



Department of Energy

Bonneville Power Administration
P.O. Box 491
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TRANSMISSION SERVICES

February 4, 2010

In reply refer to: TEP-TPP-3

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

The Bonneville Power Administration has completed a summary of all comments received during the I-5 Corridor Reinforcement Project scoping period, which closed December 14, 2009. This letter shares highlights from this summary, tells where the summary is available, and outlines our next steps, including how we plan to keep the public informed about the project.

BPA notified the public in October 2009 about its proposal to build a new transmission line and two substations, along with plans to prepare an environmental impact statement for the project. We asked for your comments on the project and hosted six public meetings. Thank you for taking the time to tell us your thoughts and concerns.

Background

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, Washington in Cowlitz County, to a new substation near BPA's Troutdale Substation, Troutdale, Oregon in Multnomah County. BPA is proposing the I-5 Corridor Reinforcement Project because congestion on its transmission system in southwest Washington and northwest Oregon has reached limits that now threaten power system reliability. BPA has not built new transmission in the area for 40 years but has used a combination of conservation measures and technical operational solutions to keep pace with the area's growing energy needs.

Summary of comments

More than 3,000 people provided nearly 7,000 comments on the project, including landowners, concerned citizens, tribes, state and federal agencies, and interest groups. People asked us to consider a wide range of issues in our draft EIS. Some also made specific comments about certain proposed route segments and resources. The Scoping Summary provides more detail about comments on:

- location and design of the proposed transmission line.
- entering private properties for siting and environmental work and the Permission to Enter Property form.
- potential human health effects related to transmission lines.
- potential impact to property values, ability to sell land, and inherent quality of life.
- potential impacts to the natural environment, including plants and wildlife.
- potential visual impacts to residents.

To see the full Scoping Summary and appendices, visit the project Web site at www.bpa.gov/go/i-5. A link to the Scoping Summary is available in the "News" section and also on the "Maps and Documents" page. All communications we received during the scoping period are in [Appendix C](#) of

the Scoping Summary. If you do not have access to the Internet and would like to receive a hard copy or a CD of the Scoping Summary, please call our toll-free document request line at 800-622-4520, leave a message with your name and address and ask for the “I-5 Project Scoping Summary.”

Responding to what we heard

Based on comments about the Permission to Enter Property form, BPA has made changes to the form and provided an instruction sheet to clarify why we may need to access private property. We are considering new options for route segments and will further explore suggestions from the public that include undergrounding, superconducting, and other alternatives to meet the need for the project. In our draft EIS, we will also estimate electric and magnetic fields for each route segment and will include a third-party review of current scientific literature on electric and magnetic fields in the draft EIS.

Next steps

As BPA staff and contractors continue studying route segments and substation areas to collect more information for the draft EIS, you may see these specialists working in the area. They will either stay on existing rights-of-way or access only those properties that landowners have given BPA permission to enter.

You can expect updates from BPA throughout 2010. BPA may drop, modify, or add other segments as we continue our studies. We are committed to keeping all parties – from individual landowners to state agencies and elected officials – fully informed at every step of the project by sharing information and providing timely updates.

BPA expects to complete and publish a draft EIS in early 2011. We will publicly circulate the draft EIS and take additional comments before preparing a final EIS. BPA expects to decide whether to build the line in 2012. If the decision is to build, a final route would be identified at that time.

For more information

Please visit the project Web site at www.bpa.gov/go/i-5 if you would like more information. If you would like to have BPA attend a neighborhood or other group meeting, please contact Maryam Asgharian at 800-622-4519.

Thank you for your interest in this project.

Sincerely,

/s/ Mark Korsness, 2/4/2010

Mark Korsness
Project Manager