

Thousands of pages of detailed information have been generated during Idaho Power's long planning process for the B2H Transmission Line. Please consider this one page common sense response distilled from hours of dedicated research and careful analysis of Idaho Power documents:

Early plans for the B2H date back at least to 2005. At that time, it might have made sense. In 2016, it's vital for those making the final decisions on this project to consider the incredible pace of technological progress and changes in energy delivery and storage made during the past ten years and inevitable in the next five. These changes make the B2H transmission line obsolete before construction begins.

Cost of residential solar systems has dropped 75% and utility-scale PV 50% in the past seven years. Information from the U.S. Energy Information Administration shows planned installations of solar for 2016 will include 9.95 gigawatts of utility-scale solar, more electricity-generation capacity than any other, followed by 8 gigawatts of natural gas and 6.8 gigawatts of wind. Idaho has abundant open space for utility-scale solar arrays and wind farms. Where are calculations for solar energy gains in Idaho Power's application? The state of Idaho recently discouraged wind power development by limiting provider contracts to two years. Furthermore, conservation (the most effective and efficient means of addressing power needs and reducing costs), is marginalized. In fact, during 2012-2013 Idaho Power suspended energy-saving demand response programs.

Vulnerable targets like electric transmission lines are now endangered more by cyber-attacks than explosive devices. FERC priorities since 2014: smart grid, demand response, integration of renewables, natural gas – electric coordination, transmission planning and allocation. The B2H transmission line fails to address the superior benefits of smart-grids to support resiliency. Major utilities like award-winning Florida Power have proven the efficacy of microgrids for reliability and smart meters for energy conservation and consumer savings. Where do you find this new technology in Idaho Power's IRP? Idaho Power's residential smart meters are used for billing, not for energy conservation programs. Idaho Power's Technical Appendix for 2015 repeats data from 2011.

Technology and business publications commonly refer to public utilities as "friendly dinosaurs." Amiable staff of Idaho Power and the BLM have insisted that counties choose the most desirable (least problematic) route across their land. "Which do you choose?" has been emphasized to divert attention from the all-important central questions: "Should you choose? Why is this transmission line essential?" Public utilities are corporations, serving stock holders. They are not community-service non-profit entities. No bank in the state of Oregon would fund the archaic technology of this transmission line. Why should rate payers of Oregon and Idaho fund it?

Idaho Power's B2H application is analogous to a telephone company applying to add thousands of telephone poles across Oregon and Idaho to serve a growing number of non-existent land line users. The need has not been credibly demonstrated and the cost to rate-payers is indefensible.

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