



Mayor
Peter M. Hendricks

Council
Keith Saks, *Council President*
Michelle Griffith
Jane Conard
Brad DuFur

September 29, 2016

Idaho Power
c/o Adam Richins
1221 W. Idaho St.
Boise, ID 93702

Public Utilities Commission
472 West Washington
P.O. Box 83720
Boise, ID 83720-0074

To Idaho Power Company and the Idaho State Public Utilities Commission:

The City of Sun Valley would like to thank you for the opportunity to provide comment on the Wood River-to-Ketchum 138 kV Redundant Transmission Line project. The proposed line enters the City of Sun Valley at its southern boundary before passing through the City of Ketchum to the Ketchum Substation, which is actually located within Sun Valley city limits.

After several meetings with representatives from Idaho Power over the last year, and culminating with the well-attended community meeting on August 18th, the City has been thoroughly informed on the purpose and need, as well as the impacts of potential routing options. At the regular City Council meeting of September 1st, the Council unanimously agreed on the following project scope and components:

- 1) **That the redundant line project is necessary and vital for our community**, which is geographically isolated, has substantial wildfire risk, relies heavily on tourism during the winter, and experiences severe winter weather. Though previous large outage events occurred on sections of transmission line south of the project area, it's only a matter of time before the poor condition of the Wood River-to-Elkhorn line leads to failures – possibly in our most vulnerable periods of the year – hampering the economy and potentially causing property damage due to plumbing freeze-ups.
- 2) **That the best location at which to underground the line is near the intersection of Highway 75 and Elkhorn Road**, because it offers the best combination of low project cost and low visual impacts to the combined communities of Ketchum and Sun Valley. With no additional increase in

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rates to local ratepayers, and no additional taxation districts or surcharge administration required, this option is also the easiest to implement.

The City of Sun Valley understands that this line will provide the opportunity to eventually replace the aging and dilapidated Wood River-to-Elkhorn line, which is also important to maintaining the reliability of electrical power in our community.

The City appreciates the additional capacity this line will provide for renewable energy which is sourced from wind, hydro, and solar projects outside of the Wood River Valley, but the City would also like to affirm its position that – while the redundant line is necessary in the short and immediate term – further study must be conducted to explore locally-generated alternative energy in the Wood River Valley. The City supports the creation of local solar, wind, and geothermal energy generation as well as storage options. These local projects will help insulate our community from further risk of catastrophic outages and will create local jobs & investment.

Thank you again for this opportunity to provide comment in support of the Wood River-to-Ketchum 138kV Redundant Transmission Line project. Please keep us apprised of any developments in the project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Peter M. Hendricks". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "P" and "H".

Peter M. Hendricks, Mayor
City of Sun Valley

PMH/nf