



## Department of Energy

Bonneville Power Administration  
P.O. Box 3621  
Portland, Oregon 97208-3621

ENVIRONMENT, FISH AND WILDLIFE

April 4, 2006

In reply refer to: KEC-4

### ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT DETERMINATION

**Proposed Action:** Caribou Substation and Caribou-Lower Valley Transmission Line

**Environmental Project Manager:** Mr. Donald Rose, P.O. Box 3621, KEC-4, Portland, OR 97208-3621, Phone: 503-230-3796, Fax: 503-230-5699, e-mail: [dlrose@bpa.gov](mailto:dlrose@bpa.gov).

**Budget Information:** WO #00172680 and #00177995

**Location:** Soda Springs, Caribou County, Idaho

**Proposed by:** Bonneville Power Administration (BPA), and Lower Valley Energy (LVE).  
Cooperating Agencies are Caribou-Targhee National Forest and Bureau of Land Management.

**Description of the Proposed Action:** BPA would design, build, own, operate and maintain a new 138/115-kV Caribou Substation adjacent to a proposed expansion of an existing Pacificorps' substation, with a spare transformer, metering and communications. BPA would connect to a new 138-kV Point of Delivery (POD) from Pacificorps' Caribou substation for service to LVE.

LVE would finance, design (in cooperation with BPA and landowners), build, own, and maintain a new approximately 20-mile double circuit 115-kV Caribou Tap Transmission Line from Caribou substation to a tap on their transmission system between their Lanes Creek and Valley substations. LVE would work with BPA to acquire all land and rights-of-way for the 115-kV Caribou Tap Transmission Line. BPA would sign a lease arrangement with LVE agreeing to pay 50% of the estimated cost for construction of the line over a 43-year period of the lease. Operation and maintenance rate would be fixed and included in lease payments. LVE would be responsible for operation, maintenance, and upgrades. At the end of the 43-year term, BPA would have a right to any excess capacity above LVE loads, with the right to use and serve other customers with that capacity.

**Class of Action to be Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021):** C4 – Constructing new electric power lines more than approximately 10 miles in length.

We have determined that the proposed action is within the class of actions normally requiring an Environmental Assessment (EA), but not necessarily requiring an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) as listed in Subpart D of 10 C.F.R. Part 1021.

There are no extraordinary circumstances related to the proposal that may affect the significance of the environmental effects of the proposal. Therefore, we have determined that an EA will be prepared to assess the impacts of the proposed action. On the basis of the analysis in the EA, BPA will either prepare a Finding of No Significant Impact and proceed with the action, or will prepare an EIS if the EA reveals the potential for significant environmental impacts.

/s/ Donald L. Rose

Donald L. Rose

Supervisory Environmental Protection Specialist

CONCUR:

/s/ Katherine S. Pierce

Katherine S. Pierce

NEPA Compliance Officer

DATE: April 27, 2006

cc:

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Mr. Rick Knori – Lower Valley Energy

Mr. Jim Webb – Lower Valley Energy

Official File – KEC (EQ-13)

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