



Department of Energy

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

TRANSMISSION SERVICES

June 30, 2010

In reply refer to: TEP-TPP-3

To: People interested in BPA's proposed Hooper Springs Project

The Bonneville Power Administration is proposing to build a new 115-kilovolt (kV) transmission line and a new 138/115-kV substation, called Hooper Springs Substation in Caribou County, Idaho. The new transmission line and substation are needed to improve voltage stability on the transmission grid and to meet future load growth in southeast Idaho and the Jackson Hole area. BPA originally announced this project in 2006. Since then, the proposed transmission line route has changed. This letter describes the revised project, invites you to a public meeting, and informs you how to comment on the proposal or contact BPA if you have questions.

Project Description

BPA is proposing to build, own, operate and maintain a new Hooper Springs Substation adjacent to PacifiCorp's Threemile Knoll substation. BPA is considering three alternatives for the path of the new transmission line that would connect the new Hooper Springs Substation to another point on the Lower Valley Energy transmission system (see enclosed map for alternatives). The proposed routes cross a portion of the Caribou-Targhee National Forest (USFS) and may also impact Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and Idaho state lands, as well as private landowners. BPA will complete an environmental impact statement (EIS) to document our review of proposed alternatives for this project. Without these system improvements, the Lower Valley Energy and Fall River Rural Electric Cooperative electrical systems would experience problems with voltage stability which could risk reliability.

Public Meeting

You are invited to attend a public scoping meeting. BPA representatives will be available to talk about the project and answer any questions you have about the proposal. Comments also will be accepted during the meeting on:

Thursday, July 29, 2010, 5 to 7 p.m.

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

How to Comment

BPA is requesting comments about potential environmental impacts that we should consider as we prepares the EIS for the proposed project. You can submit comments or suggestions on the proposed transmission line routing, potential impacts of the proposal and potential mitigation measures.

BPA is accepting comments through August 9, 2010. You can submit comments in writing or mail the enclosed comment form to: Bonneville Power Administration, Public Affairs Office - DKE-7, P.O. Box 14428, Portland, OR, 97293-4428. You also may submit comments online at:

www.bpa.gov/comment or fax them to 503-230-3285. You also may call us toll free at 800-622-4519. Please note all comments will be posted in their entirety on BPA's website.

Please include the name of this project with your comments.

Environmental Process and Schedule

In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act, BPA is preparing an environmental impact statement to assess the potential impacts of the construction, operation and maintenance of the proposed line and substation. The U.S. Forest Service and BLM are cooperating agencies on this effort. The agencies will use information collected at the public meetings, comments received during the comment period, and their own assessments to help identify potential environmental impacts.

After the public meeting, environmental and engineering activities will occur along the proposed transmission line routes to determine if the route should be refined based on landowner concerns, present resources and potential impacts. All information gathered will be incorporated into the environmental analysis and made available in a draft EIS. If you would like to receive a copy of the draft EIS, please use the enclosed reply card. This document should be available for public review and comment in the summer of 2012. Once the environmental review is complete, BPA will release a final EIS addressing all public comments and then make announce a decision on whether to build the line and substation. If BPA and cooperating agencies decide to permit and build the line, construction could begin as early as 2013.

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 800-622-4519. Additional project information is available on our website at www.efw.bpa.gov/environmental_services/Document_Library/HooperSprings/. Thank you for your interest in this project.

Sincerely,

/s/ Erich T. Orth

Erich T. Orth
Project Manager

Enclosures:
Project Map
Comment Form