baker County	Local	Yes	Issued	January 2023
Malheur County Land Use Permits	Malheur County	Local	Yes	Issued	January 2023
Morrow County Land Use Permits	Morrow County	Local	Yes	Pending	March 2023
Umatilla County Land Use Permits	Umatilla County	Local	Yes	Pending	March 2023
Union County Land Use Permits	Union County	Local	Yes	Issued	December 2022
Federal Notice of Proposed Construction or Alteration	Federal Aviation Administration	Federal	No	Pending	Prior to Construction

¹ Contractor-held permits are held by Idaho Power's contractors as part of their ordinary course of business rather than being obtained specifically for B2H.

Permit or Approval	Regulatory Authority	Federal /State/ Local	Included in EFSC Site Certificate	Status	Date Issued or Expected
Clean Water Act Section 404, Nationwide Permit 57 ²	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	Federal	No	Pending	Prior to Construction
Special Use Permit for Logging Activities	U.S. Forest Service	Federal	No	Pending	Prior to Construction
Removal-Fill Permit	Oregon Department of State Lands	State	Yes	Pending	Prior to Construction
Oregon Notice of Proposed Construction or Alteration	Oregon Department of Aviation	State	No	Pending	Prior to Construction
National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit 1200-C	Oregon Department of Environmental Quality	State	No	Pending	Prior to Construction
National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit 1200-A	Oregon Department of Environmental Quality	State	No	Pending	Prior to Construction
Air Contaminant Discharge Permit	Oregon Department of Environmental Quality	State	No	Pending	Prior to Construction
Permit to Operate Power Driven Machinery	Oregon Department of Forestry	State	No	Pending	Prior to Construction
Burn Permit	Oregon Department of Forestry	State	No	Pending	Prior to Construction
Plan for Alternate Practice	Oregon Department of Forestry	State	No	Pending	Prior to Construction
Permit to Construct a State Highway Approach	Oregon Department of Transportation	State	No	Pending	Prior to Construction
Oversize Load Movement Permit/Load Registration	Oregon Department of Transportation	State	No	Pending	Prior to Construction
Permit to Occupy or Perform Operations Upon a State Highway	Oregon Department of Transportation	State	No	Pending	Prior to Construction

² Nationwide Permit 57 was formerly known as Nationwide Permit 12 prior to being renumbered in 2021.

Permit or Approval	Regulatory Authority	Federal /State/ Local	Included in EFSC Site Certificate	Status	Date Issued or Expected
Fish Passage Plan Update (if needed)	Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife	State	Yes	Pending	January 2023
Road Approach Permit	Baker County	Local	No	Pending	Prior to Construction
Work in County Right-of-Way Permit	Baker County	Local	No	Pending	Prior to Construction
Flood Plain Development Permit	Baker County	Local	No	Pending	Prior to Construction
Permit to Occupy or Perform Operations upon Public Roads	Malheur County	Local	No	Pending	Prior to Construction
Flood Plain Development Permit	Malheur County	Local	No	Pending	Prior to Construction
Utility Crossing Permit	Morrow County	Local	No	Pending	Prior to Construction
Access Approach Site Permit	Morrow County	Local	No	Pending	Prior to Construction
Construction Permit to Build on Right-of-Way	Morrow County	Local	No	Pending	Prior to Construction
Flood Plain Development Permit	Morrow County	Local	No	Pending	Prior to Construction
Installation of Utilities on County and Public Roads Permit	Umatilla County	Local	No	Pending	Prior to Construction
Road Approach and Crossing Permit	Umatilla County	Local	No	Pending	Prior to Construction
Flood Plain Development Permit	Umatilla County	Local	No	Pending	Prior to Construction
Road Approach Permit	Union County	Local	No	Pending	Prior to Construction
Work in County Right-of-Way Permit	Union County	Local	No	Pending	Prior to Construction
Flood Plain Development Permit	Union County	Local	No	Pending	Prior to Construction
Conditional Use Permit	Owyhee County (Idaho)	Local	No	Pending	Prior to Construction
Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity	Idaho Public Utilities Commission	State	No	Pending	Prior to Construction
Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity	Oregon Public Utilities Commission	State	No	Pending	Prior to Construction

