

POWER: Expected to cost \$1.2B when all is said and done

Continued from 1A

already invested \$90 million in B2H, and the total cost is expected to be \$1 billion and \$1.2 billion when all is said and done.

Do the math, and that is up to \$4 million per mile of transmission. Still, Colburn said B2H remains the most cost-effective way of filling the company's projected demand.

"The need is still strong," he said.

According to project documents, B2H is intended to share roughly 1,000 megawatts of electricity between the two regions, which traditionally experience peak demand at different times of the year — summertime for the Intermountain West, and wintertime for the Pacific Northwest.

Routing the line, however, has been a source of controversy in Umatilla and Morrow counties, especially among farmers worried about losing high-value cropland. The BLM decision, meanwhile, takes into account things like sensitive vegetation, wildlife and cultural resources as directed under the National



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

The massive 300-mile B2H transmission lines would add 1,000 megawatts of electrical capacity to the area.

Environmental Policy Act.

While Colburn said there is no such thing as a transmission line without impacts, he feels the chosen route takes steps to minimize environmental impacts.

"This is the culmination of much analysis, and many stakeholders coming together," Colburn said.

"It's a long process, and we're certainly supportive of getting it right."

As expected, the transmission line would plug in to Oregon at the Bonneville Power Administration's proposed Longhorn Substation east of Boardman. From there, it would run approximately 12 miles

south along Bombing Range Road in Morrow County before heading east through Umatilla County, south of Pilot Rock and the Umatilla Indian Reservation then southeast through Union, Baker and Malheur counties on its way to Idaho.

After extensive negotiations, about seven miles of

B2H would be built on the west side of Bombing Range Road on the U.S. Navy's Boardman Bombing Range, thereby avoiding irrigated farms on the east side of the road. Colburn said the Navy will have to complete its own environmental analysis, and will require the removal of an existing 69-kilovolt BPA line.

Earlier this year, Morrow County officials asked to work with the Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development on a pilot project that would make Bombing Range Road a designated energy transmission corridor, based on the findings of an advisory committee appointed by Gov. Kate Brown in 2015. The goal is to avoid having multiple transmission lines criss-crossing the landscape as more wind and solar companies consider moving into the area.

Carla McLane, Morrow County planning director, said the B2H route fits within that concept, though she was disappointed the entire line could not be located on Navy land.

"I guess you bring everybody to the table and do the

best you can," McLane said. "It will never be perfect."

The county is now ready to engage in the state permitting process, where McLane said they can continue to address how farmland will be protected.

Bob Waldher, Umatilla County planning director, said he was also pleased to see the line follow a more southerly route, avoiding Interstate 84 and farmland between Pendleton and Pilot Rock.

"I think it matches what our recommendation was," Waldher said. "It should be less impact to high-value agriculture."

Idaho Power submitted a revised preliminary application for a site certificate to the Oregon Department of Energy in July. Colburn said the utility has tried to work with local counties as much as possible to tailor a route that works with their preferences.

"I do think that, through the process, we have minimized impacts to a great extent," he said.

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POLICE: Patrol division now at full staff with 15 patrol deputies

Continued from 1A

safety. The more veteran deputies bring experience to aid us in training the newer ones."

McDaniel is married with two boys, ages 10 and 13. He said he applied in the past for a deputy job, and when an opening came along the sheriff's office hired him in August 2016. He graduated from the lengthy basic police course at the Oregon Public Safety Academy, Salem, wrapped up the sheriff's office field training program and has been solo since April. He also still has to meet obligations with the Guard.

"I juggle," he said.

The support he said he receives from the sheriff's office makes that possible.

McDaniel also said he has a private drone pilot's license and is eager to bring his piloting skills to the sheriff's office drone program.

The county has used its drone program to help deliver food to stranded hunters and peer into burning structures. McDaniel said the remote-controlled aerial vehicles also can enhance officer safety, allowing police, for example, to scout a place before a drug raid.

New faces

Rowan said in an email the county funded seven patrol deputies when he won

the sheriff's post in 2012, but soon after taking office two retired and two were on long-term medical leave.

"Today," Rowan stated, "we have 15 patrol deputies, our most recent hire was Roy Swiger, bringing our patrol division to full staff."

Swiger joined the sheriff's office Nov. 1 and began his law enforcement career in 1998 as a reserve officer with Milton-Freewater, according to the sheriff's office. Other recent hires include deputy Rowan Hayes, who came with more than 27 years of law enforcement experience.

That depth is going to matter. Nathan Good retired as a senior deputy in July

after 28 years with the sheriff's office, and Harry Hockett retired on Monday after 18 years as a court security officer. Hockett was a Pendleton officer for 27 years before that.

The sheriff's office this year also lost two long-serving members.

Greg Hodgen in 2006 retired from the Multnomah County Sheriff's Office and established Umatilla County's Rural Neighborhood Watch program, which boasts more than 700 members. And Jesse Villarreal died in October. He worked for the office from November 1997 until October of 2016 and was a fixture of courthouse secu-

rity and jail transport.

Improving the jail also remains an ongoing theme. The sheriff's office hired Deb Green on Nov. 1 as a corrections service specialist to teach cognitive classes and drug and alcohol classes inside the jail. The sheriff's office teamed up with the county's community justice department to use a state Justice Reinvestment Grant to fund the new position. Green taught cognitive-based curriculum at the two state prisons in the county and for the last year was an alcohol and drug counselor for the jail.

While McDaniel said he grew up all over, he calls Pendleton home. Retire-

ment from the military is on the horizon, he said, and the sheriff's job offered him and his family more stability.

The doesn't mean boring. Each day on the job comes with a range of situations and people, some of whom don't want to deal with a cop. McDaniel said he doesn't take that personally.

"Just like anything else, people want respect, and you try to treat them with respect," McDaniel said. "You're not always the good guy."

So far, he said, that attitude has worked.

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