



Department of Energy

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

TRANSMISSION SERVICES

March 4, 2014

In reply refer to: TEP-TPP-1

To: Parties Interested in the Bonneville-Hood River Transmission Line Rebuild

Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) is proposing to rebuild an existing transmission line in your area. This letter briefly describes the proposal, outlines the environmental review process and schedule, and invites you to a meeting where you can comment on the proposal.

Proposal - BPA is proposing to rebuild its 24-mile-long Bonneville-Hood River transmission line. This existing line extends from the Bonneville Dam Power House in Multnomah County, Oregon east to BPA's Hood River Substation in Hood River County, Oregon (see the Project Map). The line is a 115-kilovolt (kV) line with wood and steel H-frame structures. The line was built in the 1930s and is deteriorating due to age. The line needs to be rebuilt to ensure reliable electric service and public and worker safety.

The project would include replacing structures and conductor (wires), improving access roads, and constructing new access roads or trails where needed. Most structures would be replaced in the same locations with similarly sized wood-pole H-frame structures. However, structures that are in steep areas, where access is difficult, would be replaced with single-pole steel structures. There would be no changes in line operations; it would continue to operate at 115 kV.

To understand the potential environmental impacts of this proposal, BPA will prepare an environmental assessment (EA) following the procedures of the National Environmental Policy Act. The EA will study the line rebuild, as well as a no-action alternative in which the line is not rebuilt and BPA continues to fix the line on an as-needed basis. The EA will describe anticipated impacts to natural and human resources as well as mitigation measures to help avoid or minimize impacts. During this process, BPA will work with landowners, tribes, federal, state and local agencies, and interest groups.

Public Meeting - We have scheduled an open-house style scoping meeting to answer questions and accept comments about the scope of the EA. The meeting will be held on:

Thursday, March 20, 2014
4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Hood River Valley High School Cafeteria
1220 Indian Creek Road
Hood River, OR 97031

We do not plan to give a formal presentation, so please come at any time during the meeting.

How to Comment - Please send comments to us by **April 21, 2014** and reference the Bonneville-Hood River Rebuild project. Please indicate on the enclosed postcard whether or how you would like to receive the EA. All comments will be posted in their entirety on the project website. There are several ways that you can 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 spring, you may see BPA staff or contractors in the area as they 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 transmission line and vegetation maintenance activities may continue to occur along the line to keep it safely operating.

BPA's proposed schedule for the EA process is as follows:

Preliminary EA available for public comment	Spring/Summer 2015
Final EA	Winter 2015/2016
Finding of No Significant Impact (if warranted)	Winter 2015/2016
If decision to rebuild, construction start	Summer 2016

For More Information – To find out more about the project please go to BPA's project web site www.bpa.gov/goto/HoodRiver. If you have questions regarding the environmental process, please contact the environmental project lead, Katey Grange, toll-free at 800-282-3713, directly at 503-230-4047, or by e-mail at kcgrange@bpa.gov. If you have other questions or would like more project information, please contact me at the toll-free number listed above, directly at 360-619-6557, or by e-mail at cjhamel@bpa.gov.

Thank you for your interest in this project.

Sincerely,

/s/ Chad Hamel

Chad Hamel
Project Manager

Enclosures:
Project Map
Comment Form
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