**BEFORE THE
IDAHO PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

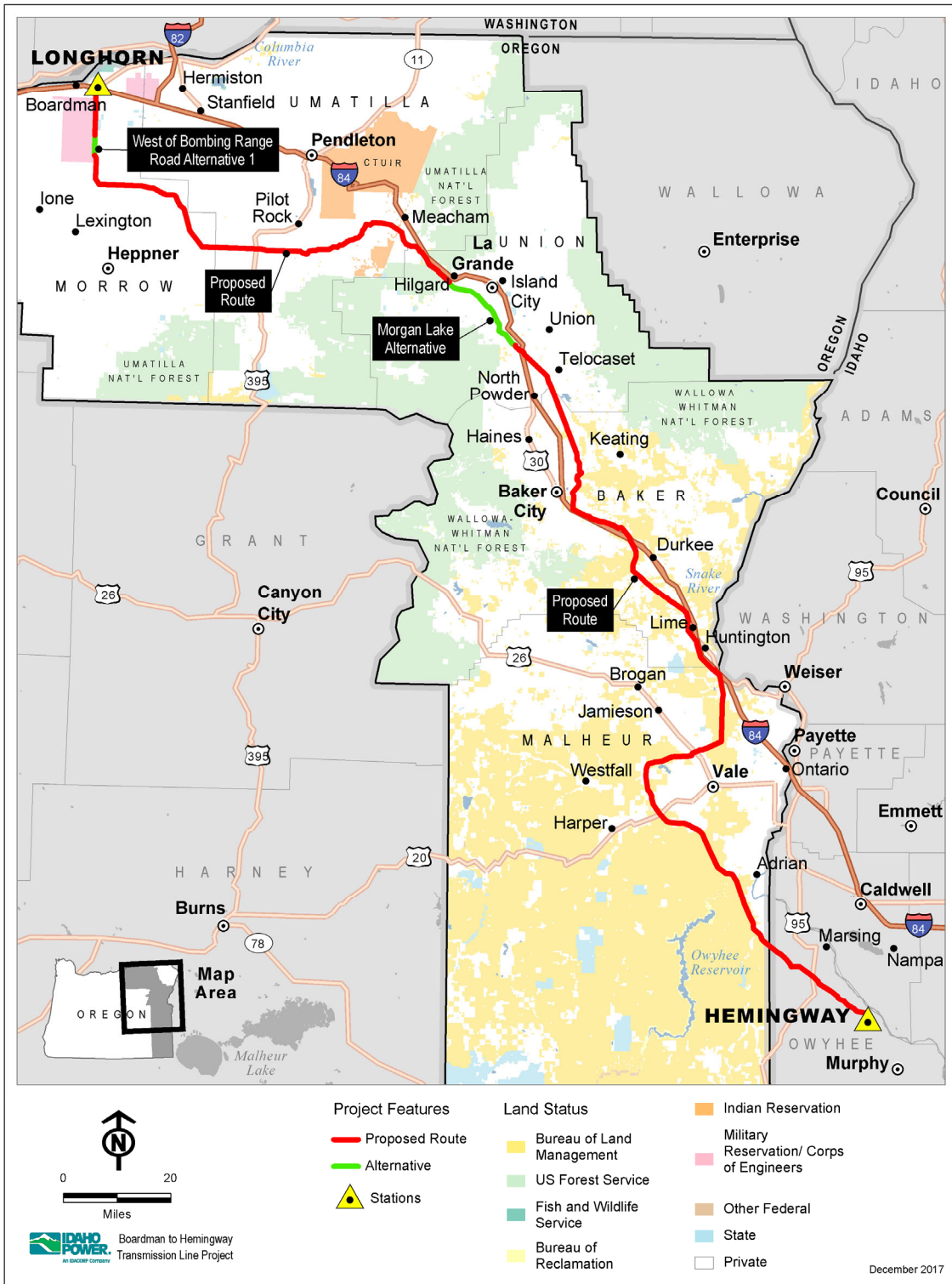
CASE NO. IPC-E-23-01

IDAHO POWER COMPANY

**BARRETTO
TESTIMONY**

EXHIBIT NO. 10

B2H Project Proposed Route



IDAHO POWER Boardman to Hemingway
AN ENERCON COMPANY Transmission Line Project

December 2017

**BEFORE THE
IDAHO PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

CASE NO. IPC-E-23-01

IDAHO POWER COMPANY

Confidential
**BARRETTO
TESTIMONY**

EXHIBIT NO. 11