

Boardman to Hemingway power line topic of 3-day meeting

By DICK MASON
The Observer

LA GRANDE — Emotions could run high at Eastern Oregon University's Gilbert Center in La Grande next week.

The Oregon Energy Facility Siting Council will meet at the Gilbert Center for three days starting Monday, Aug. 29, to hear oral appeals for 30 contested portions of its proposed site plan for the controversial Boardman to Hemingway transmission line project.

"This is a critical event," said Fuji Kreider, of La Grande, secretary and treasurer of the Stop B2H Coalition, a grassroots organization of 900 individuals and organizations.

The sessions for each appeal will run about 25 minutes. At each session, the organization or individual appealing the segment of the proposed site plan will speak along with those there to provide clarification. All sessions will be open to the public but only those who are petitioners or litigants will be allowed to speak.

In many cases those speaking in support of



EO Media Group, File

A crew works on a transmission line tower outside Boardman in this undated photo. The Oregon Energy Facility Siting Council will meet at Eastern Oregon University's Gilbert Center, La Grande, for three days starting Monday, Aug. 29, 2022, to hear oral appeals for 30 contested portions of its proposed site plan for the controversial Boardman to Hemingway transmission line project.

elements being challenged will be representatives of Idaho Power, a major funder of the proposed B2H project, which would run from Boardman to the Hemingway transmission line substation near Melba, Idaho.

Sven Berg, an Idaho Power public information officer, said he respects the concerns people have but stressed that throughout the

process of attempting to get the B2H transmission line to become a reality, Idaho Power has strived to work with those who have worries and those who could be impacted.

"We also want to find common ground with landowners and stakeholders. In all but a few cases, we have been able to do this," he said. "We have tried to find path-

ways to address concerns, while balancing this with the need to provide clean and affordable energy to our customers."

Berg supports the opportunity the meeting of the Energy Facility Siting Council in La Grande will provide to those who are on opposite sides of the B2H fence.

"We trust the process and want to give those who oppose

MEETING TIMES

The approximate times the Oregon Energy Facility Council will meet at the Gilbert Center, on the EOU campus, La Grande, will be 4-8 p.m. on Monday, Aug. 29, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Aug. 30, and from 8 a.m. to noon on Aug. 31.

be granted for this within the site plan.

Berg said Idaho Power representatives at the hearing may indicate the utility could provide homeowners near B2H power lines windows that would better block out the sound.

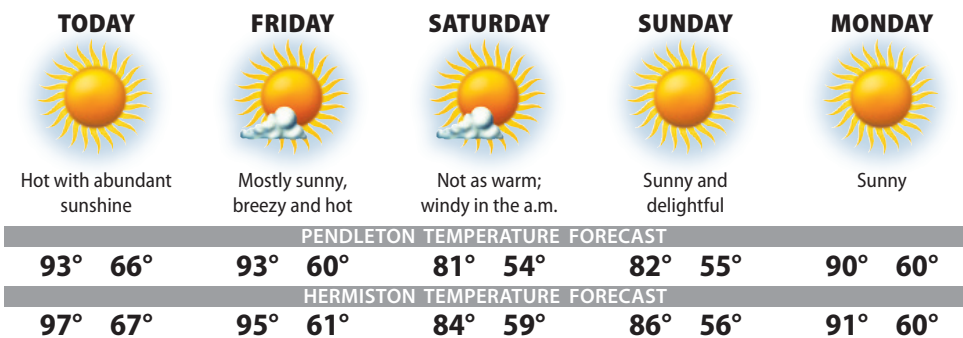
At each hearing the Energy Facility Siting Council will take a straw poll among its members to determine how they feel about the issue. The council will vote at a later meeting on its official response to each element that was appealed. Kreider said it is unclear how the council's response to the appeals will influence its decision on whether to support or reject the B2H site plan. This decision will be made sometime after leaving La Grande.

Should the council vote to support the site plan, Kreider said the Stop B2H Coalition may then appeal the decision to the Oregon Supreme Court.

Ultimate approval of the site plan is not a guarantee that B2H would become a reality, since other steps would have to be taken. For example, the public utilities commissions of both Oregon and Idaho would have to vote to authorize construction of the B2H line, Berg said.

