



## Department of Energy

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

TRANSMISSION SERVICES

January 31, 2014

In reply refer to: TEP-TPP-3

### **To: Parties Interested in the Pacific Direct Current Intertie (PDCI) Upgrade Project**

Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) has prepared a preliminary environmental assessment (EA) for our proposed Pacific Direct Current Intertie (PDCI) Upgrade Project. This letter requests your comments on the EA and outlines the project next steps.

As you may know, BPA is proposing to upgrade equipment on the Celilo-Sylmar 500-kilovolt (kV) transmission line. The line runs from the Celilo converter station in The Dalles, Oregon to the Nevada-Oregon border (265 miles), where BPA's ownership of the 846-mile line terminates. This work would increase the PDCI transfer capability from its current 3100 megawatt (MW) capacity to 3220 MW. The proposed upgrades would improve reliability and performance of the aging direct current line. The project crosses Lake, Jefferson, Crook, Deschutes, and Wasco counties, Oregon.

#### **Draft EA**

The draft EA describes the project and why it is needed, discusses the environmental impacts the project would create, and lists the mitigation measures that would lessen or eliminate those impacts. The EA is available for review and comment; you may access it online at [www.bpa.gov/goto/PDCIupgrade](http://www.bpa.gov/goto/PDCIupgrade), or if you requested a copy of the document, it is enclosed. If you would like a hard copy (about 240 pages), please call our toll-free document request line 1-800-622-4520. Please leave a message with the project name, your name, and complete mailing address.

#### **How to Comment**

Please send comments you have on the EA by **March 3, 2014**. All comments will be posted in their entirety on the project website. There are several ways to submit comment:

<b>Mail:</b>	Bonneville Power Administration Public Affairs – DKE-7 P.O. Box 14428 Portland, OR 97291-4428	<b>Toll-free:</b>	1-800-622-4519
		<b>FAX:</b>	503-230-4019
		<b>E-mail:</b>	<a href="http://www.bpa.gov/comment">www.bpa.gov/comment</a>

#### **Next Steps**

We will consider all comments submitted during the comment period and provide responses to substantial comments in the final EA. If BPA decides to implement the proposed project, the final EA and a Finding of No Significant Impact would likely be available in May 2014.

**For More Information**

You may visit the project website at [www.bpa.gov/goto/PDCIupgrade](http://www.bpa.gov/goto/PDCIupgrade). If you have questions regarding the environmental process, please contact the environmental project lead, Carolyn Sharp, at 503-230-7692, or by e-mail at [casharp@bpa.gov](mailto:casharp@bpa.gov). If you would like more project information, please call me at 360-619-6398, or [etorth@bpa.gov](mailto:etorth@bpa.gov). You can also reach us toll free at 1-800-622-4519. Thank you for your interest in our work.

Sincerely,

*/s/ Erich T. Orth*

Erich T. Orth

Project Manager

**Enclosures: (if requested)**

Draft EA

Comment Form

Return envelope