



## Department of Energy

Bonneville Power Administration  
P.O. Box 491  
Vancouver, Washington 98666-0491

TRANSMISSION BUSINESS LINE

May 18, 2006

In reply refer to: TNP-TPP-3

### **To: People interested in BPA's Proposed Caribou 138/115-kilovolt Substation and Caribou-Lower Valley 115-kV Transmission Line**

The Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) is proposing to build a Caribou 138/115-kV substation just north of Soda Springs, Idaho, and Lower Valley Energy will construct a double circuit 115-kV transmission line, called Caribou-Lower Valley 115-kV, in Caribou County, Idaho. The new transmission line and substation are needed to improve voltage stability problems on the transmission grid and to meet future load growth in the Jackson Hole area and southeast Idaho. The purpose of this letter is to provide a description of the project, invite you to a public meeting, inform you on how to comment on the proposal and provide contact if you have questions or comments.

#### **Project Description**

BPA is proposing to build, own, operate and maintain a new Caribou 138/115-kV substation adjacent to a proposed construction of a PacifiCorp 345/138-kV substation. At the substation, BPA would connect to a new 138-kV point of delivery from PacifiCorp's substation to provide 115-kV service to Lower Valley Energy. Additionally, BPA is helping Lower Valley Energy site and complete environmental analysis on its proposed Caribou-Lower Valley 115-kV Transmission Line. The 20-mile double-circuit 115-kV line will run from BPA's new Caribou Substation to a tap on the Lower Valley Energy Transmission system between its Lanes Creek and Valley Substations. The proposed route must cross a portion of the Caribou-Targhee National Forest and may impact Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and Idaho state lands, as well as private landowners. Lower Valley Energy would build, own, operate and maintain the new transmission line. Without both of these system improvements, voltage stability problems will occur on the Lower Valley Energy systems by winter 2008.

#### **Public Meeting**

You are invited to attend a public scoping meeting. BPA, Lower Valley Energy and U.S. Forest Service representatives will be available to discuss and answer any questions you may have about the proposed project. Comments will be accepted throughout the meeting. The meeting will be on:

**Tuesday, June 6, 2006**  
5 to 8 p.m.  
Soda Springs Ranger District, conference room  
410 Hooper Avenue  
Soda Springs, Idaho 83276

**Environmental Process and Schedule**

BPA considers potential environmental impacts of the proposed transmission line and substation. In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act, BPA is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) to assess the potential impacts of the construction, operation and maintenance of the proposed line and substation. The U.S. Forest Service and BLM are cooperating agencies on this effort. The agencies will use information collected at the public meetings, comments received during the comment period, and their own assessments to help identify potential environmental impacts.

After the June 6 public meeting, environmental and engineering activities will occur along the proposed transmission line route to determine if the route should be refined based on landowner concerns, present resources and potential impacts. All information gathered will be incorporated into the environmental analysis and made available in a preliminary EA. This document should be available for public review and comment in the winter of 2006. Please return the enclosed post card if you want to receive a copy of the preliminary EA.

BPA and other affected public agencies will consider and respond to comments received on the preliminary EA. Once the environmental review has been completed, the final EA will be released addressing all public comments. In the final EA, a decision will be made whether to build the line and substation. If BPA, Lower Valley Energy and other cooperating agencies decide to permit and build the line, construction could begin as early as summer 2007 and be complete by summer 2008.

**How to Comment**

Scoping comments including what BPA should be studying or considering during its environmental assessment on BPA's Proposed Caribou 138/115-kV Substation and Caribou-Lower Valley 115-kV Transmission Line will be accepted through July 14, 2006. There are a number of ways you can comment. You can provide comments at the public meeting on June 6, 2006. If you prefer to submit your comments in writing, you can mail the enclosed comment form to: Bonneville Power Administration, Public Affairs Office - DKC-7, P.O. Box 14428, Portland, OR, 97293-4428, send an e-mail to [comment@bpa.gov](mailto:comment@bpa.gov), submit your comments on-line at: <http://www.bpa.gov/comment>, or fax them to (503) 230-3285. You can also call us with your comment; toll free at (800) 622-4519. Please note all comments will be posted in their entirety on BPA's external Web.

Please include the name of this project with your comments. If you would like to receive a copy of the preliminary EA, please return the enclosed postcard and specify if you prefer a CD or hard copy of the document.

**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) 622-451, e-mail me at [makorsness@bpa.gov](mailto:makorsness@bpa.gov), or call me at 360-619-6326. Additional project information is available on our Web site at [http://www.transmission.bpa.gov/PlanProj/Transmission\\_Projects/default.cfm?page=CLVE](http://www.transmission.bpa.gov/PlanProj/Transmission_Projects/default.cfm?page=CLVE)

Sincerely,

*/s/ Mark Korsness, May 18, 2006*

Mark Korsness  
Project Manager

Enclosures:  
Project Map  
Reply Card  
Comment Form