



Department of Energy

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

TRANSMISSION SERVICES

July 12, 2011

In reply refer to: TEP-TPP-1

To: Parties Interested in the Big Eddy-Knight Transmission Project

The Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) has completed the final environmental impact statement (EIS) for our proposed Big Eddy-Knight Transmission Project in Wasco County, Oregon and Klickitat County, Washington. The final EIS describes the proposed project and the environmental effects expected from construction, operation, and maintenance of the new transmission line, substation facilities and fiber optic cable. The proposed project would increase the transfer capability of our transmission system so we can respond to requests for transmission service in the region.

Last December, BPA released the draft EIS and asked for your comments. We also held two public meetings. Copies of all comments we received on the draft EIS, and our written responses to those comments are included in the final EIS.

Final EIS

The final EIS is a three volume document that describes the proposed project and why it is needed, identifies BPA's preferred alternative, discusses the environmental impacts the project would create and lists the mitigation measures that would lessen or eliminate those impacts. It also describes project revisions and addresses comments received on the draft EIS.

The changes between the draft and final EIS are shown in red underline in Volume 1 of the EIS. The Appendices are located in Volume 2. Copies of all comments received on the draft EIS and our written responses to those comments are in Volume 3 of the EIS.

The final EIS is available online at www.bpa.gov/go/BEK. If you requested a copy of the document, it is enclosed. If you are interested in receiving a hard copy (three volumes, about 1000 pages total) or a compact disc with an electronic copy of the document, please call our toll-free document request line at (800) 622-4520. Please leave a message with your name, complete mailing address and phone number. Remember to reference the "Big Eddy-Knight Transmission Project."

Next Steps

With the final EIS complete, we will next produce a Record of Decision (ROD) that documents BPA's decision about whether to proceed with the project and, if so, which alternative is selected. BPA plans to issue the ROD in late summer 2011. If you received the final EIS, you will also receive the ROD when it is completed unless you request otherwise.

If BPA decides to build the project, construction activities could begin in fall 2011 after all necessary permits and approvals are obtained, and be completed by early 2013.

For more information

BPA is committed to providing reliable, low-cost transmission products and services to the region while minimizing environmental impacts. If you have questions regarding the environmental process, please contact our environmental project lead, Stacy Mason, toll-free at (800) 282-3713, direct at (503) 230-5455, or e-mail at slmason@bpa.gov. If you have other questions or would like more project information, please call me, Emmanuel Jaramillo, at the toll-free number above or directly at (360) 619-6116; or e-mail ejaramillo@bpa.gov.

For general project information, please visit our project website: www.bpa.gov/go/BEK. Thank you for your interest in this proposed project.

Sincerely,

/s/ Emmanuel Jaramillo

Emmanuel Jaramillo
Project Manager

Enclosure:
FEIS (if requested) Volumes 1-3, or
Fact Sheet