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April 27, 2020

Public Utility Commission of Oregon
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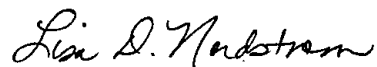
Re: Transmission Updates: 1st Quarter 2020

Attention Filing Center:

Enclosed please find the 1st Quarter 2020 Transmission Update regarding the Gateway West and Boardman to Hemingway transmission projects. This update provides a description of the developments that transpired in the first quarter of 2020.

This filing should be brought to the attention of Bryan Conway, Utility Program Director. If you have any questions, please contact Senior Regulatory Analyst Courtney Waites at 208-388-5612.

Very truly yours,



Lisa D. Nordstrom

LDN/kkt

Enclosure

Idaho Power Company's
Transmission Update for 1st Quarter 2020
April 27, 2020

In late 2013, Staff of the Public Utility Commission of Oregon (“Commission”), requested¹ that Idaho Power Company (“Idaho Power” or “Company”) provide quarterly updates regarding the Energy Gateway West transmission project (“Gateway West”) developed jointly between PacifiCorp and Idaho Power (“Companies”). Commission Staff requested that, for each sub-segment² of this project, the Company provide a description of the developments³ that transpired in the previous quarter. Similarly, in 2017, Commission Staff requested⁴ that Idaho Power provide updates on the permitting or completion of the Boardman to Hemingway Transmission Line Project (“B2H”). The Company committed to providing updates as part of this quarterly notification.

Gateway West

On November 14, 2013, the Bureau of Land Management (“BLM”) released its record of decision (“ROD”) authorizing Segments 1 through 7 and 10 of the Gateway West project. The BLM postponed a decision on the remaining segments — Segment 8 (Midpoint to Hemingway) and Segment 9 (Cedar Hill substation to Hemingway) — to resolve routing in the affected areas.

On May 5, 2017, President Trump signed into law the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2017, which incorporated by reference the Morley Nelson Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area Boundary Modification Act (“Modification Act”). The Modification Act directed the Secretary of Interior to issue a right-of-way for the portions of the Companies’ preferred routes for Segments 8 and 9 that are located within the Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area (“NCA”). On April 18, 2018, the BLM released a record of decision authorizing Segments 8 and 9.

1st Quarter 2020 Project Developments

There were no notable Gateway West project developments in the 1st quarter of 2020.

¹ Commission Staff Data Request No. 1, Transmission Updates Docket, dated December 17, 2013.

² Segment E comprised by the following sub-segments: Hemingway to Cedar Hill, Hemingway to Midpoint, Midpoint to Cedar Hill, Midpoint to Borah, Borah to Populus, Cedar Hill to Populus; and Segment D comprised by the following sub-segments: Populus to Bridger, Bridger to Aeolus, and Aeolus to Windstar.

³ By developments, Commission Staff means any federal, state, and local permitting, regulatory, and other events.

⁴ Commission Staff Data Request No. 65, Docket UE 316.

Boardman to Hemingway

The Companies and the Bonneville Power Administration (“BPA”) jointly propose to design, construct, operate, and maintain a new, approximately 300-mile-long, 500-kilovolt, single-circuit electric transmission line from the proposed Longhorn Substation near Boardman, Oregon to the Hemingway Substation near Melba, Idaho. Idaho Power is leading the permitting process for the B2H project.

With respect to federal permitting, the BLM issued its ROD for B2H in November 2017, approving a right-of-way grant for the project to cross approximately 86 miles of BLM-administered land. The U.S. Forest Service issued its ROD in November 2018 authorizing the project to cross approximately seven miles of national forest lands. In September 2019, the Department of the Navy issued its ROD authorizing the project to cross approximately seven miles of Department of the Navy lands.

In the separate state of Oregon permitting process, on May 22, 2019, the Oregon Department of Energy (“ODOE”) issued the Draft Proposed Order (“DPO”) for B2H. In the DPO, ODOE recommends the Energy Facility Siting Council (“EFSC”) issue a site certificate for construction in Oregon. Public hearings on the DPO were held the last two weeks of June 2019. Public and reviewing agency comments on the DPO were due on August 22nd and Idaho Power prepared and submitted its responses to comments on November 7, 2019.

On May 23, 2018, the Commission issued Order No. 18-176 in Docket No. LC 68 that specifically acknowledged Idaho Power’s 2017 Integrated Resource Plan’s action items to conduct ongoing permitting, planning studies, and regulatory filings for the B2H transmission line, as well as to conduct preliminary construction activities, acquire long-lead materials, and construct the B2H project. In June 2019, Idaho Power filed its 2019 Integrated Resource Plan (“IRP”) with the Commission (Docket No. LC 74), which again identified B2H as part of the Company’s preferred portfolio.

1st Quarter 2020 Project Developments

Related to federal permitting, approval of a Geotechnical Plan of Development (“POD”) and a Notice to Proceed from the BLM are required prior to taking core samples along the project route to inform the final design of the project. In the fall of 2018, Idaho Power submitted a draft Geotechnical POD to the BLM for review and approval. The draft POD was out for agency review in the second quarter of 2019 and Idaho Power has incorporated comments into the POD and resubmitted the document to the BLM. Idaho Power finalized the Geotechnical POD in the 4th quarter of 2019 and anticipates the BLM will issue a Notice to Proceed by mid-2020. Geotechnical sub-surface activities are expected to start in the 3rd quarter of 2020.

With respect to the Oregon permitting process, on December 19, and 20, 2019, ODOE staff began formally presenting the DPO to the EFSC; however, ODOE staff was not able to finish before the meeting was scheduled to adjourn. ODOE staff completed the presentation to EFSC at the next regular council meeting on January 23 and 24, 2020. Idaho Power has also continued to meet with reviewing agencies and other stakeholders to facilitate the ODOE application process. The ODOE is expected to issue a Proposed Order in the first half of 2020.

On January 31, 2020, the Company filed an amendment to the 2019 IRP, providing supplemental analyses related to the need for future resources. The B2H project was, again, identified as a cost-effective resource in the Company’s preferred portfolio. The Commission solicited public comments in the 1st quarter of 2020 and a Public Comment Hearing was held on April 23, 2020.

Beginning in the 4th quarter of 2019, Idaho Power coordinated with key landowners in the vicinity of the Naval Weapons Systems Training Facility near Boardman, Oregon to relocate six irrigation pivots to provide clearance for the right-of-way for the B2H project, as well as another transmission line currently under construction by the Umatilla Electric Cooperative. This work was completed in the 1st quarter of 2020. Idaho Power has also continued to meet with other landowners to micro-site the project route and prepare for an ODOE site certificate amendment in the future.