



## Department of Energy

Bonneville Power Administration  
PO Box 3621  
Portland, OR 97208-3621

August 2, 2010

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

Bonneville Power Administration is proposing to build a new transmission line and associated substations that could affect you. This letter briefly explains what is being proposed, our efforts to date, a request to access property, 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, to a new substation near BPA's Troutdale Substation, Troutdale, Multnomah County, Oregon (see enclosed map).

#### **Background**

BPA is a not-for-profit federal agency that provides about a third of the electric power and 75 percent of the high-voltage electric transmission in the Pacific Northwest. We are dedicated to providing low-cost, reliable, environmentally responsible electricity to support our regional economy, recognizing that we are accountable to the people we serve.

It has been 40 years since we built transmission facilities to serve the area that includes southwest Washington and northwest Oregon, while the population has more than doubled in that time. We have aggressively implemented conservation, energy efficiency and technical measures to stretch the transmission system to avoid new construction. But now the regional transmission system is close to its limits, and we must consider adding new high-voltage lines to our regional network to maintain safe and reliable electric service to the residents and businesses of the region.

#### **Efforts to date**

BPA announced the proposed I-5 Corridor Reinforcement Project in October 2009. Since then, we have refined the potential transmission route segments and substation sites that we will further analyze during an environmental review for the proposed project. The refinements (described in the enclosure) are a result of field work and public input we received since announcing the project. We have identified you as a property owner who is within a quarter of a mile from one of the newly proposed segments. This letter and the enclosed project map, along with public outreach we will conduct over the coming months, are part of our commitment to keep you informed and involved as the project moves forward. We also have enclosed a form requesting your permission for BPA staff and contractors to access your property.

#### **BPA requests access to your property**

To accurately study each of the proposed route segments, BPA personnel or BPA's contractors may need to access your property to survey the proposed route segments or otherwise gather data as part of the proposed project.

We have enclosed two copies of the permission to enter property (PEP) form that pertains to your property. Please sign both copies of the form and return one copy to me in the enclosed pre-stamped envelope. The remaining copy is for your records. Your signature on the PEP form *does not* convey any interest or title to your property.

We appreciate your participation in this project and encourage you to submit your form. If you do not wish to give BPA permission to enter your property, please indicate that on your form and return it to us. If we do not hear from you soon, we will call you and discuss the form and any concerns you may have about signing it.

### **Public meetings**

BPA will host four public meetings in August and September for interested members of the public to learn about the project, provide comments or input and ask questions of BPA representatives. The meetings will begin and end with an open house during which you can talk directly with us. At the three evening meetings, BPA will give a brief presentation starting at 5:30 p.m. and take questions afterward. On Sunday, September 12, BPA will give presentations at 1 p.m. and 4 p.m. and take questions afterward.

<b>Aug. 30, 2010</b> 4 to 7 p.m. Castle Rock Elementary 700 Huntington Ave S Castle Rock, WA	<b>Aug. 31, 2010</b> 4 to 7 p.m. Skyview High School 1300 NW 139 <sup>th</sup> St. Vancouver, WA	<b>Sept. 8, 2010</b> 4 to 7 p.m. Mountain Valley Grange 40107 NE 221st Ave Amboy, WA	<b>Sept. 12, 2010</b> 12 to 6 p.m. Union High School 6201 NW Friberg Strunk St. Camas, WA
--	--	--	---

### **Get involved**

If you are unable to attend one of the meetings, there are a number of other ways to send us your comments or ask questions. Comments can be made online at [www.bpa.gov/go/i5](http://www.bpa.gov/go/i5). You may send letters to I-5 Corridor Reinforcement Project, PO Box 9250, Portland, OR, 97207, or by fax to 888-315-4503. You also may call BPA's comment and information line at 800-230-6593.

Submitting comments ensures that our project team can consider your suggestions. Your participation helps us learn about the issues that are important to you and will help us reach a better decision.

### **Next steps**

As part of our ongoing environmental review, we will continue to identify and analyze the potential impacts of this project to nearby communities, including impacts on the human environment such as health and safety and property values as well as impacts to natural resources such as land, water, and wildlife. Our engineering analysis and design work will continue. We plan to share more information including more specific route details for all proposed segments and substation sites with you at additional public meetings this fall.

We expect to release the draft environmental impact statement (EIS) in late summer 2011 for public review and comment. The draft EIS will include a thorough environmental analysis of the proposed alternatives. We expect to publish a final EIS and decide whether to build the line in early 2013.

If the decision is to build, a final route also will be identified and selected at that time.

### **For more information about the project**

We are committed to keeping all parties – from individual landowners to state agencies and elected officials – fully informed during every step of the project by sharing information, providing timely updates and notifying you of changes.

The project website [www.bpa.gov/go/i5](http://www.bpa.gov/go/i5) has all the information we previously sent out or had available at our public meetings, and a summary of the comments we've received on the project. The website also has interactive Google maps where you can type in your address and see where your property is located in relation to the proposed substation sites and route segments. If you do not have access to the Internet, please call us toll free at 800-230-6593 to request information.

**For more information about the property access form**

If you have any questions about BPA entering your property or the enclosed form, please call us toll free at 877-613-7035 and leave a message, or e-mail us at [I5corridorproject@bpa.gov](mailto:I5corridorproject@bpa.gov).

Sincerely,

*/s/ Paul B. Woolson, Aug. 2, 2010*

Paul B. Woolson  
Realty Specialist

Enclosures:

Refinements to the I-5 Corridor Reinforcement Project August 2010

I-5 Corridor Reinforcement Project Map August 2010

Two copies *Permission to Enter Property* form

PEP form instruction sheet