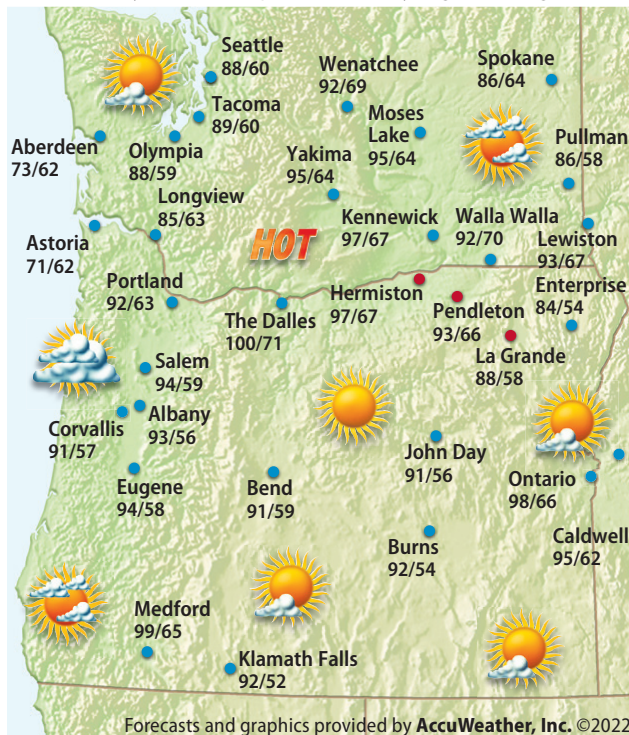
Berg said Idaho Power's goal is to break ground for B2H in 2023 and have lines for the project

Forecast for Pendleton Area



OREGON FORECAST

Shown is today's weather. Temperatures are today's highs and tonight's lows.



