

## I-5 Corridor Reinforcement Project

# Project Update

February 2011



### Proposed access roads added to map

The map we released last November on the I-5 Corridor Reinforcement Project has been updated to include proposed access roads. These roads are an important part of a transmission network as they provide safe and quick access for maintenance crews that perform routine and emergency work on lines.

Your comments on the proposed locations of these access roads are as important as your comments on proposed tower and right-of-way locations. Specific locations of these roads could change as we learn more about the general areas around them. To see where these proposed roads are in relation to your property, go to:

[www.bpa.gov/gis/i5/gmviewer.html](http://www.bpa.gov/gis/i5/gmviewer.html).

*(continued on page 3)*

### BPA examines potential of “non-wires” measures

BPA has received a screening report of possible energy efficiency and other measures it could use to delay construction of this project. In January, BPA received the screening report it sought last summer from Energy + Environmental Economics, an engineering firm in San Francisco that specializes in electricity markets.

Consistent with recommendations from the Non-Wires Screening Report, we will continue environmental review and maintain our current schedule for the project. If the measures outlined in the report are not feasible, we would face tight deadlines to build the power line in time to ensure reliable electric service.

The report includes an updated electricity demand forecast and suggests that aggressive energy efficiency and the potential to temporarily shift where power is generated when the transmission system is stressed could delay construction of a new line. However, the report stresses that the non-wires options remain unproven and uncertain so they will be examined in a more detailed study to test their feasibility. We expect the results of that more in-depth analysis sometime this summer.

In addition to further study, BPA will reconvene the Non-Wires Solutions Round Table to evaluate the report. BPA originally brought the group together in 2003 to see if there were non-construction alternatives to building transmission lines. The group includes experts in transmission issues and planning, electricity demand and regional power operations.

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.



## Route proposals examined

Several members of the public have submitted alternative routes for BPA to consider. A few recent suggestions and our responses are detailed below:

**Far eastern alternative, crossing the Columbia River near Bonneville Dam:** During the scoping process, several comments suggested crossing the Columbia River in the vicinity of Bonneville Dam in the Columbia River Gorge. Such a course would require a line at least 99 miles long to connect the proposed new substation in the Castle Rock, Wash., area with BPA's

Troutdale or Pearl substations in Oregon. The line would have to cross the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area. Such a long line also could not carry as much energy as a line on the proposed route because transmission lines lose power with distance, in what is known as "line loss."

### Reconfiguration of existing 500-kV lines near Longview and across the Columbia River:

We received one suggestion that BPA could separate existing parallel 500-kilovolt lines in the Longview

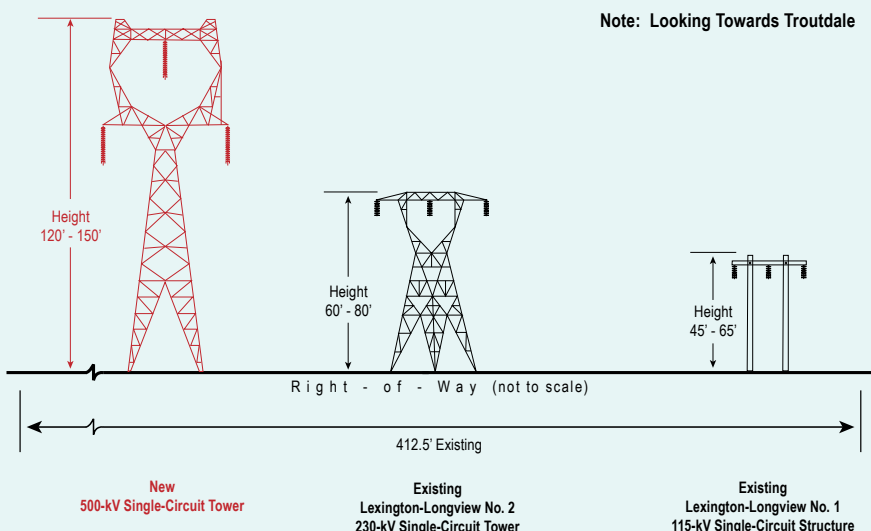
area and across the Columbia River so that the lines could operate at their full capacity. The suggestion stated that this realignment could help relieve congestion in the Longview area, eliminate the need for a new substation at Castle Rock, and allow BPA to move the northern terminus of the line to the existing Allston Substation in Oregon. Our analysis shows that the change would require a difficult reconfiguration of a congested corridor, jeopardizing the reliability of the system. It would also require more complex and taller towers to cross the river than at the proposed crossing near Troutdale and a new 230-kV line to BPA's Longview Substation. In addition, this would create reliability, operations and maintenance disadvantages.

