

I-5 Corridor Reinforcement Project

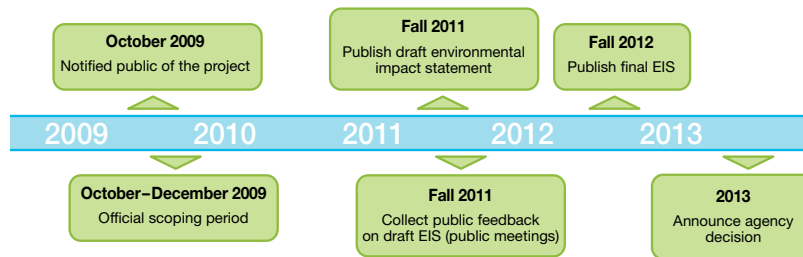
Project Update

May 2011



What is the time line?

While BPA has not made a final decision about building the proposed I-5 project or where it might be built, the agency remains on schedule to release its draft environmental impact statement in late 2011. BPA is required to conduct extensive study and analysis before a final decision can be made. The agency will hold another round of public meetings and public comment before it finalizes the EIS and makes a final decision. If BPA decides to proceed with a new line after the environmental review is complete, construction could begin in 2013 with completion as early as 2015. ■



Moving forward: From route “segments” to “alternatives”

As we develop the draft environmental impact statement for this project, we have defined four route alternatives by combining route segments and substation sites. We are sharing this information with you now, because we expect to refer to these alternatives as we continue the environmental analysis.

Previously, BPA had described many potential route segments on our project maps and materials. As we began developing the EIS, we needed to combine the route segments into alternatives that would run from a northern substation site near Castle Rock, Wash. to the southern Sundial Substation site near Troutdale, Ore. We also needed to include all segments under consideration; no segments have been removed. Options for each route alternative provide additional segment combinations in certain areas.

We developed four “action” alternatives to consider in the draft EIS. No alternative or option is preferred over any other. In addition, we will study a No Action Alternative to examine the impacts of not building a new line.

The I-5 Corridor Project is a 500-kilovolt transmission line that the Bonneville Power Administration proposes to build to reinforce the high-voltage power grid in southwest Washington.



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BPA hosts first non-wires round table

On April 15 BPA reconvened a panel of outside experts called the Non-Wires Round Table to help examine measures that might delay the need to build transmission lines in the near future. The group includes experts in transmission issues and planning, electricity demand and regional power operations. The Round Table heard presentations from BPA staff and Energy and Environmental Economics, consulting firm. Next steps include more analysis and another meeting, possibly this fall. You can follow the Non-Wires Round Table online at www.transmission.bpa.gov/PlanProj/Non-Wires_Round_Table/

Non-wire study won't delay I-5 project

The schedule for the I-5 Project has not changed despite a screening report that said non-wires actions might delay the need for the line (see page 1 for project time line). Although it is possible that we may find ways to delay the need for the transmission line in the near term, we would still choose a preferred alternative and would likely need to build within five years. The consulting firm that conducted the initial study said BPA should stay on its current schedule, because in-depth analysis is needed to determine whether the measures are feasible. ■

Efforts underway

BPA is conducting and gathering reports on the various resources and impacts that the public asked us to look at as a part of the environmental review. We will analyze the work and begin to identify measures we might use

to avoid or reduce those impacts.

We are also refining our preliminary designs based on feedback we are getting from property owners about proposed locations for towers and access

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Capturing your comments

While we prepare the draft environmental impact statement, we continue to review your comments as we receive them. We have prepared a supplemental scoping comment report that is a follow-up to the January 2010 Scoping Report. The new report is available on the project website (www.bpa.gov/corporate/i-5-eis/documents/comment_summary_April2011).

This supplemental scoping report identifies and summarizes the key themes in the recent public

comments, focusing on new and unique issues and information. The complete text of all comments received during the period covered is included in Appendix B online.

We anticipate preparing one more comment report to reflect comments received from November 2010 until just prior to the publication of the draft EIS. A formal comment period will follow the release of the draft EIS. Comments received during the draft EIS comment period will be responded to in the final EIS. ■

