



Department of Energy

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

TRANSMISSION SERVICES

August 2, 2010

In reply refer to: TEP-TPP-3

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

The Bonneville Power Administration has refined the potential transmission line route segments and substation sites for the proposed I-5 Corridor Reinforcement Project. The refinements are a result of additional field work and extensive public input we received during and after the scoping period. This letter and the enclosed map, along with the 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.

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 network to maintain reliability.

Recent changes

In response to input from the public, private timber landowners and the Washington State Department of Natural Resources, BPA has refined several of the previously proposed segments and added segments that are farther north and east. We have removed some segments and portions of others from further consideration and have identified additional segments and substation sites. We also have expanded the options we are considering for a substation site near Castle Rock. See the enclosed map and description for more information about these changes.

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 and 4 p.m. and take questions afterward.

Aug. 30, 2010

4 to 7 p.m.
Castle Rock Elementary
700 Huntington Ave S
Castle Rock, WA

Aug. 31, 2010

4 to 7 p.m.
Skyview High School
1300 NW 139th St.
Vancouver, WA

Sept. 8, 2010

4 to 7 p.m.
Mountain Valley Grange
40107 NE 221st Ave
Amboy, WA

Sept. 12, 2010

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 at any time. Comments can be made online at 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 our toll-free 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 now 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 will be identified and selected at that time.

More information

If your segment has been dropped from further consideration and you have already signed and sent in your PEP form, BPA is releasing the rights on any property in that segment, as long as your parcel is not part of any additional segment (for example, where two might cross). To check to see if this includes your parcel, please use the interactive map tools (using Google Maps or Google Earth) on the project website www.bpa.gov/go/i5.

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. Please visit the project website at www.bpa.gov/go/i5 for more maps and factsheets.

Thank you for your interest in this project.
Sincerely,

/s/ Mark Korsness, Aug. 2, 2010

Mark Korsness
Project Manager

Enclosures:

Refinements to the I-5 Corridor Reinforcement Project August 2010
I-5 Corridor Reinforcement Project Map August 2010