



Department of Energy

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

ENVIRONMENT, FISH AND WILDLIFE

May 18, 2012

In reply refer to: KEC-4

**To: Parties Interested in the Montana-to-Washington Transmission System Upgrade Project*
Project Update for Washington**

You recently received a letter from the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) which informed you that BPA is proposing to upgrade parts of its existing transmission system in Montana, Idaho, and Washington as a result of recent requests for transmission service. This letter briefly explains what activities BPA would perform within the State of Washington if this Project were approved. *(These proposed activities are explained below and correspond to the Bell Substation figure that is enclosed).* This letter also outlines our upcoming public meetings in your area; and, the announcement of an extended comment period regarding this proposed Project. Also enclosed is a Project Fact Sheet that outlines the entire Project proposal and includes an overall Project map.

BPA Activities within the State of Washington. Within the State of Washington, the BPA facilities that would require a change in their existing footprint only include the Bell Substation in Spokane County, Washington. At Bell Substation, as seen in the enclosed figure, BPA would expand the existing substation yard by 4-5 acres in order to install new series and shunt capacitors. These new capacitors would assist this and other BPA facilities to handle the increased transmission capacity by maintaining required voltage levels.

Public Meetings. BPA will soon start to assess the potential environmental impacts of the proposed alternatives, and we would like to hear from you. What questions do you have? What resources should we analyze? Do you have information or concerns about specific areas? BPA is seeking public input and we have extended our comment period through July 2nd, 2012. We have also scheduled the following open-house scoping meeting in your area to hear your input and accept comments related to the scope of the EIS that will be prepared:

May 23, 2012

5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Linwood Elementary School

906 West Weile Avenue

Spokane, WA 99208

We do not plan to give a formal presentation, so you may come any time during any of the meetings. Several members of the project team will be available to answer your questions and listen to your ideas.

** Please note that this proposed Project was formerly known as the Colstrip Upgrade Project or "CUP West."*

How to Comment. If you are unable to attend the upcoming meeting, you can still comment. Comments may be submitted online at www.bpa.gov/comment, or you may call us with your comments toll free at (800) 622-4519, or you may also fax your comments to (503) 230-4019. Please submit comments to us by **July 2nd, 2012**, and reference the “Montana-to-Washington Transmission System Upgrade Project” with your comments. We will post all comments we receive on our website at www.bpa.gov/comment.

For More Information. To find out more about the proposed Project, other public meetings, or general information, please go to BPA’s project website at www.bpa.gov/go/M2W.

If you have questions regarding the environmental process, please contact me directly toll-free at (800) 282-3713, directly at (503) 230-4145, or by e-mail at ammontano@bpa.gov. If you have other questions or would like more Project-specific information, please contact Amit Sinha at the toll-free number listed above, directly at (360) 619-6178, or e-mail at axsinha@bpa.gov.

Thank you for your interest in this project.

Sincerely,

/s/ Andrew M. Montañó

Andrew M. Montañó
Environmental Project Manager

Enclosures:
Figure of Bell Substation
Project Fact Sheet