



## Department of Energy

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

TRANSMISSION SERVICES

March 23, 2022

In reply refer to: TEPF-TPP-1

### **To: People interested in the Shelton-Fairmount No. 1 Transmission Line Rebuild Project**

Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) is proposing to rebuild an existing transmission line and replace an aerial fiber optic cable system in your area. This letter explains what is being proposed, outlines our anticipated environmental review process and schedule, and requests your comments.

**Proposal:** BPA is proposing to rebuild its existing 60-mile-long Shelton-Fairmount No. 1 115-kilovolt (kV) wood pole transmission line, which extends from BPA's Shelton Substation in Mason County, Washington to BPA's Fairmount Substation in Jefferson County, Washington (see enclosed project map). The line is the sole point of service for multiple 115-kV substations/customers along the Hood Canal including Potlatch Substation, Duckabush Substation (Mason Public Utility District 1), and Quilcene Substation. The Shelton-Fairmount No. 1 line was built in 1949 and is nearing the end of its service life. It is experiencing performance issues due to its age, its poor grounding, and its overall condition. The line needs to be rebuilt to ensure reliable electric service and the safety of the public and transmission workers.

The proposed rebuild project would include rebuilding most of the existing wood pole structures along the line and replacing conductors (the transmission wires), overhead ground-wire and all associated hardware, as well as disconnect switching facilities. New structures would also be added at some locations along the line, and access roads along the line would be upgraded or repaired where needed to accommodate construction vehicles.

The proposed project would also involve the replacement of existing fiber optic cable along about 107 miles of existing BPA transmission lines, including the Shelton-Fairmount No. 1 line (see project map). In addition to replacing the fiber optic cable on the Shelton-Fairmount No. 1 line, fiber optic cable would be replaced on existing BPA transmission lines from BPA's Olympia Substation in Thurston County, Washington to the Shelton Substation, and from the Fairmount Substation to BPA's Port Angeles Substation in Clallam County, Washington. Access roads associated with the fiber optic cable replacement in the Olympia to Shelton and the Fairmount to Port Angeles sections would be upgraded or repaired where needed to accommodate replacement activities.

**Environmental Review:** To understand the potential environmental impacts of this proposal, BPA may prepare an environmental assessment (EA). If BPA determines that an EA should be prepared, the EA will describe anticipated impacts to natural and human resources and include mitigation measures that would help avoid or minimize impacts. **We are asking for your comments to help determine the issues that should be addressed in the environmental review.** During this process, BPA will work

with Federal, state, and local agencies, Tribes, potentially affected landowners, and other interest groups. The proposed schedule for the environmental review process is as follows:

EA determination (if warranted)	Summer 2022
Draft EA available for public comment (if warranted)	Fall 2022
Final EA (if warranted)	Spring 2023
Finding of No Significant Impact (if warranted)	Spring 2023
If decision to build, construction start	Spring 2024

**How to Comment:** Please send your comments by **Friday, April 22** and reference the Shelton-Fairmount No. 1 Transmission Line Rebuild Project. All comments will be available on the project website at <https://www.bpa.gov/environmental-initiatives/efw/project-reviews/shelton-fairmount-no-1-transmission-line-rebuild-project>. There are several ways to comment:

<b>Mail:</b> Bonneville Power Administration Public Affairs – DKE-7 P.O. Box 14428 Portland, OR 97291-4428	<b>Toll-free:</b> 800-622-4519 <b>FAX:</b> 503-230-4019
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**Online:** <https://publiccomments.bpa.gov/OpenCommentListing.aspx>

**For More Information:** BPA staff or contractors are already in the area conducting engineering and environmental surveys. If we need to enter property where we do not have existing access rights, we have contacted or will contact property owners for permission through a separate mailing. Please note that separate from this process, regular line and vegetation maintenance activities may continue to occur along the line to keep it safely operating.

If you have questions regarding the environmental process, please contact the Environmental Protection Specialist, Mike O’Connell, toll-free at 800-622-4519, directly at 503-230-7692, or by e-mail at [mjoconnell@bpa.gov](mailto:mjoconnell@bpa.gov).

If you have other questions or would like more project information, please call Scott Lissit, Project Manager, at the toll-free number listed above, directly at 503-230-5057, or by e-mail at [salissit@bpa.gov](mailto:salissit@bpa.gov).

Thank you for your interest in this project.

Sincerely,

/s/ Emmanuel Jaramillo  
Emmanuel Jaramillo  
Supervisory Project Management Officer

Enclosures:  
Project Map  
Comment Form  
Return Envelope