



Fact Sheet

August 2013

Proposed Montana-to-Washington Transmission System Upgrade Project

Moving energy from east to west

The Bonneville Power Administration is proposing to upgrade parts of its existing transmission system in Montana, Idaho and Washington. The purpose is to increase available transmission capacity from BPA's Garrison Substation in Western Montana to power markets west of the Cascades that serve the entire Northwest.

The proposed upgrades consist of reinforcements to several existing BPA substations; the construction of a new substation along existing transmission lines between St. Regis and Missoula, Mont.; and the reconductor of 12 miles of the Dworshak-Taft No. 1 500-kV line in Montana and Idaho. Reinforcements would occur at the Garrison and Hot Springs substations in Montana, the Dworshak and Hatwai substations in Idaho, and Bell Substation in Washington.

Why is a new project necessary?

In 2010, BPA conducted a Network Open Season process to identify new requests for long-term transmission service. We found that there was not enough available transmission capacity to accommodate all requests for long-term service. BPA is required by its Open Access Transmission Tariff to provide transmission access to eligible customers. As a result of new transmission service requests, BPA is proposing this project.

Environmental review schedule

BPA initiated the environmental review for the project in May 2012 and will prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) on the construction, operation and maintenance of the proposed project. Environmental work is expected to be complete in fall 2015, with a final decision about the proposed transmission system upgrades and new substation documented in a Record of Decision that will follow the final EIS.

BPA involves the public in decision making because we believe this results in better decisions and fulfills our responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act. For more information on the project visit: www.bpa.gov/go/M2W or call toll free 800-622-4519.

Who is BPA?

Bonneville Power Administration is a nonprofit federal agency that provides about a third of the electric power and 75 percent of the high-voltage electric transmission in the Pacific Northwest. We provide the Pacific Northwest low cost, reliable, environmentally responsible electricity. We are accountable to the people of the Northwest and work collaboratively with residents, utilities, elected officials and other stakeholders to meet the region's electricity needs.





Montana to Washington Transmission System Upgrade Project



Legend

- Project Related BPA Substation
- BPA Transmission Line
- Proposed Compensation Station Zone
- Dworshak-Taft Line Upgrade Locations
- USFS Forest Boundary
- Indian Reservation
- National Park