**Northern alternative, north of Silver Lake:** Several comments suggested a route heading east from the proposed Casey Road Substation site north of Silver Lake and then south to Troutdale. The primary intent of this route would be to reduce impacts to private landowners. We have analyzed this suggested route by studying aerial photographs and maps, and visiting the potentially affected areas. We have concluded that this proposal may relieve one set of home and landowners from impacts, but burdens another set. It also adds construction challenges, creates additional environmental impacts and is considerably longer than existing proposed routes. ■

## Clearer project picture

Many people who have attended the more than 150 BPA and other meetings on the project over the past year asked for more detail about what the line would look like. A new section of the project website shows images of the towers that would be used on each proposed segment. Where existing lines would be combined with the new line, the drawing shows the current configuration and the new configuration if the lines were combined on a single new tower. As further changes are proposed, you may notice changes in these figures.

**The information is available at:** [www.bpa.gov/corporate/i-5-eis/documents/ROWconfigurationsNov2010.pdf](http://www.bpa.gov/corporate/i-5-eis/documents/ROWconfigurationsNov2010.pdf). To view the figures, click on the underlined segment you wish to view. ■

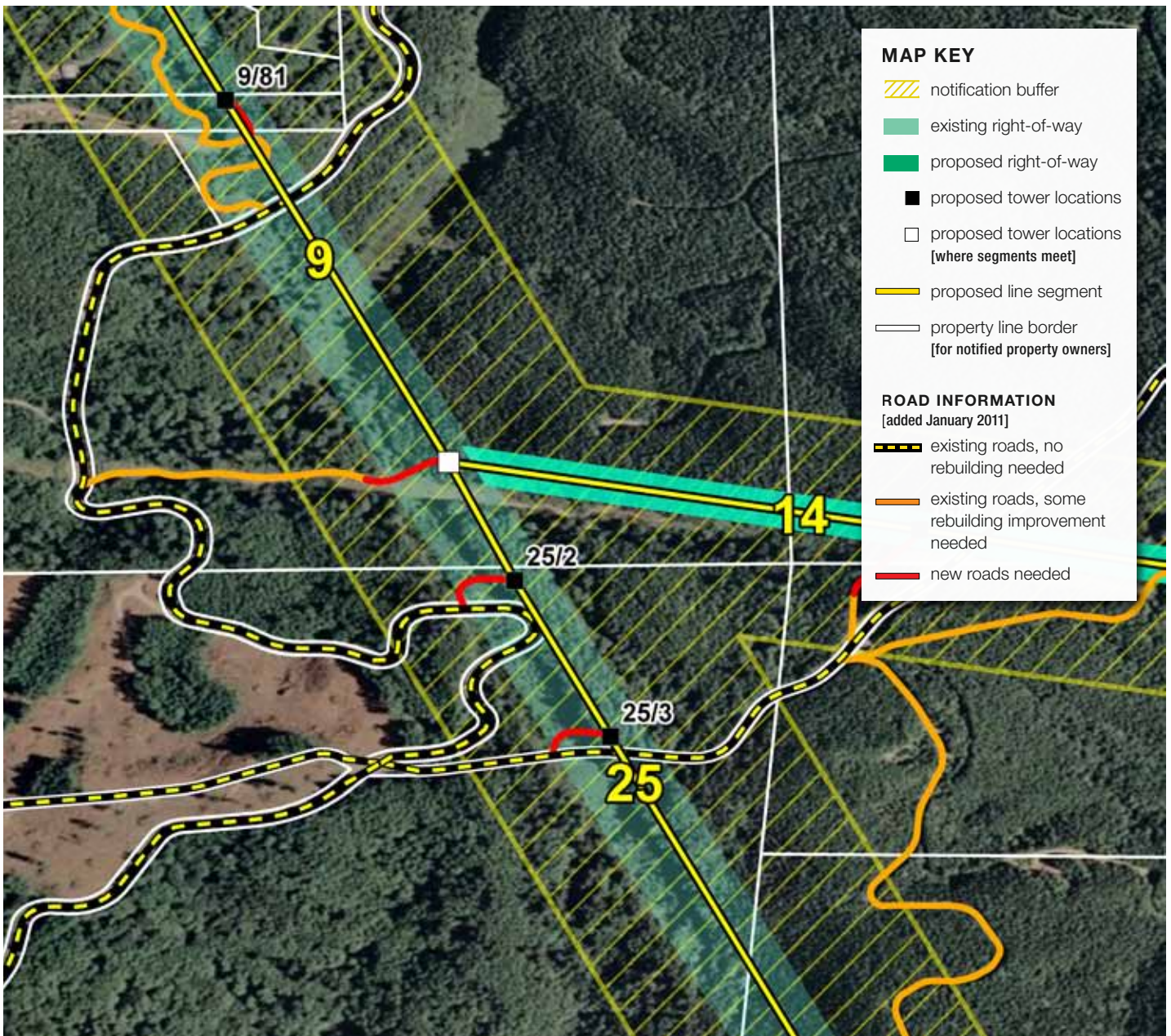


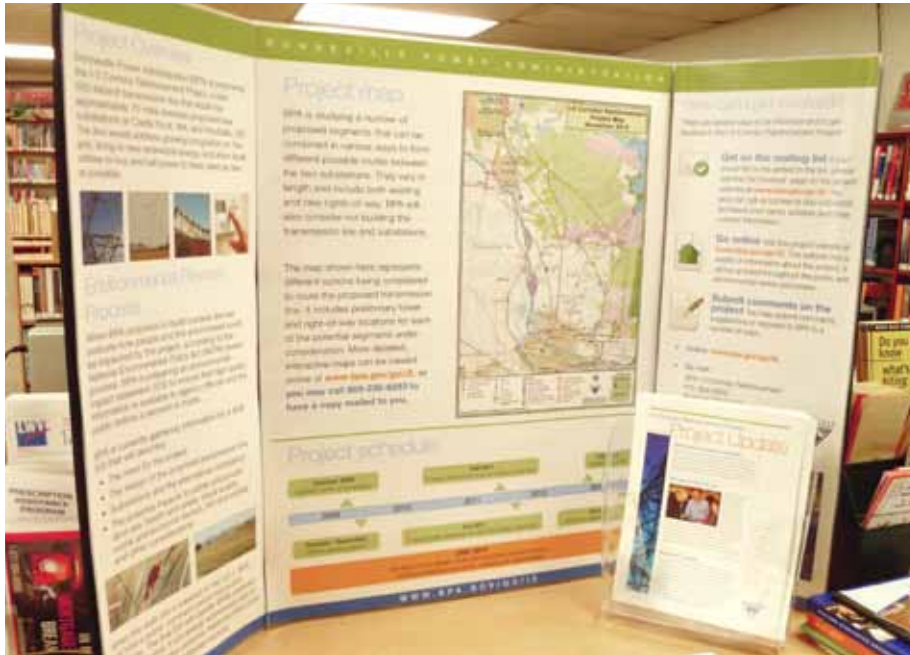
## Proposed access roads added to map (continued from page 1)

As potential impacts of the roads are identified, BPA will develop mitigation measures that could avoid or reduce them. Project team members then take into account how potential impacts and proposed

mitigation measures will affect people and habitat, animals and other environmental resources in the area. These measures will be documented in the draft environmental statement scheduled for release in fall 2011.

