



Department of Energy

Bonneville Power Administration
P.O. Box 491
Vancouver, Washington 98666-0491

TRANSMISSION SERVICES

October 9, 2009

In reply refer to: TEP-TPP-3

To: Parties Interested in the I-5 Corridor Reinforcement Project

The Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) is proposing to build a new transmission line and associated substations that could affect you. This letter briefly explains what is being proposed, outlines our environmental review process and schedule, and invites you to meetings where you can learn more and comment on the proposal.

Proposal - BPA is proposing to construct a 500-kilovolt transmission line and associated substations. The new transmission line would extend generally north to south from a new substation near Castle Rock, Cowlitz County, Washington (referred to as Castle Rock Substation), to a new substation near BPA's Troutdale Substation, Troutdale, Multnomah County, Oregon (see enclosed map). The proposed transmission line and substations are needed to help ease transmission system congestion in the northwest Oregon and southwest Washington area, allowing BPA to fulfill existing and new transmission service requests for existing and new generation; improve system reliability; and meet continued electric load growth.

To understand the potential impacts of the proposed project, BPA will prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). See NEPA enclosure for more details. During this process, we will be working with landowners, Tribes, the Washington and Oregon energy facility siting councils, as well as with other federal, state and local agencies, and interest groups.

BPA has identified many preliminary transmission line route segments that can be combined in various ways to form different potential routes for the proposed transmission line. These route segments vary in length and are composed of existing and new rights-of-way or parallel existing rights-of-way. While many preliminary route segments have already been identified, other route segments may be identified and existing route segments may be modified or eliminated as a result of the scoping process. BPA will use comments received during the scoping period, continuing discussions with various interested parties, and further transmission line design work to develop route segments into transmission line alternatives to be studied in the draft EIS. BPA will consider the impacts of these transmission line alternatives and also the No Action Alternative, that is, not building the transmission line and substations, in the draft EIS.

Public Meetings - We will soon start to assess the potential environmental impacts of the proposed project and we would like to hear from you. What questions do you have? What resources should we analyze? Do you have comments on the preliminary transmission line route segments and locations for the new substations? We have scheduled the following six public scoping meetings to hear your ideas and accept comments related to the scope of the EIS that will be prepared.

Tuesday, Oct. 27, 2009
 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.
 Amboy Middle School
 22115 NE Chelatchie Road
 Amboy, WA 98601

Wednesday, Oct. 28, 2009
 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.
 Clark College
 Gaiser Student Hall
 1933 Fort Vancouver Way
 Vancouver, WA 98663

Thursday, Oct. 29, 2009
 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.
 Mark Morris High School
 1602 Mark Morris Court
 Longview, WA 98632

Tuesday, Nov. 3, 2009
 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.
 Liberty Middle School
 1612 NE Garfield Street
 Camas, WA 98607

Thursday, Nov. 5, 2009
 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.
 Gresham Holiday Inn
 2752 NE Hogan Drive
 Gresham, OR 97030

Saturday, Nov. 7, 2009
 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.
 Hazel Dell Grange (**No Wheelchair Access**)
 7509 NE Hazel Dell Avenue
 Vancouver, WA 98665

We do not plan to give a formal presentation at the meetings, so come anytime between 4 and 7 p.m. We will have maps and other information available about the project and several members of the project team will be available to answer your questions, listen to your ideas, and accept your comments.

Other Ways to Comment - If you cannot come to one of the meetings, you can still comment. Please submit comments to us by **November 23, 2009**. Comments on the proposed scope of the EIS can be made online at www.bpa.gov/go/i5. You can also use the enclosed comment form and return envelope to make comments. Send separate letters with comments to I-5 Corridor Reinforcement Project, PO Box 9250, Portland, OR, 97207, or by fax to (888) 315-4503. You may also call and leave a comment on BPA's comment and information line at (800) 230-6593. BPA will post all comments on BPA's Web site at www.bpa.gov/go/i5.

Process and Schedule - Starting this winter you may see BPA staff or contractors in the area as they work to refine possible routes and conduct environmental surveys. If we need to enter property where we do not have existing access, we will contact property owners for permission through a separate mailing in the next two weeks.

The information we gather in our environmental studies will be published in a draft EIS that will be available for review and comment in late 2010 or early 2011. The environmental review process will take approximately two and a half years, with a decision on whether and how to proceed with the project expected by spring 2012.

For More Information - To find out more information about this project, please go to BPA's Web site at www.bpa.gov/go/i5 or refer to the enclosed fact sheet for details. You may also call BPA's comment and information line at (800) 230-6593 and leave a question or message. Your question or message will be forwarded to the appropriate team member who will get back to you quickly.

Thank you for your interest in this project.

Sincerely,

/s/ Mark Korsness, 10/9/09

Mark Korsness
Project Manager

Enclosure(s):
Project Map
NEPA Brochure
Comment Form
Return Envelope
Fact Sheet