



Department of Energy

Bonneville Power Administration
P.O. Box 491
Vancouver, Washington 98666-0491

TRANSMISSION SERVICES

February 4, 2013

In reply refer to: TEP-TPP-3

To: Parties Interested in the BPA Midway-Moxee Transmission Line Rebuild Project

Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) is proposing to rebuild a transmission line in your area. This letter briefly explains what is being proposed, outlines the environmental review process and schedule, and invites you to a meeting where you can learn more and comment on the proposal.

Proposal - BPA proposes to rebuild the existing Midway-Moxee 115-kilovolt (kV) transmission line in Benton and Yakima Counties, Washington (see the enclosed map). The 34-mile long transmission line begins at BPA's Midway Substation and ends at BPA's Moxee Substation in Moxee, about five miles east of Yakima. This proposed project is separate and independent of other utility projects currently being proposed in your area.

Rebuilding this transmission line would enable BPA to continue to provide reliable electric power to local utilities. The rebuild is needed because the transmission line, which was built in the early 1940's, shows normal deterioration due to age. The original conductor has not been replaced and does not meet current utility standards. The rebuilt transmission line would continue to operate at 115-kV.

The project would include replacing transmission line components, including wood-pole transmission structures, associated structural components, and electrical wires (conductor). Wood poles would be removed and replaced with structures of similar design within or near to their existing locations. Some existing access roads would need to be improved to provide access for construction equipment. Some new access roads may be needed to reach structures for which BPA does not have adequate access.

Public Meeting - We will soon start to assess the potential environmental impacts of the proposed project and would like to hear from you during the scoping process. BPA is currently accepting comments related to the scope of the environmental analysis. The initial comment period begins February 4 and ends March 8, 2013. Please share your concerns and information you may have related to the project area or proposal.

Please join us at the following public scoping meeting:

Wednesday, February 20, 2013
4 p.m. – 7 p.m.
Moxee City Hall
255 West Seattle Avenue
Moxee, WA

At the meeting, members of the BPA project team will be available to listen to you and record your suggestions and concerns. Because we do not plan to give a formal presentation at the meeting, please come at any time convenient for you between 4 p.m. and 7 p.m.

Ways to Comment - If you cannot attend the meeting, you can still submit comments. You may submit comments to BPA online at: www.bpa.gov/comment, return the enclosed comment form or other written correspondence in the postage-paid envelope provided, or fax your comments to (503) 230-4019. You also may call us with your comments toll free at (800) 622-4519. **Please submit scoping comments to us by March 8, 2013 and reference “Midway-Moxee Rebuild Project” on your comments.** We will post all comments we receive on our website at www.bpa.gov/comment.

Process and Schedule – Starting this spring, you may see BPA staff or contractors in the area as they conduct engineering and environmental surveys. If we need to enter property where we do not have existing access rights, we will contact property owners for permission through a separate mailing.

The information we gather in our environmental studies will be published in a preliminary Environmental Assessment (EA) that we expect to release for public review and comment in late 2013 or early 2014. If you would like to receive a copy of the preliminary EA, please indicate on the enclosed postcard whether you prefer a hard copy or CD and if you would like to receive it by regular or electronic mail. If you would like to be taken off the project mailing list, please mark the box on the postcard. If you do not return the postcard, you will still receive notice when the preliminary EA is available.

BPA is planning to produce a final EA for the project in 2014. Based on the analysis in the final EA, BPA will either prepare a Finding of No Significant Impact and decide whether to proceed with the project, or will prepare an Environmental Impact Statement if there is the potential for significant environmental impacts. If the decision is made to rebuild the transmission line, construction could begin in fall 2014.

For more information on the project please go to BPA’s project Web site at: http://efw.bpa.gov/environmental_services/Document_Library/Midway-Moxee/. If you have questions regarding the environmental process, please contact the environmental project lead, Kimberly St.Hilaire, toll-free at (800) 282-3713, directly at (503) 230-5361 or e-mail krsthilaire@bpa.gov. If you have other questions or would like more project information, please call me, Chad Hamel, at the toll-free number, directly at (360) 619-6557 or e-mail cjhamel@bpa.gov. Thank you for your interest in this project.

Sincerely,

/s/ Chad Hamel

Chad Hamel
Project Manager

Enclosures:
Project map
Comment form
Reply card
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