

Department of Energy

Bonneville Power Administration
P.O. Box 491
Vancouver, Washington 98666-0491

TRANSMISSION SERVICES

July 11, 2014

In reply refer to: TEP-TPP-1

To Parties Interested in the Hot Springs to Anaconda Transmission Line Rebuild Project

Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) is proposing to rebuild a transmission line in your area. This letter briefly explains what is being proposed, outlines our environmental review process and schedule, and invites you to public meetings where you can learn more and comment on the proposal.

Proposal - BPA proposes to rebuild three existing transmission lines—the Hot Springs-Rattlesnake, Rattlesnake-Garrison, and Garrison-Anaconda lines—that run consecutively from Hot Springs, Montana to Anaconda, Montana. No major work has been done on the lines since they were built in 1952. The wood transmission poles have lasted beyond the expected 55 to 60 years and now need to be replaced due to age, rot, and deterioration. Rebuilding the deteriorated line would maintain reliable electrical service and avoid risks to the safety of the public and maintenance crews.

The project would include removing and replacing existing wood-pole structures and components, as well as the conductor; improving access roads and establishing temporary access where needed; removing trees adjacent to the line that may cause a threat to reliability; developing staging areas for storage of materials; and revegetating areas disturbed by construction activities. The existing structures would be replaced with structures of similar design within or near to their existing locations. The line would continue to operate at 230 kV.

Proposed activities would also include the installation of new line disconnect switches at the Hot Springs and Garrison substations, and upgrading the existing fiber optic line that is attached to the Hot Springs-Rattlesnake and Rattlesnake-Garrison transmission line structures.

To understand the potential environmental impacts of this proposal and identify ways to reduce those impacts, BPA will prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) following the procedures of the National Environmental Policy Act. The EIS will analyze an alternative to rebuild the line, a no action Alternative to not rebuild the line and continue to repair the line on an as-needed basis, as well as any additional viable alternatives brought forward during the scoping process. During this process, BPA will work with federal, state and local agencies, landowners, interest groups, and tribes.

Public Meetings - We have scheduled three informal, open-house scoping meetings to answer questions and accept comments about the scope of the EIS that will be prepared. Several members of the project team will be available to answer your questions and listen to your ideas.

Tuesday July 29, 2014

4:00-7:00 p.m.

Missoula Fire Dept, Station 4
3011 Latimor Street
Missoula, MT 59808

Wednesday July 30, 2014

4:00-7:00 p.m.

Dixon Senior Citizens Center
106 3rd Street
Dixon, MT 59831

Thursday, July 31, 2014

4:00-7:00 p.m.

William K. Kohrs Memorial Library
501 Missouri Avenue
Deer Lodge, MT 59722

How to comment - Please send comments you may have on the proposal and its impacts by **August 12, 2014** so they may be considered while we draft the EIS. Please indicate on the enclosed postcard whether or how you would like to receive the EIS. When commenting, refer to the full name of the project. Comments will be posted in their entirety on the project website at www.bpa.gov/goto/HotSpringsAnaconda. Choose the way you would like to comment:

Mail:	Bonneville Power Administration Public Affairs – DKE-7 P.O. Box 14428 Portland, OR 97291-4428	Toll-free:	800-622-4519
		FAX:	503-230-4019
		E-mail:	www.bpa.gov/comment

Process and Schedule - Starting this summer, you may see BPA staff or contractors in the area as we conduct engineering and environmental surveys. If we need to enter property where we do not have existing access rights, we will contact property owners for permission through a separate mailing. Please note that separate from this process, regular line and vegetation maintenance activities may continue to occur along line to keep it safely operating. BPA's proposed schedule for the EIS process is as follows:

Draft EIS available for public comment	Summer 2016
Final EIS	Fall 2017
Record of Decision	Fall/Winter 2017
If decision to rebuild, construction begins	Spring 2018

For More Information - If you have questions regarding the environmental process, please contact the environmental compliance project lead, Douglas F. Corkran, toll-free at 1-800-282-3713, directly at 503-230-7646; or e-mail at dfcorkran@bpa.gov. If you have other questions or would like more project information, please contact me at the toll-free number, directly at 360-619-6557 or e-mail cjhamel@bpa.gov.

Thank you for your interest in this project.

Sincerely,

/s/ Chad Hamel

Chad Hamel
Project Manager

Enclosures:
Project Map
Comment Form
Return Envelope
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