

factsheet

July 2009

BPA proposes Central Ferry-Lower Monumental Transmission Line Project

The Bonneville Power Administration is proposing to build a single-circuit 500-kilovolt lattice-steel-tower transmission line that would run from BPA's 500-kV Central Ferry Substation in Garfield County, Wash., to BPA's 500-kV Lower Monumental Substation in Walla Walla County, Wash.

BPA is currently considering two routing alternatives as well as the option not to build the line. Each build alternative would be 38 to 40 miles long and would parallel existing BPA rights-of-way for a portion of each route. A portion of each route also would require new rights-of-way. Both routes cross private and state lands.

BPA is initiating the environmental review for this project and will prepare an environmental impact statement on the construction, operation and maintenance of the proposed transmission line. BPA expects the environmental work to take about two years and to make a decision on whether to proceed with the project by spring 2011.

Next steps

BPA has initiated the public scoping process and is requesting comments from all interested and affected parties including tribes; landowners; concerned citizens; interest groups; and local, state and federal government agencies about potential environmental impacts that should be considered in the EIS. BPA also is seeking comments about the proposed routes for the transmission line or about other routes that may meet the technical requirements of the transmission system. Scoping will help BPA ensure

that a full range of issues related to the proposal is addressed and will identify potentially significant impacts that may result from the proposed project.

The potential environmental issues identified for most transmission line projects include land uses, cultural resources, views, sensitive plants and animals, soil erosion, wetlands, floodplains, and fish and water resources. BPA will study these and all other issues identified during the scoping period.

Why a new project?

Numerous power generation projects, including large wind projects, have requested interconnection with the BPA system in the area. After studying the transmission system and identifying where capacity is available, BPA determined that there is not enough available transmission capacity to accommodate the requests. Building the Central Ferry-Lower Monumental project would allow BPA to meet the requests for transmission and allow additional power to flow between areas east of the Cascade Mountains to heavily populated areas in the west.



Once the scoping period closes, BPA will begin work on a draft EIS using the comments received during scoping. A draft EIS will be released for public review and comment, and public meetings will be held.

BPA will then prepare a final EIS that responds to comments received about the draft EIS. Based on the EIS findings and public input, BPA will make a decision about whether to proceed with the project.

Get involved

Open-house scoping meeting

Starbuck, Wash. – Monday July 13, 2009, 4 to 7 p.m. at the Starbuck School Gymnasium, 717 Tucannon Street

At this informal meeting, BPA will provide maps and other information about the project and have members of the project team available to answer questions and accept oral and written comments. Interested parties may stop by anytime during the open house to share ideas and comments. Any additional meetings or opportunities to get involved will be announced by mail or through local media.

Submit comments

Scoping comments are due no later than Aug. 3, 2009. Please reference “Central Ferry-Lower Monumental Transmission Line Project” with your comments. BPA will post all comments it receives in their entirety on its Web site. You may submit comments, suggestions or requests to BPA in a number of ways.

Online: www.bpa.gov/comment

By mail: Bonneville Power Administration

Public Affairs Office - DKE-7

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Call toll free: (800) 622-4519

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For more information

Additional information is available on the BPA Web site at www.bpa.gov/go/centralferry or by calling BPA toll free (800) 622-4519.

Proposed Central Ferry-Lower Monumental Transmission Line Project

Walla Walla, Columbia, and Garfield counties, Washington

