



Department of Energy

Bonneville Power Administration
P.O. Box 3621
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TRANSMISSION SERVICES

May 30, 2007

In reply refer to: TECT-CSB-1

To: Parties interested in the communication tower at BPA's LaPine Substation

The Bend-Fort Rock Ranger District of the Deschutes National Forest is seeking public comment on a proposed 140-foot communications tower to be installed at the Bonneville Power Administration's (BPA) LaPine Substation located near Finley Butte, Ore.

This letter begins the public scoping process. The U.S. Forest Service is preparing a Categorical Exclusion, and your input will help identify issues that are important to the public. A Categorical Exclusion allows an agency to forego an environmental assessment or environmental impact statement when there is no significant environmental impact.

Background

The proposed project site is approximately 2.6 miles east of Finley Butte and southeast of the town of LaPine, Ore. The legal description is township 22S, range 11E, section 18. The area is managed as "General Forest" and "Scenic Views" as designated under the Deschutes National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan.

The proposed action is to install up to a 140-foot tall communications tower at the BPA LaPine Substation. The current structures are approximately 70-feet tall. The installation of this tower is part of a larger project BPA is required to complete by replacing outdated communications equipment with more reliable technology. No commercial use of the tower will occur; the tower is exclusive for BPA communications.

The installation of a 140-foot tower at the LaPine Substation is BPA's first choice because no trees will be removed or topped, now or in the future. The tower will allow line-of-sight beam clearance to the next communications site on Walker Mountain, approximately 28 miles away. A lower tower height would require the topping, trimming or cutting of a substantial number of trees since the terrain is relatively flat at the substation. The substation can be seen for less than one second when traveling either east or west along Finley Butte Road at 35-40 miles per hour and therefore will not disturb scenic values.

How to comment

Public comments will be accepted through July 11, 2007. You may submit comments online at <http://www.bpa.gov/comment> or by e-mailing comments to comment@bpa.gov. You can submit comments via mail to BPA Public Affairs - DKC-7, P.O. Box 14428, Portland OR, 97293; call toll free at (800) 622-4519 or fax comments to (503) 230-3285. Please reference “LaPine Substation Communication Tower” with your comments. All comments received during the comment period will be posted on BPA’s external Web site in their entirety.

Thank you for your interest in this project. If you would like additional information, please contact Dave Tripp at (360-619-6251) or call us toll free at (800) 622-4519.

Sincerely

/s/Tim Weidman for Dave Tripp

Dave Tripp
Project Manager