



Department of Energy

Bonneville Power Administration
P.O. Box 3621
Portland, Oregon 97208-3621

ENVIRONMENT, FISH AND WILDLIFE

June 15, 2023

In reply refer to: ECT-4

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT DETERMINATION

Proposed Action: Shelton-Fairmount Transmission Line Rebuild and Fiber Optic System Replacement Project

Environmental Project Manager: Michael J. O'Connell, ECT-4, 503-230-7692, mjoconnell@bpa.gov

Location: Shelton, Washington; Clallam, Jefferson, Kitsap, Mason, and Thurston Counties, Washington.

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA)

Description of the Proposed Action: BPA proposes to rebuild the 60-mile-long Shelton-Fairmount 115-kilovolt (kV) wood pole transmission line. The existing line extends from the Shelton Substation in Mason County, Washington through Mason and Jefferson counties to the Fairmount Substation in Jefferson County, Washington. The line is the sole point of service for multiple 115-kV substations/customers along the Hood Canal including Potlatch Substation, Duckabush Substation (Mason PUD 1), and Quilcene Substation. The Shelton-Fairmount line was built in 1949 and is nearing the end of its service life, and is experiencing performance issues due to its age, poor grounding, and overall condition. The line needs to be rebuilt to ensure reliable electric service, and the public's and workers' safety.

The project would include rebuilding most of the existing wood pole structures and replacing conductors (wires), groundwire and the associated hardware. There would also be a need to add new structures at several new locations. Overhead ground wire, disconnect switches, and fiber optic cable would also be replaced. Fiber optic cable replacement would extend a total of about 107 miles from the Olympia Substation in Thurston County, Washington at the southern project limit to the Port Angeles Substation in Clallam County, Washington at the northern limit.

Class of Action to be Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021): C4. Upgrading, Rebuilding, or Construction of Powerlines.

BPA has determined that the proposed action is within the class of actions normally requiring an environmental assessment (EA), but not necessarily requiring an environmental impact statement (EIS) as listed in Subpart D of 10 C.F.R. Part 1021. Therefore, an EA will be prepared to assess the impacts of the proposed action. On the basis of the analysis in the EA, BPA will prepare a finding of no significant impact and proceed with the action, or will prepare an EIS if the EA reveals the potential for significant environmental impacts.

Katey C. Grange
NEPA Compliance Officer