



Department of Energy

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

TRANSMISSION SERVICES

December 8, 2010

In reply refer to: TEP-TPP-3

To: Parties Interested in the Big Eddy-Knight Transmission Project

The Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) has completed a draft environmental impact statement (EIS) for our proposed Big Eddy-Knight Transmission Project. This letter includes information that will help you comment on the draft EIS, invites you to public meetings and outlines the project's next steps. Also enclosed are a factsheet that briefly describes the project and the draft EIS (if requested).

As you may know, BPA is proposing to construct a 500-kilovolt lattice-steel tower transmission line from our existing Big Eddy Substation in The Dalles, Oregon, to a proposed new Knight Substation about four miles northwest of Goldendale, Washington. The proposed project is needed to increase the electrical capacity of our transmission system so we can respond to requests for transmission service in the region. The project includes a new transmission line, substation facilities and a fiber optic cable.

Draft EIS

The draft EIS describes the proposed project and why it is needed, identifies BPA's preferred alternative, discusses the environmental impacts the project would create and lists the mitigation measures that would lessen or eliminate those impacts. We invite your comments on the draft EIS. Please let us know if we analyzed all the resources important to you. We would also like for you to tell us if there are other ways we could lessen potential impacts. We greatly appreciate your time reviewing the document and giving us your comments.

The draft EIS is available online at www.bpa.gov/go/BEK. If you requested a copy of the document, it is enclosed. If you are interested in receiving a hard copy (about 500 pages) or a compact disc with an electronic copy of the document, please call our toll-free document request line at (800) 622-4520. Please leave a message with the project name, your name, complete mailing address and phone number.

Public Meetings

You are also invited to two open house-style public meetings we are hosting on the project. Project team members will be available to take your comments on the draft EIS and answer any questions you may have. The meetings will be held at the following times and locations:

Tuesday, January 11, 2011

4 - 7 p.m.

Shilo Inn Suites Hotel - The Dalles
3223 Bret Clodfelter Way
The Dalles, OR 97058

Wednesday, January 12, 2011

4 - 7 p.m.

Goldendale High School
525 E. Simcoe Drive
Goldendale, WA 98620

In case of severe weather, please call 800-622-4519 to ensure the meeting has not been cancelled and rescheduled.

How to Comment

All comments on the draft EIS are encouraged. Comments will be accepted through **January 28, 2011**. Comments may be submitted online at: www.bpa.gov/comment, via mail to: Bonneville Power Administration, Public Affairs Office - DKE-7, P.O. Box 14428, Portland, OR, 97293-4428; or by fax to 503-230-3285. You also may call us with your comment toll free at 800-622-4519. Please reference "Big Eddy-Knight Transmission Project" with your comments. All comments will be posted in their entirety on BPA's Web site at www.bpa.gov/comment.

Next Steps

We will consider all comments submitted during the comment period. We will also continue to work with the Washington Energy Facility Siting Council and the Oregon Department of Energy, as well as with other federal, state, regional, and local agencies, tribes, landowners and interest groups.

All comments and our responses to comments will be published in the final EIS. The final EIS will include any changes to our proposal or analysis. BPA expects to complete and publish the final EIS in early summer 2011. We will then issue a record of decision in late summer 2011 that will explain BPA's decision about whether to build the project.

For More Information

BPA is committed to providing reliable, low-cost transmission products and services to the region while minimizing environmental impacts. If you have questions regarding the environmental process, please contact our environmental project lead, Stacy Mason, toll-free at (800) 282-3713, direct at (503) 230-5455, or e-mail at slmason@bpa.gov. If you have other questions or would like more project information, please call me, Steve Prickett, at the toll-free number above or directly at (360) 619-6379; or e-mail sprickett@bpa.gov.

For general project information, please visit our project Web site: www.bpa.gov/go/BEK.

Thank you for your interest in this proposed project.

Sincerely,

/s/ Steve L. Prickett

Steven L. Prickett
Project Manager

Draft EIS (if requested)
Factsheet