



## Department of Energy

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

TRANSMISSION SERVICES

July 29, 2015

In reply refer to: TEP-TPP-1

**To: Parties Interested in the Midway-Moxee Rebuild and Midway-Grandview Upgrade Transmission Line Project**

The Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) has prepared a draft environmental assessment (EA) for our proposed Midway-Moxee Rebuild and Midway-Grandview Upgrade Transmission Line Project (Project). The draft EA describes the Project and why it is needed, describes the existing environment in the Project area, discusses the potential environmental impacts from the Project, and provides mitigation measures that would avoid or minimize those impacts. This letter requests your comments on the draft EA, invites you to a public meeting, and outlines the next steps for the project.

BPA is the lead federal agency for the National Environmental Policy Act review process for the project. The U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is a cooperating agency, as portions of the rights-of-way and access roads for both the Midway-Moxee and Midway-Grandview transmission lines cross BLM-administered lands.

### **Proposal**

BPA is proposing to rebuild its 34-mile long Midway-Moxee transmission line and its 26-mile long Midway-Grandview transmission line. Both lines are 115-kilovolt (kV) wood-pole lines located in Benton and Yakima counties, Washington. The lines were built in the 1940s and are deteriorating due to age and exposure to weather. Both lines need to be rebuilt to ensure reliable electric service.

For both transmission lines, the project would include replacing all wood-pole transmission structures and conductor (wires), improving existing access roads, and creating new access, where needed. Most structures would be taller and would be replaced next to or in their existing location, except where changes are needed to provide adequate clearance between the conductor and the ground or to minimize impacts to agricultural lands. Both lines would continue to operate at 115-kV.

### **Public Meetings**

You are invited to an open-house meeting to ask questions and provide comments on the draft EA that we are currently releasing for public review. Because we do not plan to give a formal presentation, you may come at any time during the meeting.

**Monday, August 24, 2015**  
**Moxee City Hall**  
**4:00 pm to 7:00 pm**  
255 West Seattle Avenue  
Moxee, WA

### How to Comment

Please submit your comments on the draft EA to us by **September 29, 2015** and reference the Midway-Moxee/Midway-Grandview Project. All comments that we receive will be posted in their entirety on our project website below. Choose the way you would like to comment:

**Project website:** [www.bpa.gov/goto/MidMoxGrand](http://www.bpa.gov/goto/MidMoxGrand)

**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

**Online:** [www.bpa.gov/comment](http://www.bpa.gov/comment)

### Next Steps

We will consider all comments submitted during the comment period on the draft EA and provide responses to substantive comments in the final EA. If BPA decides a finding of no significant impact is warranted and decides to implement the proposed project, we would complete and release a final EA, which is expected to be available late 2015 or early 2016.

### Schedule

The expected schedule for the EA process is as follows:

Draft EA available for public comment	July 29 to September 29, 2015
Final EA	Late 2015 to early 2016
Finding of No Significant Impact (If warranted)	Early 2016
If decision to build, construction could start	Fall 2016

### For More Information

You may visit the project website listed above. If you requested a copy of the document, it is enclosed. If you would like a hard copy (about 300 pages), please call our toll-free document request line at 1-800-622-4520. Please leave a message with the project name, your name, and full mailing address.

If you have questions regarding the environmental process, please contact the Project Environmental Protection Specialist, Kimberly St.Hilaire, toll-free at 800-622-4519, directly at 503-230-5361, or by e-mail at [krsthilaire@bpa.gov](mailto:krsthilaire@bpa.gov). If you have other questions or would like more project information, please call me at the toll-free number listed above, directly at 360-619-6557, or by e-mail at [cjhamel@bpa.gov](mailto:cjhamel@bpa.gov).

Thank you for your interest in our work.

Sincerely,

*/s/ Chad Hamel*

Chad Hamel  
BPA Project Manager

### Enclosures

Draft EA  
Comment Form  
Return Envelope  
Reply Card