Moving forward *(continued from page 1)*

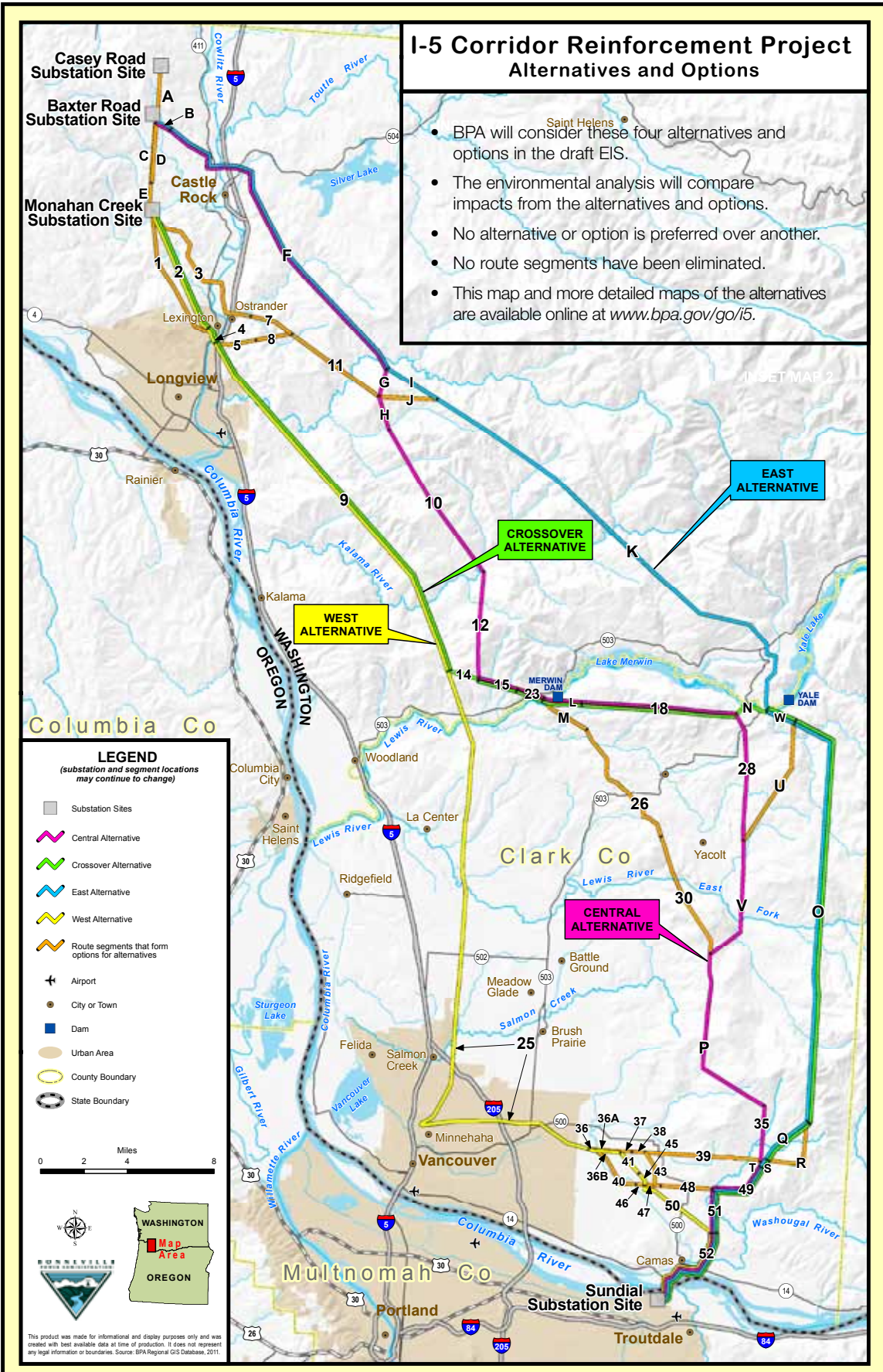
The map on page 3 shows the four action alternatives that BPA is considering: the West Alternative, the Central Alternative, the East Alternative and the Crossover Alternative. The West Alternative would mostly use existing rights-of-way. The Central and East alternatives would require mostly new rights-of-way except for areas close to the substation sites. The Crossover Alternative would use existing rights-of-way to the north and mostly new rights-of-way to the south.

The heart of the draft EIS will identify and compare the potential environmental impacts of the action alternatives. The draft EIS will also identify mitigation measures that BPA could use to avoid or reduce impacts. Comparing alternatives in the environmental analysis will give us all a better understanding of potential impacts and help BPA make a better decision about the project.

While we do not have a preferred alternative, we hope to identify one by the time we complete our analysis for the draft EIS. After we release the draft EIS in late 2011, we will provide additional opportunities for you to comment in writing and at public meetings. ■

I-5 Corridor Reinforcement Project Alternatives and Options

- BPA will consider these four alternatives and options in the draft EIS.
- The environmental analysis will compare impacts from the alternatives and options.
- No alternative or option is preferred over another.
- No route segments have been eliminated.
- This map and more detailed maps of the alternatives are available online at www.bpa.gov/go/i5.



LEGEND
(substation and segment locations may continue to change)

- Substation Sites
- Central Alternative
- Crossover Alternative
- East Alternative
- West Alternative
- Route segments that form options for alternatives
- Airport
- City or Town
- Dam
- Urban Area
- County Boundary
- State Boundary

0 2 4 8 Miles

WASHINGTON
Map Area
OREGON

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Efforts underway *(continued from page 2)*

roads. In many areas, we did not have permission to enter properties to see exactly what we were proposing, and some of our proposals can now be adjusted to provide better access or to avoid sensitive resources. If you have information that will help us better locate a tower or road, please let us know by calling or submitting comments online or in writing. Online maps won't likely reflect design changes until we develop a preferred alternative for the project.

We are committed to sharing information with you and answering your questions. If you would like us to attend a neighborhood meeting about the project, please contact us with your request. Please provide the meeting date, time and topics of interest, and we will do our best to meet your needs. ■

Changes to our contact list

We recently made changes to our contact list. If you would like to receive updates from BPA at a different address, please tell us. You can let us know the best way to contact you by clicking the orange "Sign up for Project Updates" button on our website www.bpa.gov/go/i-5 or by submitting a comment online or by leaving a voicemail on our toll-free line 800-230-6593. ■

How to contact us

Online:

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