

# POWERS BUTTE ENERGY CENTER

# PROJECT UPDATE

## Powers Butte Energy Center | April 2024

Powers Butte Energy Center is developing an up to 250 MW solar generation facility with up to 200 MW battery energy storage in unincorporated Ada and Canyon County, located ~4 miles north of Melba, Idaho. Powers Butte will utilize the existing Bowmont Substation as its planned interconnection point, and project facilities will be located on 1,600-1,800 acres of the 2,385 acres of private land currently secured.

### Local Power for Local People

- A project of this size would be expected to power the equivalent of approximately **45,000 Idaho homes** with clean, local energy.
- Historically, utility companies like Idaho Power were forced to buy clean energy. Today, solar power is one of the lowest cost forms of energy in Idaho and Idaho Power **wants** to buy solar.
- Growth in the Gem State has made it difficult to supply energy for today and tomorrow's generations.
- Idaho Power is seeking 1,425 MW of new power resources to come online in **2026-2028** to address immediate power needs.
- As new residents move into Treasure Valley, Powers Butte would sustain energy needs and eliminate fears of lack of local resources.
- **Powers Butte is currently negotiating the sale of its power to Idaho Power** to address some of the growing Treasure Valley need.
- There is **no** plan to sell this power supply outside of Idaho.
- Powers Butte **will** reduce Idaho's reliance on other states for its power supply and help reduce dependence on foreign energy.

Projected construction start:  
early 2025

2025

Projected operation start:  
summer 2026

2026

## What Does this Mean for You?

### Reducing Tax Burden

- The solar portion of this project would pay sales tax, income tax, **and** ~\$2K/day (\$750K/year), offsetting county budgets and reducing residents' tax burden (**additional** property tax from the battery system **not** included).
- No additional burden on schools, emergency services, or highway districts when the project is in operation.

### Working with Environment

#### Solar panels do not have an impact on soil quality:

- Conditions under solar panels create a more hospitable ecosystem and greater ground moisture retention.

#### Powers Butte solar panels will not negatively impact native wildlife in the area:

- Birds are known to nest under solar panels as panels provide them shelter.
- Solar projects create no emissions, helping bird populations displaced from pollution and greenhouse gases.

#### Powers Butte will preserve the agricultural identity of the site:

- At project end-of-life, equipment can be replaced to continue power generation or the steel support posts can be easily removed and sold, returning land to a similar original state.
- Most of the components of solar projects can be recycled (aluminum, glass, steel, and the semiconductor). A decommissioning plan will be established before construction starts.
- Dual use is planned on this project enabling grazing, pollinator habitat, and with some irrigation, the growth of grasses, alfalfa, or other less water intensive agricultural farming each ensuring soil can return quickly to farming.

### A Quiet Neighbor

#### Powers Butte solar panels and battery storage make little to no sound audible from the project's outer fence line:

- Inverters are located interior to the boundary, limiting any audible sound from the fence line.
- Battery storage facilities are located more than 1/4 mile from the closest resident and create only minimal noise from HVAC, which cools the system for safety and reliability.

