



Department of Energy

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

TRANSMISSION SERVICES

June 2, 2009

In reply refer to: TEP-TPP-3

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

Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) is proposing to build a new transmission line and substation that could affect you. This letter briefly explains what is being proposed, outlines our environmental review process and schedule, and invites you to meetings where you can learn more and comment on the proposal.

Proposal - BPA is proposing to construct a 500-kilovolt line from BPA's Big Eddy Substation in The Dalles, Oregon to a proposed substation (Knight Substation) that would be located under existing BPA transmission lines about 4 miles northwest of Goldendale, Washington. (Please see the enclosed map.) The proposed project is needed to increase the electrical capacity of our lines in response to requests for transmission service in this area.

We are presently considering three routing alternatives and a no action alternative for the proposed project. The routing alternatives for the transmission line range from about 26 to 28 miles long. Portions of all three routes parallel existing BPA lines in the area, and cross both private and state lands. All alternative routes cross the Columbia River and are partially located in the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area. Two substation sites are also being considered.

To understand the potential impacts of this proposal, BPA will prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed project. During this process, we will be working with the Washington and Oregon energy facility siting councils, as well as with other federal, state and local agencies, landowners, interest groups, and tribes.

Public Meetings - We 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? Are there other routes we should consider? We have scheduled two public scoping meetings to hear your ideas and accept comments related to the scope of the EIS that will be prepared:

Tuesday, June 30, 2009

4 - 7 p.m.

Shilo Inn Suites Hotel - The Dalles
3223 Bret Clodfelter Way
The Dalles, OR 97058

Wednesday, July 1, 2009

4 - 7 p.m.

Goldendale High School
525 E. Simcoe Drive
Goldendale, WA 98620

We do not plan to give a formal presentation at the meetings, so come anytime between 4 and 7 p.m. Several members of the project team will be available to answer your questions and listen to your ideas.

Other Ways to Comment - If you cannot come to one of the meetings, you can still comment. Please submit comments to us by **July 21, 2009**. 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) 230-3285. You also may call us with your comments toll free at (800) 622-4519. Please reference “Big Eddy-Knight Transmission Project” with your comments. We will post all comments we receive on our Web site at www.bpa.gov/comment.

Process and Schedule - Starting this summer you may see BPA staff or contractors in the area as they work to refine possible routes and conduct environmental surveys. If we need to enter property where we do not have existing access, we will contact property owners for permission through a separate mailing in the next 2 weeks.

The information we gather in our environmental studies will be published in a draft EIS that will be available for review and comment in spring 2010. If you would like to receive a copy of the draft EIS, please indicate on the enclosed form whether 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 form. If you do not return the form, you will still receive notice when the draft EIS is available.

The environmental review process will likely take about 2 years, with a decision on whether and how to proceed with the project expected by spring 2011.

For More Information - To find out more about the project please go to BPA’s Web site http://www.efw.bpa.gov/environmental_services/nepadocs.aspx, and click on “Project Reviews – Active,” “Big Eddy-Knight Transmission Project.”

If you have questions regarding the environmental process, please contact the environmental project lead, Stacy Mason, toll-free at (800) 282-3713, or at (503) 230-5455; or by e-mail slmason@bpa.gov. If you have other questions or would like more project information, please call me, Steve Prickett, at the toll-free number or directly at (360) 619-6379; or e-mail slprickett@bpa.gov.

Thank you for your interest in this project.

Sincerely,

/s/ Steve Prickett

Steve Prickett
Project Manager

Enclosures:
Project Map
Comment Form
Return Envelope