

# BPA NEWS

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BONNEVILLE POWER ADMINISTRATION  
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## **BPA introduces transmission line rebuild proposal to impacted residents and businesses**

*Project is part of a larger effort to ensure reliable electric service to Tri-Cities*

**Richland, Wash.** – The Bonneville Power Administration is seeking public feedback on a project it is proposing in Richland, Washington. The line rebuild combined with numerous other measures in the area would help resolve transmission congestion and ensure the lights stay on when temperatures are extremely hot or cold.

“Our ability to get power into the area is becoming increasingly constrained,” said Michelle Cathcart, BPA vice president of Transmission Operations. “The conditions have made it necessary for us to consider upgrading this segment of line.”

BPA is proposing to rebuild an approximately 3-mile-long segment of the White Bluffs to Richland No. 1 115-kilovolt transmission line from Stevens Drive Substation south to the Richland Substation.

The rebuild is necessary to ensure unplanned power outages in the Tri-Cities area are less likely to occur. Over the past five years, the Richland–Stevens Drive 115-kV line has experienced 15 unplanned outages. Six of these outages were resolved by dispatchers who were able to remotely reclose breakers to restore service without investigation or repairs. Five of these outages occurred during peak loading periods in the spring and summer. If BPA takes no action, the conditions could result in more frequent, longer, or more widespread power interruptions to customers in the area.

“Public comment is an important part of our process,” said project manager Todd Wehner. “We need feedback to make an informed decision about the future of the project.”

(MORE)



The meeting is scheduled from 6 to 8 p.m. on Wednesday, April 12, at the Richland Public Library, 955 Northgate Drive, Richland, Washington. Additional details about the project are available on the [project webpage](#). More information is also available in the project [fact sheet](#).

### **About BPA**

*The Bonneville Power Administration, headquartered in Portland, Oregon, is a nonprofit federal power marketer that sells wholesale, carbon-free hydropower from 31 federal dams in the Columbia River Basin. It also markets the output of the region's only nuclear plant. BPA delivers this power to more than 140 Northwest electric utilities, serving millions of consumers and businesses in Washington, Oregon, Idaho, western Montana and parts of California, Nevada, Utah and Wyoming. BPA also owns and operates more than 15,000 circuit miles of high-voltage power lines and 261 substations, and provides transmission service to more than 300 customers. In all, BPA provides nearly a third of the power generated in the Northwest. To mitigate the impacts of the federal dams, BPA implements a fish and wildlife program that includes working with its partners to make the federal dams safer for fish passage. It also pursues cost-effective energy savings and operational solutions that help maintain safe, affordable, reliable electric power for the Northwest. [www.bpa.gov](http://www.bpa.gov)*

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