



Department of Energy

Bonneville Power Administration
P.O. Box 491
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TRANSMISSION BUSINESS LINE

December 2, 2005

In reply refer to: **Klondike III/Biglow Canyon Wind Integration Project**

To: People interested in BPA's proposed interconnection of the Klondike III and Biglow Canyon Wind Farm projects

Last spring, we sent you letters about a Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) proposal to build a new transmission line and substation in northern Sherman County. This letter brings you up-to-date on the project and describes how the project has changed based on the comments we received. BPA has modified the proposed line route alternatives and extended the scoping comment period to **Jan. 5, 2006**.

BPA has been asked by PPM Energy, Inc. to interconnect 300 megawatts of electricity generated from the proposed Klondike III Wind Project to the Federal Columbia River Transmission System. More recently, Orion Energy LLC has asked BPA to interconnect 400 megawatts of electricity from its proposed Biglow Canyon Wind Farm Project, located north and east of the proposed Klondike III Wind Project. Based on this request, and public feedback, BPA has decided to include the Biglow Canyon Wind Farm Project in the draft environmental impact statement (EIS) being developed for the interconnection of the Klondike III Wind Project. The EIS will now be called the Klondike III/Biglow Canyon Wind Integration Project EIS.

Proposed Transmission Line Alternatives

The two proposed transmission line alternatives replace previously proposed alternatives. They are described below and are shown on the enclosed map for your review.

- **North Alternative:** This alternative was developed in response to public comments including the expressed need to minimize the number of transmission lines built in the area. BPA would build a new 230-kV double-circuit transmission line on a route that runs north from PPM's Klondike Schoolhouse Substation; then west toward Hilderbrand Lane; then due north on the west side of N. Klondike Road and through fields; then northwest along Herrin Road to a new 230-kV substation next to BPA's existing John Day 500-kV Substation.
- **Middle Alternative:** The original alternatives in this area were modified to minimize farmland impacts by moving the transmission line to the corners and edges of property lines, to the extent possible. This route runs north from PPM's Klondike Schoolhouse Substation as does the North Alternative; west along the north side of Medler Road; then north and west and north again along property lines to a new 230-kV substation next to BPA's existing John Day 500-kV Substation.
- **No Action Alternative:** BPA would not build the transmission line and would not interconnect the Klondike III or Biglow Canyon wind project.

The South Alternative has been eliminated from further consideration because it had higher potential impacts to farming practices and because it was longer than the other two alternatives.

Environmental Process and Schedule

In the next few months, you may see environmental specialists, survey crews and others in the area collecting information. BPA will use this information to evaluate the environmental impacts of the two action alternatives and the No Action Alternative. This analysis will be included in the draft EIS, which should be available for public review and comment in spring 2006. If BPA decides to adopt one of the action alternatives to interconnect the wind projects, construction on the proposed BPA transmission line and BPA substations could begin in early 2007.

How to Comment

BPA has extended the comment period on BPA's proposal to **Jan. 5, 2006**. There are a number of ways to comment. You can mail the enclosed comment form to BPA Public Relations – DKP-7, P.O. Box 14428, Portland, OR 97293-4428, fax comments to 503-230-3285, e-mail to comment@bpa.gov or submit on-line at <http://www.bpa.gov/comment/>. Please include the project name with your comments. Comments previously submitted in writing or at public meetings do not need to be resubmitted.

For More Information

If you have questions, would like more information about the project, or a CD or hardcopy of the draft EIS, please call toll-free at 1-800-622-4519. Additional information is posted on line at http://www.efw.bpa.gov/environmental_services/Document_Library/Klondike/. BPA is committed to providing reliable, low-cost transmission products and services to the region while minimizing environmental impacts and demonstrating regional accountability.

Sincerely,

/s/ Gary O. Beck, Dec. 2, 2005

Gary O. Beck
Project Manager

Enclosures:
Project Area Map – Updated Nov. 22, 2005
Comment Form