



## Department of Energy

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

TRANSMISSION SERVICES

February 27, 2013

In reply refer to: TEP-TPP-3

### **To: Parties interested in the Hooper Springs Transmission Project**

You are invited to review and comment on the draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for Bonneville Power Administration's (BPA) Hooper Springs Transmission Project in Caribou County, Idaho. The draft EIS describes the proposed project and the environmental effects expected from construction, operation, and maintenance of the proposed transmission lines and substation. The project is needed to improve voltage stability on the transmission grid to meet future load growth in southeast Idaho and northwestern Wyoming. Public comments on the draft EIS will help BPA refine the environmental analysis and decide whether to build the project. This letter includes information that will help you comment on the draft EIS, invites you to a public meeting and outlines the project's next steps.

#### **Project Proposal**

The new transmission line would extend from the proposed Hooper Springs Substation, near the city of Soda Springs, Idaho, to a proposed BPA connection facility that would connect with Lower Valley Energy's (LVE) existing transmission system in northeastern Caribou County, a distance of about 22 to 32 miles depending on the routing alternative. BPA also would construct an approximately 0.5-mile-long transmission line between the proposed Hooper Springs Substation and PacifiCorp's existing Threemile Knoll Substation to connect the electrical facilities to the regional transmission grid.

BPA is considering two routing alternatives for the proposed line from the Hooper Springs Substation to the connection with the LVE transmission system: a North Alternative, including two route options and a South Alternative, including four route options. BPA is also considering a no-action alternative, that is, BPA would not build the transmission line. BPA has not identified a preferred alternative at this time.

#### **Public Meeting**

You are also invited to an open house public meeting on this project. During the meeting, BPA's Project Manager will present an overview of the proposed project. This will be followed by an oral comment period. Additionally, members of the project team will be available to take your comments on the draft EIS and answer any other questions you may have. The meeting will be held:

**Wednesday, April 3, 2013, 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.**

Project Overview Presentation, 5:15-5:30  
Oral Comment Period, 5:30-6:30

Soda Springs High School  
300 E 1st N.  
Soda Springs, Idaho

**How to Comment**

All comments on the draft EIS are encouraged. Please send any comments you may have by **April 22, 2013** so they may be considered in our decision on this project. When commenting, please refer to this project title: “Hooper Springs Transmission Project”. All comments will be posted in their entirety on BPA’s website at [www.bpa.gov/comment](http://www.bpa.gov/comment). Comments and responses to them will be made part of the final EIS.

Choose the way you would like to comment:

**Mail** comments to Bonneville Power Administration

Public Affairs – DKC-7

P.O. Box 14428

Portland, OR 97293-4428

**FAX** comments to 503-230-4019

**On-Line** submit comments at [www.bpa.gov/comment](http://www.bpa.gov/comment)

**E-Mail** comments to [comment@bpa.gov](mailto:comment@bpa.gov)

**Copies Available**

If you previously requested a hardcopy of the draft EIS, a copy is enclosed for your review. If you would like additional copies of the draft EIS, please call BPA’s toll-free document request line at 800-622-4519. Please leave a message naming this project, giving your complete mailing address and requesting the format of documentation (hard copy or CD) you would prefer. The draft EIS can also be viewed at the project website: [http://efw.bpa.gov/environmental\\_services/Document\\_Library/HooperSprings](http://efw.bpa.gov/environmental_services/Document_Library/HooperSprings).

**Next Steps**

We will consider all comments submitted during the comment period. We will also continue to work with federal, state, regional, and local agencies, tribes, landowners and interest groups. All comments and our responses to comments will be published in the final EIS. The final EIS will include any changes to our proposal or analysis. BPA expects to complete and publish the final EIS in fall 2013. We will then issue a record of decision in late fall 2013 that will explain BPA’s decision about whether to build the project.

**For More Information**

BPA is committed to providing reliable, low-cost transmission products and services to the region while minimizing environmental impacts. If you have questions or would like more information about the project, please call us toll free at 800-622-4519 or e-mail me at [etorth@bpa.gov](mailto:etorth@bpa.gov). Thank you for your interest in this project.

Sincerely,

*/s/ Erich T. Orth*

Erich T. Orth  
Project Manager

Enclosures:  
Draft EIS, if requested  
Comment Form  
Return Envelope