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## **Department of Energy**

Bonneville Power Administration P.O. Box 3621 Portland, Oregon 97208-3621

TRANSMISSION SERVICES

January 6, 2025

In reply refer to: TEPP-3

## To: People interested in the Allston to Astoria Rebuild Project

The Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) has finalized the environmental assessment (EA) for the Allston to Astoria Rebuild Project. Based on the final EA, BPA is issuing a finding of no significant impact (FONSI) and has decided to proceed with the project. This letter describes BPA's decision, the construction schedule, and how to obtain additional information.

**Background:** BPA will rebuild its existing approximately 22-mile-long Allston to Driscoll No. 2 and the approximately 21-mile-long Driscoll to Astoria No. 1, 115-kilovolt transmission lines located in Columbia and Cowlitz counties, Oregon. The project will allow BPA to ensure reliable electric service and the safety of the public and transmission workers.

BPA prepared an EA to help the agency determine if the project would cause significant impacts that would warrant preparing an environmental impact statement. BPA released the draft EA for public review and comment in June 2024 and received comments from two entities. The final EA provides responses to those comments and minor revisions to the EA. Based on the EA analysis and mitigation measures identified in the Mitigation Action Plan to help lessen impacts, BPA has found that the project will not cause any significant impacts and, therefore, an environmental impact statement will not be prepared.

**Decision**: BPA has decided to construct the Allston to Astoria Rebuild Project. Project construction is expected to begin in winter 2025 and continue through September 2026, with breaks in construction during seasonal restrictions.

**Copies Available:** The final EA, FONSI, and Mitigation Action Plan are available on BPA's website at <a href="www.bpa.gov/nepa/allston-to-astoria">www.bpa.gov/nepa/allston-to-astoria</a>. If you previously requested a copy of the documents, they are enclosed. If you would like to obtain paper copies of any of these documents, please call our toll-free document request line at 1-800-622-4520; leave a request naming this project and giving your name and complete mailing address.

**For More Information:** If you have questions regarding the environmental process, please contact the Environmental Protection Specialist, Laura Roberts, toll-free at 800-622-4519, directly at 503-230-5073, or by e-mail at <u>laroberts@bpa.gov</u>.

If you have other questions or would like more project information, please call me at the toll-free number listed above, directly at 306-418-1771, or by e-mail at <u>lacasey@bpa.gov</u>.

Thank you for your interest in our work.

Sincerely,

Lisa Casey Transmission Project Manager

## **Enclosures (if requested):**

Final EA FONSI/Mitigation Action Plan