



## Department of Energy

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

### TRANSMISSION SERVICES

June 29, 2012

In reply refer to: TEP-TPP-3

#### To: **Parties Interested in the Midway-Benton No. 1 Transmission Line Rebuild Project**

The Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) proposes to rebuild the Midway-Benton No.1 and approximately 11 miles of the Benton-Othello No. 1 115-kilovolt (kV) transmission lines located in Benton County, Washington. No major work has been done on these transmission lines since they were built in the 1940's. Many of the structures, the conductor (electric wires), and associated structural components (cross arms, insulators, and dampers) are physically worn and structurally unsound in places. These transmission lines have lasted beyond their expected service life, and now need to be replaced. Based on the deteriorated condition of these transmission lines, BPA is proposing to rebuild these lines to maintain reliable electrical service and to ensure public and worker safety.

In November 2011, BPA began soliciting public input on the proposed project as required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). We contacted interested parties and requested comments on the proposed project. Since that time, BPA conducted an environmental review of the proposal and prepared a preliminary environmental assessment (EA) that is informed by the comments and opinions that were received. The preliminary EA evaluates the impacts associated with the Proposed Action and its alternatives and describes proposed mitigation measures that could be used to avoid or minimize those impacts.

We invite you to review and comment on the preliminary EA and have included information on how to submit your comments. A copy of the EA is enclosed with this letter if you requested it during the scoping period. If you did not, but would like to receive a copy, you can request one by calling 800-622-4520. The EA is also available online at [www.bpa.gov/go/MidwayBentonRebuild](http://www.bpa.gov/go/MidwayBentonRebuild).

**How to Comment** - BPA is accepting comments on the preliminary EA through **July 23, 2012**. You may submit comments online at [www.bpa.gov/comment](http://www.bpa.gov/comment); via mail to Bonneville Power Administration, Public Affairs Office - DKE-7, P.O. Box 14428, Portland, Oregon, 97293-4428; or by fax to 503-230-4019. You also may call us with your comment toll free at 800-622-4519. Please reference "Midway-Benton No. 1 Transmission Line Rebuild Project" in your comments. BPA will post all comments in their entirety on the project's website.

BPA will produce a final EA in the fall of 2012. Based on the analysis in the final EA, BPA will either prepare a Finding of No Significant Impact or prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) if there is the potential for significant environmental impacts.

**For More Information** - If you have questions regarding the environmental process, please contact the environmental project lead, Katey Grange, toll free at 800-282-3713; directly at 503-230-4047; or by e-mail at [kcgrange@bpa.gov](mailto:kcgrange@bpa.gov). If you have other questions or would like more project information, you may contact me toll free at 800-622-4519; directly by e-mail at [etorth@bpa.gov](mailto:etorth@bpa.gov); or by telephone at 360-619-6559.

Thank you for your interest in this project.

Sincerely,

*/s/ Erich Orth*

Erich Orth  
Project Manager

Enclosures:

Comment Form

Midway-Benton No. 1 Transmission Line Rebuild Project Preliminary EA (if you requested a copy)

Postage-paid Envelope