

**pzcounter**

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**From:** Matt Siegel <matt@elevatere.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 20, 2016 9:25 AM  
**To:** pzcounter  
**Cc:** chunfc@aol.com; birdie9@cox.net  
**Subject:** Wood River 138kv Transmission Line Comments  
**Attachments:** IpCo\_transmissionline\_10-20.docx

My name is Matthew Siegel. I am Vice President of the Coyote Bluff housing association. I am writing in response to the redundant T-Line proposal. Attached are the updated comments from the homeowners of Coyote Bluff subdivision for the scheduled meeting on Thursday, October 20th. Please submit on behalf of the Coyote Bluff homeowners and let me know if there are any questions.

Regards,

Matthew Siegel

847-323-5914

Homeowner at 127 Coyote Bluff Hailey, ID 83333

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

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OCT 20 2016  
BLAINE COUNTY  
LAND USE & BUILDING SERVICES



October 20<sup>th</sup>, 2016

Dear Blaine County Planning and Zoning Commission,

This is a follow up to a letter I submitted on behalf of the Coyote Bluff homeowners association on October 12<sup>th</sup>. I appreciate the time of both Idaho Power and the P&Z commission of Blaine County at last Thursday's meeting. I came away from the meeting much more informed, but also extremely concerned of specifics of the project that were discussed. I learned that this project is a redundant transmission line to ensure energy reliability for northern valley residents only. It is budgeted at 30 million dollars with no additional costs to Wood River Valley citizens, unless the Wood River Valley decides to choose the option (#2) of burying the transmission line from Elkhorn to south of the Hospital (at an additional cost of 2.6 million dollars).

I also learned that this project has no value to citizens of Hailey. This project is exclusively for the benefit of northern valley residents. This project basically allows IPCo to connect the northern valley substations to the Wood River substation at 2 different points to ensure energy distribution in the event one of the lines is unusable due to adverse events. The fact that this project is budgeted at 10 million dollars for the 10 miles of this transmission line throughout the mid-valley and set at 20 million dollars for about 2 miles of this project in Ketchum, is blatantly unfair. Also, the only option of burying this line is available to the northern residents of Ketchum (who are directly benefiting from this project already) with no consideration of the same option for Hailey and Blaine County residents in the south.

At the October 13<sup>th</sup> meeting, IPCo representative presenting the estimated costs of burying the transmission line the entire length into Ketchum at 7 to 10 million dollars per mile. This estimate is highly inflated to say the least. Substantial cost for modifications and upgrades in the Wood River, Elkhorn and Ketchum substations to handle the second transmission line was not disclosed as being part of this very high per mile cost. I believe this is being done in order to inflate the underground option in the south valley and therefore mislead the residents attending the hearing into thinking it gives this possibility zero consideration by the residents of the valley. They will always favor the cheapest and easiest option of putting the lines above ground without concern for the visual and safety implications to nearby homeowners. By their own estimates (see option #2 above), it would cost about 2.6 million dollars to bury the line from Elkhorn to South of the hospital (about one mile in length). The mid-valley section is mostly along Highway 75 and Buttercup road which is much more accessible than the section through the hospital with nearby businesses and residences.

As homeowners of the Coyote Bluff Subdivision, we have concerns (stated in previous letter) about the route and design of the new transmission line. IPCo also took the opportunity to sneak in a distribution line in addition to the second transmission line that is being routed through our subdivision and neighboring subdivisions. We accepted the impaired scenic view caused by existing transmission line when we decided to buy and live in the neighborhood but cannot accept the further deterioration from the added transmission and distribution lines when there is an underground option and no benefit whatsoever to the affected residents in the south. This project, as it stands, is very one-sided with the entire benefit going to northern valley residents. For the benefit of all Hailey and south Blaine County residents, I ask the Blaine County Planning and Zoning Commission that the section of transmission line

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from the IPCo substation on Highway 75 to Buttercup Road (which affects homes in Coyote Bluff, Silver Sage and Northridge subdivisions and DOT) be given the same consideration as the lines in Ketchum and likewise be buried underground as well.

We thank you for taking the time to consider our request.

Respectfully,

Matthew Siegel  
VP of Coyote Bluff Homeowners Association  
Blaine County