

Steel Lines Sustain Program FY11 – 13

BPA's overhead steel line assets, with a net book value of \$1.05 billion (9/30/2009), consist of approximately 10,800 circuit miles on approximately 43,200 steel lattice towers, steel lattice poles and engineered steel poles.

An Aging Overhead Asset Report was completed in 2007. The study showed that approximately 50% of our overhead line assets are heading toward an impaired state of reliability and availability based on asset age and known condition. Data on steel line component health is sparse, making the data documenting efforts presently underway crucial to the success of this sustain program over the long term.

This investment program is based on the Steel Lines Program Asset Management Strategy which is the result of a comprehensive review and assessment of the steel lines assets, including age and health demographics (when known) and the assessment of risk to the success of BPA's mission, vision, and strategy. Given limited knowledge about overall steel line asset condition, this three year program (FY11-13) will focus on specific line sections of transmission lines with known issues related to insulator assemblies and will target those assemblies for replacement. A sampling of the retired components will be sent to BPA labs for analysis. The results of the analysis will be used to target high risk lines and appropriately pace the program in the future. This three year program is a critical data collection and analysis effort where the insights gained will be used to evolve the program in future years. It is a crucial step in better understanding the long-term steel line asset replacement requirements.