

## **Lower Valley Area Reinforcement**

The Lower Valley load area is located in eastern Idaho and western Wyoming and includes Jackson, Wyoming as well as a number of smaller communities. Customers served are Lower Valley Energy, Fall River Rural Electric and the United States Bureau of Reclamation. This is a winter peaking load area that can be subject to severe cold temperatures. The area is currently served by three transmission lines originating from PacifiCorp's Goshen substation. The loads are primarily served by PacifiCorp via the South Idaho Exchange Agreement.

BPA Transmission Planning studies have shown that a single contingency could cause low voltages and thermal overloads in the Lower Valley area if one of the critical outages mentioned below occurred during heavy winter peak load conditions. Such an outage could result in a violation of NERC Reliability Standard TPL-002-0b. Historic winter peak load levels in the SE Idaho area have increased approximately 1.7% per year since January 2007. Based on the actual load observed in December 2014 and assuming 1.5% load growth for the next few years, the current system is not capable of serving the area load through the 2015/2016 winter season without relying on under voltage load shedding for the single contingency loss of either the Palisades-Snake River 115kV line or the Swan Valley-Goshen 161kV line.

This investment includes construction of a new 138/115 kV substation, 24 miles of 115 kV transmission line and 0.2 miles of 138 kV transmission line.