You can find additional information about this process at: [www.bpa.gov/corporate/i-5-eis/documents/How\\_route\\_options\\_are\\_evaluated\\_and\\_decisions\\_are\\_made.pdf](http://www.bpa.gov/corporate/i-5-eis/documents/How_route_options_are_evaluated_and_decisions_are_made.pdf). ■





## Help is available if you need it

We want to make sure you can find your property on the interactive map, locate route segments to see what the various right-of-way configurations would look like, find answers to your questions and get additional printed information. We're available to help.

If you need help, call 800-230-6593. Leave a message and a contact number and someone will call you back.

Also, if you do not have Internet access and would like a printed copy of the map that includes your property or any other information available on our website or that you have read or heard about, call the toll-free number listed above. Leave your name, contact information and describe what you are looking for. If it is a map, please leave the address of the property you'd like the map to include. Don't forget to leave a mailing address, so we can promptly mail the information to you.

If you would rather write, send your questions or comments to:

**I-5 Corridor Reinforcement Project**  
**P.O. Box 9250**  
**Portland, OR 97207**

## Local resources

BPA has general project maps and handouts available at the following locations throughout the project area. Please call to confirm hours for these local venues.

### **CASTLE ROCK PUBLIC LIBRARY**

137 Cowlitz St. W.  
 Castle Rock, WA 98611  
[\[360-274-6961\]](tel:3602746961)

### **AMBOY MARKET**

39812 N.E. 216th Ave.  
 Amboy, WA 98601  
[\[360-247-5421\]](tel:3602475421)

### **YACOLT TOWN HALL**

202 W. Cushman St.  
 Yacolt, WA 98675  
[\[360-686-3922\]](tel:3606863922)

### **CAMAS PUBLIC LIBRARY**

625 N.E. 4th Ave  
 Camas, WA 98607  
[\[360-834-4692\]](tel:3608344692)

### **LONGVIEW PUBLIC LIBRARY**

1600 Louisiana St.  
 Longview, WA 98632  
[\[360-442-5300\]](tel:3604425300)

### **VANCOUVER MALL LIBRARY**

8700 N.E. Vancouver Mall Dr. #285  
 Vancouver, WA 98662  
[\[360-892-8256\]](tel:3608928256)



[www.bpa.gov](http://www.bpa.gov)

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