



Department of Energy

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

ENVIRONMENT, FISH AND WILDLIFE

November 3, 2020

In reply refer to: EC-4

To: People Interested in the East Fork Irrigation District Modernization Project

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has finalized the Watershed Plan Environmental Assessment (Plan-EA) for the East Fork Irrigation District Modernization Project. Based on the final Plan-EA, BPA is proposing to adopt the Plan-EA and is issuing a finding of no significant impact (FONSI) and 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 would fund a portion of the project to improve the Eastside Lateral Pipeline in Hood River, Oregon, part of the East Fork Irrigation District's distribution infrastructure. The project would convert the open irrigation canals to closed, pressurized irrigation infrastructure to improve the efficiency of the irrigation district.

NRCS, in cooperation with BPA, prepared a Plan-EA to help determine if the project would cause significant impacts that would warrant preparing an environmental impact statement. NRCS, in cooperation with BPA, released the draft Plan-EA for public review and comment in January 2020 and received 27 comments. The final Plan-EA responses to those comments and the revised Plan-EA were released with NRCS' FONSI in July 2020. Based on the Plan-EA analysis and mitigation measures to help lessen impacts, BPA has found that the project would not cause any significant impacts and, therefore, an environmental impact statement will not be prepared.

BPA Decision: BPA decided to fund improvements to the Eastside Lateral Pipeline, which is a portion of the East Fork Irrigation District Modernization Project. Project construction is expected to begin in Fall 2020 and continue through Fall 2024, with breaks in construction during seasonal restrictions.

Copies Available: The final Plan-EA, NRCS and BPA FONSI and mitigation action plan are available on BPA's project website at <https://www.bpa.gov/efw/Analysis/NEPADocuments/Pages/East-Fork-Irrigation-District-Modernization-Project.aspx>. If you previously requested a copy of the documents, they are enclosed. If you would like to obtain paper copies of these documents, please call our toll-free document request line at 1-800-622-4520. Please leave a voicemail with your name, the project's name and your complete mailing address.

For More Information: If you have any questions regarding the environmental process, please contact me at 503-230-5564 or email at cjhamel@bpa.gov; or Israel Duran, Contract Environmental Protection Specialist, Salient/CRGT, at induran@bpa.gov, or 503-230-3967.

Thank you for your interest in our work.

Sincerely,

/s/ Chad J. Hamel

Chad J. Hamel

Supervisory Environmental Protection Specialist

Enclosures (if requested):

Final Plan-EA

FONSI and Mitigation Action Plan