



Department of Energy

Bonneville Power Administration
P.O. Box 61409
Vancouver, WA 98666-1409

TRANSMISSION SERVICES

October 6, 2023

In reply refer to: TEPL-TPP-1

To: People interested in the South of Tri-Cities Reinforcement Project

Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) is proposing to construct a new 18-mile-long 115-kilovolt (kV) transmission line between BPA's existing Badger Canyon Substation in Benton County, Washington and BPA's existing Ashe-Marion 500-kV transmission line to the west. This letter explains what is being proposed, outlines our anticipated environmental review process and schedule, requests your comments, and invites you to public meetings.

Proposal: BPA is proposing to build a new Webber Canyon Substation next to the existing Ashe-Marion 500-kV line and connect it to BPA's existing Badger Canyon Substation with a new 18-mile-long 115-kV transmission line. A small portion of the new line would be built with steel monopoles in an existing transmission corridor near Badger Canyon Substation. The rest of the new line would be built using wood pole structures. Two proposed route alternatives are under consideration. Fiber optic cable would be added to the new line, as well as other existing transmission lines in the area, to improve operational communication and control. Badger Canyon Substation would be reconfigured and upgraded to incorporate the new transmission line.

The Tri-Cities area is growing, and the increasing demand for power is adding to the area's existing transmission system constraints. The primary goals of this project are to improve long-term electric reliability, improve short-term operational flexibility and address system maintenance needs. This is one of four major transmission projects BPA is proposing in the area, collectively referred to as the Tri-Cities Reinforcement program.

Environmental Review: BPA previously held an informal meeting in December 2022 which helped inform the proposed project design. BPA is now starting the environmental review process, and we seek to understand the potential environmental impacts of this proposal. If BPA determines that an EA should be prepared, the EA will describe anticipated impacts to natural and human resources and include mitigation measures that would help avoid or minimize impacts. We are asking for your comments to help determine the issues that should be addressed in the environmental review. During this process, BPA will work with Federal, state, and local agencies, Tribes, potentially affected landowners, and other interest groups. The proposed schedule for the environmental review process is as follows:

Scoping comment period	October 6, 2023 to November 20, 2023
Public scoping meetings	October 17 and 18, 2023
EA determination	Spring 2024
Draft EA available for public comment (if warranted)	Spring 2024
Final EA (if warranted)	Fall 2024

Finding of No Significant Impact (if warranted)
If decision to build, construction start

Fall 2024
Spring 2025

Public Meeting(s): We have scheduled two informal, open-house scoping meetings to answer questions and accept comments about the scope of the environmental review. You are invited to attend anytime between 6pm and 8pm to ask questions and submit comments. Here is the meeting information:

**October 17 and 18, 2023
6:00pm to 8:00pm
Cottonwood Elementary School
16734 Cottonwood Creek Blvd.
Kennewick, WA 99338**

How to Comment: Please send your comments by **November 20, 2023** and reference the South Tri-Cities Reinforcement Project. All comments will be available on the project website at www.bpa.gov/nepa/south-of-tri-cities. There are several ways 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
Online: www.bpa.gov/comment

For More Information: Starting this fall, 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 existing transmission lines to keep it safely operating.

If you have questions regarding the environmental process, please contact the Environmental Protection Specialist, Doug Corkran, toll-free at 800-622-4519, directly at 503-230-7646, or by e-mail at dfcorkran@bpa.gov.

If you have other questions or would like more project information, please call me at the toll-free number listed above, directly at 360-619-6634, or by e-mail at amloran@bpa.gov.

Thank you for your interest in this project.

Sincerely,

/s/ Amanda Williams

Amanda Williams
Transmission Project Manager

Enclosures:
Project Map
Comment Form
Return Envelope