



## Department of Energy

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

TRANSMISSION SERVICES

August 15, 2014

In reply refer to: TEP-TPP-3

### **To: People interested in the Pacific Direct Current Intertie Upgrade Project**

Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) has finalized the environmental assessment (EA) for the Pacific Direct Current Intertie (PDCI) Upgrade Project. Based on the final EA, BPA is issuing a finding of no significant impact (FONSI) and has made a decision to proceed with the project. This letter describes BPA's decision, the construction schedule, and how to obtain additional information.

**Background:** BPA will upgrade aging equipment on the Celilo-Sylmar 500-kilovolt transmission line 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 DC line. The project crosses Lake, Jefferson, Crook, Deschutes, and Wasco counties, Oregon.

BPA prepared an EA to help the agency determine if the Proposed Action would cause significant impacts that would warrant preparing an environmental impact statement. BPA released the draft EA for public review and comment in January 2014 and received comments from thirteen entities. The final EA provides responses to those comments and minor revisions to the EA. Based on the EA analysis and mitigation measures to help lessen impacts, BPA has found that the Proposed Action will not cause any significant impacts and, therefore, an environmental impact statement will not be prepared.

**Decision:** BPA has decided to proceed with the Proposed Action. At this time, BPA will begin implementing all of the transmission line upgrades and associated access roadwork as described in the final EA with the exception of installation of the four new dead-end structures on BPA right-of-way that crosses land managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). BPA is continuing to coordinate with BLM regarding requirements for authorizing these structures and may decide to install those structures at a later date. For the rest of the Proposed Action, project construction is expected to begin in July 2014 and continue through November 2016, with breaks in construction during seasonal restrictions.

**For More Information:** The final EA, FONSI, and mitigation action plan are enclosed if you previously requested them. If you did not receive a copy of any of these documents and would like one, please call our toll-free document request line at 1-800-622-4520. Leave a request naming this project and giving your name and complete mailing address. It is also available on BPA's website at [www.bpa.gov/goto/PDCIupgrade](http://www.bpa.gov/goto/PDCIupgrade).

Sincerely,

*/s/ Erich T. Orth*  
Erich T. Orth  
BPA Project Manager

**Enclosures (if requested):**  
Final EA  
FONSI/Mitigation Action Plan