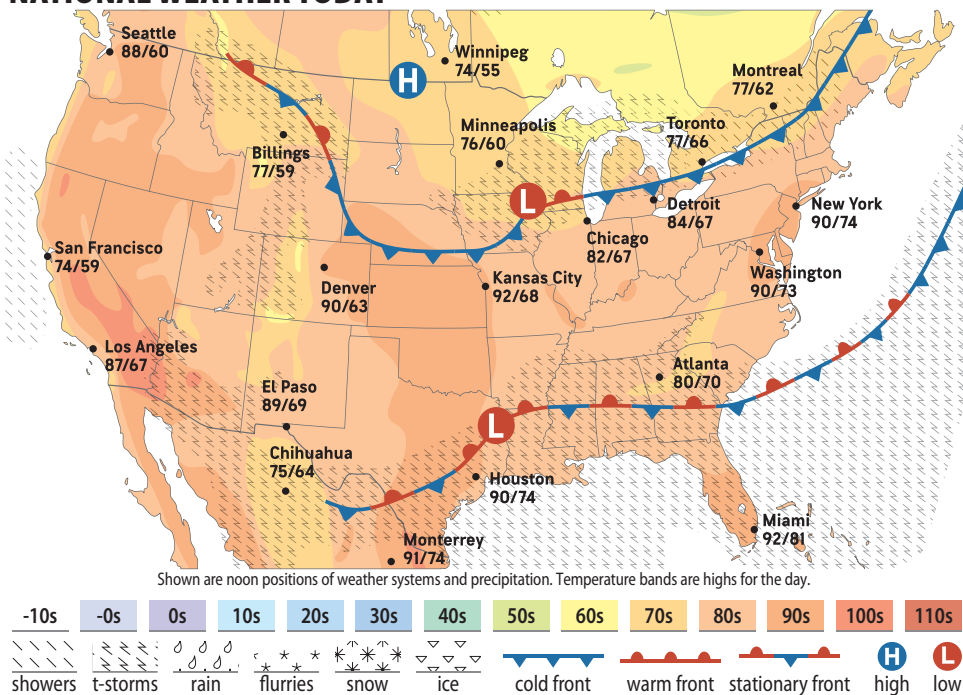
ALMANAC

PENDLETON through 3 p.m. Wed.		
TEMP.	HIGH	LOW
Wednesday	94°	63°
Normals	87°	56°
Records	105° (1898)	32° (1904)
PRECIPITATION		
24 hours ending 3 p.m.	0.00"	
Month to date	0.04"	
Normal month to date	0.24"	
Year to date	11.17"	
Last year to date	4.35"	
Normal year to date	8.55"	
HERMISTON through 3 p.m. Wed.		
TEMP.	HIGH	LOW
Wednesday	96°	64°
Normals	89°	55°
Records	101° (1970)	40° (2010)
PRECIPITATION		
24 hours ending 3 p.m.	0.00"	
Month to date	0.04"	
Normal month to date	0.13"	
Year to date	7.52"	
Last year to date	2.46"	
Normal year to date	5.27"	
WINDS (in mph)		
	Today	Fri.
Boardman	SSE 4-8	WSW 10-20
Pendleton	NW 6-12	W 10-20
SUN AND MOON		
Sunrise today	6:08 a.m.	
Sunset tonight	7:46 p.m.	
Moonrise today	4:01 a.m.	
Moonset today	7:36 p.m.	
New First Full Last		
Aug 27 Sep 3 Sep 10 Sep 17		

NATIONAL EXTREMES

Yesterday's National Extremes: (for the 48 contiguous states)
High 108° in Merced, Calif. Low 33° in Afton, Wyo.

NATIONAL WEATHER TODAY



Public Lands Day event set for Sept. 24

The Observer

LA GRANDE — The Wallowa-Whitman National Forest and the Grande Ronde Model Watershed are teaming up to celebrate National Public Lands Day on Saturday, Sept. 24.

The two organizations are hosting Public Lands Day at Bird Track Springs Restoration Site along the Grande Ronde River, about 14 miles southwest of La Grande.

The event will take place from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. The public is invited to engage in hands-on projects including trail maintenance, monitoring water quality, trash removal and art and storytelling activities. Free trans-

portation to the event is available. A bus will depart at 8:30 a.m. from the Community Stadium parking lot. The bus will return at 1 p.m.

National Public Lands Day is celebrated annually across the nation on the fourth Saturday of September. Started by the National Environmental Education Foundation, NPLD is the nation's largest single-day volunteer event for public lands, which include city parks to national parks and forests.

The Grande Ronde subbasin is a tributary to the Snake River and part of the Columbia River basin. The watershed sustains thousands of acres of forested and canyon

lands throughout Northeast Oregon on public and private property and is home to spring Chinook salmon, summer steelhead, bull trout, resident trout and other native fish species along with elk, deer, river otters, great gray owls, goshawks, bald eagles and many other wildlife species.

The long-term restoration vision for the Bird Track Springs Fish Habitat Enhancement Project is to improve physical and ecological processes by rehabilitating and restoring the river channel and floodplain to achieve immediate and long-term benefits to chinook, steelhead and bull trout at all life stages.

IN BRIEF



Contributed Photo

A dump truck lies on its side on Adams Road in Canyon City Monday, Aug. 22, 2022.

Dump truck hits power line, flips in Canyon City

CANYON CITY — A dump truck driver who flipped his truck Monday, Aug. 22, on Adams Road in Canyon City suffered minor injuries.

According to a press release from the Grant County Sheriff's Office, Timothy Hueckman, 66, of John Day left the dump box raised as he drove down Adams Road and caught a power line that snapped into multiple pieces and ultimately flipped the truck onto its side.

McKinley said the wreck closed through traffic on Adams and West Bench roads for three hours on Monday. Oregon Trail Electric Cooperative and CenturyLink worked to

restore services in the affected areas.

Washington man dies in cycle crash near Enterprise

ENTERPRISE — A Clarkston, Washington, man died Saturday, Aug. 20, as a result of injuries suffered in a single-vehicle motorcycle crash on Zumwalt Road near Enterprise, according to a press release from the Wallowa County Sheriff's Office.

Karl Daniel Schmidt, 34, was pronounced dead at the scene. The crash occurred less than a mile from Crow Creek Road.

Deputies, medics and Oregon State Police responded to the scene, the release stated.

No other information was available.

— EO Media Group

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