

Frequently Asked Questions

Bowmont to Hubbard Transmission Line Upgrade

Why is this transmission line needed?

Idaho Power plans for projects that will improve reliability and accommodate growing electrical needs for customers and communities. The need for transmission projects is typically identified by Idaho Power's Planning Department and through a locally researched and produced electrical plan. The plans are created through a unique community (customers, local jurisdictions, stakeholder groups) and company partnership to address long-term local infrastructure needs.

See more at idahopower.com/BowmontHubbard.

The need for the Bowmont to Hubbard transmission line upgrade was identified in the 2010 Treasure Valley Electric Plan. Its purpose is to help Idaho Power continue delivering reliable, affordable energy to you, your neighbors and future customers by adding a major source of power.

What is the cost of construction, and will it impact my rates?

The cost of construction will vary depending on factors like route, poles and design. Construction costs are factored into rates and must be reviewed and approved by the Idaho Public Utilities Commission.

This project's cost is calculated over the life of the project and recovered through customer rates.

How does Idaho Power work with landowners?

We engage and inform communities in the planning process because we believe the best projects come from working with our neighbors.

Idaho Power will work with property owners to obtain rights-of-way (ROW) or easements. Typically, Idaho Power requests ROWs from local, state or federal agencies or a utility. Easements are typically acquired from private property owners.

Easements

Easements authorize Idaho Power to build, operate, maintain and access the power line across private land. Idaho Power usually negotiates a compensation package directly with private property owners. This agreement determines easement rights and restrictions for using portions of the land that still belong to the property owner.

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Property owners can use the ground within the power line easement as long as they abide by the negotiated terms of the easement agreement.

Will this transmission line affect property values?

Many factors affect market prices of real estate, including the availability of water and sewer service; proximity to community facilities, such as schools, medical facilities and parks; transportation accessibility; lot size; highest and best use of land; age and condition of structures; and current market conditions.

Transmission lines have existed for decades and are part of our landscape, just like other types of infrastructure that provide vital services for our communities. They cross agricultural lands, residential areas, parks and other public lands, commercial and industrial areas and urban environments. For this reason, other factors typically have a more significant role in determining the market value of a property. When feasible, transmission lines are built along roads or other linear ROWs to minimize impacts to private property.

Are electric and magnetic fields (EMF) dangerous?

Wherever electricity is used, it's accompanied by electric and magnetic fields (EMF). EMFs are a natural occurrence in the transmission, distribution and use of electricity. The fields are invisible lines of force that exist when electricity flows through a conductor, such as house wiring, appliances, motors, and electric transmission and distribution lines.

EMFs produced by power lines are often less intense at a distance of 50 feet or more than those produced by typical home wiring.

Since the early 1970s, extensive research has been conducted to determine if EMFs pose health risks. Evidence related to projects like the one Idaho Power is proposing indicates EMFs are not detrimental to human or animal health or food crops.

Idaho Power has commissioned a study to compare current EMF readings to what they will be with the new line in place. The new line will incorporate design elements, such as increased distance between the ground and the wires, to minimize EMFs.

If you would like more information, please contact Jeff Maffuccio at 208.388.2402 or jmaffuccio@idahopower.com.

