



Comments of Cox Communications  
January 7, 2021

Cox Communications (“Cox”) is pleased to provide these comments regarding Idaho Power Company’s (“Idaho Power” or “IPC”) application for conditional use permit for Owl Rock Road Route for its Wood River – Ketchum Transmission. Throughout this process, Cox has repeatedly made known our concerns related to the potential financial impact on Cox and its customers if the route design will not accommodate attachment of Cox existing network facilities to any new poles.

Cox uses Idaho Power’s existing poles to support high capacity fiber optic cabling that delivers cable television, telephone, Internet connectivity, cellular connectivity, Emergency 911 and other important telecommunications services to Blaine County’s residential, business and government communities located in the northern portion of the County. In November 2018, during debate surrounding the aerial / underground placement of Idaho Power’s proposed redundant transmission facilities, Cox provided the Blaine County Planning and Zoning Commission with correspondence outlining our position in this matter. For reference I have attached a copy of that correspondence.

Cox supports and appreciates Blaine County’s (“County”) effort to preserve the views and landscapes that make Blaine County such a beautiful place, via the Comprehensive Plan. We also recognize, as does the County, that the plan must be balanced so that it does not place an undue burden on the “economic welfare of the community.”

We have reviewed the application filed by IPC on December 22, 2020, and are concerned that the design proposed includes 19 poles (out of approximately 165 poles total) that do not include adequate height to allow Cox to continue to attach to the poles along the proposed route. Without being able to secure our facilities to the IPC poles, Cox will be forced to place our facilities underground. As we have discussed in numerous comments and letters to the County on this matter, this will result in Cox incurring additional expenses.

Based on the current design before the County, the additional costs Cox would incur in placing our facilities underground along the route would be more than \$750,000. This number could change as the plan is approved and finalized by the County and Cox designs the undergrounding of its network and has a truer sense of the actual costs for permitting, relocation of facilities and the like. If Cox incurs these unexpected costs, we will need to consider options to recover these associated costs from our customers in Blaine County rather than ask our customers in other markets to

pay for a project they will receive no direct benefit from. We have used this approach in the past to assure fair treatment of Cox customers living elsewhere.

We appreciate the willingness of the County and Idaho Power to meet with and discuss the situation with us. In conversations with Idaho Power, it is our understanding that an alternative design, that would require slightly adjusting the heights on ONLY 19 poles, would accommodate Cox's attachment needs. We would encourage the County to seriously consider this alternative and minimize the financial impact on Cox and our Blaine County customers.

As this matter progresses Cox stands ready to work in a cooperative fashion with the County.

I thank you for your time and consideration of Cox's position.