



Department of Energy

Bonneville Power Administration
P.O. Box 61409
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TRANSMISSION SERVICES

June 29, 2010

In reply refer to: TEP-TPP-3

To: Parties interested in Bonneville Power Administration's Central Ferry to Lower Monumental 500-kilovolt Transmission Line Project

You are invited to review and comment on the draft environmental impact statement (EIS) for BPA's Central Ferry to Lower Monumental 500-kilovolt Transmission Line Project in Garfield, Columbia, and Walla Walla counties, Washington. The draft EIS describes the proposed project and the environmental effects expected from construction, operation, and maintenance of the transmission line. The project is needed to increase the electrical capacity of the transmission system in southeast Washington in response to requests that BPA has received for use of its system. Public comments on the draft EIS will help BPA refine the environmental analysis and decide whether to build the project.

Project background

The proposed transmission line would extend from BPA's new Central Ferry Substation generally west to its existing Lower Monumental Substation, a distance of about 38 to 40 miles. The new line would begin at BPA's new Central Ferry Substation near the Port of Central Ferry (Garfield County) along the Snake River and follow a westerly path south of the Snake River through Garfield, Columbia, and Walla Walla counties to the existing Lower Monumental Substation (Walla Walla County).

We are considering four routing alternatives for the proposed transmission line project. Portions of these routes parallel existing BPA lines in the area, and cross both private and state lands. BPA is also considering a no action alternative, that is, BPA would not build the transmission line. BPA has not determined a preferred alternative at this time.

Public meeting

You are also invited to an open house public meeting on this project. Project team members will be available to take your comments on the draft EIS and answer any questions you may have. The meeting will be held:

July 21, 2010
5 p.m. to 7 p.m.
Seneca Activity Center
Dayton, Washington

How to comment

All comments are encouraged. Comments will be accepted through August 16, 2010. Of particular interest are observations about the environmental analysis in the draft EIS, and

recommendations for making the project more environmentally friendly while still meeting the need and fulfilling its intended purposes.

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 "Central Ferry-Lower Monumental Transmission Line Project" with your comments. All comments will be posted in their entirety on BPA's website at www.bpa.gov/comment. Comments and responses to them will be made part of the final EIS.

Copies available

If you previously requested the draft EIS, a copy is enclosed for your review. If you would like additional copies of the draft EIS, please call BPA's toll-free document request line at 800-622-4519. Please leave a message naming this project, giving your complete mailing address and requesting the format of documentation (hard copy or CD) you would prefer. The draft EIS can also be viewed at the project website: www.bpa.gov/go/centralferrylomo.

Next Steps

BPA expects to complete and publish the final EIS in early 2011 and then issue a record of decision in spring 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 or would like more information about the project, please call us toll free at 800-622-4519 or e-mail me at tmberry@bpa.gov.

Sincerely,

/s/ Theresa M. Berry

Theresa M. Berry
Project Manager

Enclosure:
Draft EIS, if requested
Comment Form

