



## Department of Energy

Bonneville Power Administration  
P.O. Box 61409  
Vancouver, WA 978666-1409

TRANSMISSION SERVICES

May 28, 2013

In reply refer to: TEP-TPP-1

### **To: People Interested in the Kalispell-Kerr Transmission Line Rebuild Project**

Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) is proposing to rebuild a transmission line in your area. This letter briefly explains what is being proposed, outlines our environmental review process and schedule, and invites you to a meeting where you can learn more and comment on the proposal.

**Proposal** - BPA is proposing to rebuild its 41-mile long 115-kilovolt (kV) wood-pole Kalispell-Kerr transmission line between Kalispell and Polson, Montana; please refer to the enclosed map. The existing wood-pole line was constructed in 1947 and most of the structures are now physically worn. Based on its deteriorated condition, the line needs to be rebuilt in order to maintain reliable electrical service, avoid risks to the public, and ensure worker safety.

The project would include replacing all wood-pole structures and conductor (wires) and improving access roads. Most structures would be replaced with the same size poles in the same locations unless changes are needed for safety or to minimize potential environmental impacts. Access roads would be improved and new access roads may need to be acquired or developed. The transmission line 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 current maintenance practices continue. The EA will describe anticipated impacts to natural and human resources and include mitigation measures that would help avoid or minimize impacts. During this process, BPA will work with landowners, federal, state and local agencies, interest groups, and the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes.

**Public Meetings** –We have scheduled two open house scoping meetings to answer questions and accept comments about the scope of the EA that will be prepared:

**Monday June 17, 2013**

**4 p.m. to 7 p.m.**

North Lake County Public Library  
2 First Avenue East  
Polson, Montana 59860

**Tuesday June 18, 2013**

**4 p.m. to 7 p.m.**

Edgerton Elementary School  
1400 Whitefish Stage  
Kalispell, Montana 59901

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

**How to comment** - Please send comments you may have on the proposal and its impacts by **June 28, 2013** so they may be considered while we draft the EA. When commenting, refer to the Kalispell-Kerr Transmission Line Rebuild Project. Comments will be posted in their entirety on BPA's website at [www.bpa.gov/goto/kalispellkerr](http://www.bpa.gov/goto/kalispellkerr). Choose the way you would like to comment:

**Mail:** Bonneville Power Administration  
Public Affairs – DKE  
P.O. Box 14428  
Portland, OR 97293-4428

**FAX:** 503-230-4019  
**On-Line** [www.bpa.gov/comment](http://www.bpa.gov/comment)  
**E-Mail:** [comment@bpa.gov](mailto:comment@bpa.gov)  
**Call toll-free:** 1-800-622-4519

**Process and Schedule** - Starting this summer, you may see BPA staff or contractors in the area as we 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 line and vegetation maintenance activities may continue to occur along line to keep it safely operating. BPA's proposed schedule for the EA process is as follows:

Preliminary EA available for public comment	Summer 2014
Final EA and Finding of No Significant Impact (if warranted)	Winter 2015
If decision to rebuild, construction begins	Summer 2015

Please indicate on the enclosed postcard whether/how you would like to receive the EA.

**For More Information** - If you have questions regarding the environmental process, please contact the environmental compliance project lead, Justin Moffett, toll-free at 800-282-3713, directly at 503-230-3233 or e-mail [jtmoffett@bpa.gov](mailto:jtmoffett@bpa.gov). If you have other questions or would like more project information, please contact me at the toll-free number, directly at 360-619-6634 or e-mail at [amloran@bpa.gov](mailto:amloran@bpa.gov).

Thank you for your interest in this project.

Sincerely,

*/s/ Amanda Williams*  
Amanda Williams  
Transmission Project Manager

Enclosures:  
Project Map  
Comment Form  
Return Envelope  
Reply Card