



Department of Energy

Bonneville Power Administration
P.O. Box 61409
Vancouver, WA 98666-1409

TRANSMISSION SERVICES

March 15, 2013

In reply refer to: TEP-TPP-1

To: Parties Interested in the Lane-Wendson 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 our environmental review process and schedule, and invites you to a meeting where you can learn more and comment on the proposal.

Proposal - BPA is proposing to rebuild its 41-mile long 115-kilovolt (kV) wood-pole Lane-Wendson transmission line between Eugene, Oregon and Florence, Oregon. (Please see the enclosed map.) The wood pole line was constructed in 1948 and most of the structures are physically worn and, in some places, structurally unsound. Based on its deteriorated condition, the line needs to be rebuilt in order to maintain reliable electrical service, avoid risks to the public, and ensure worker safety

The project would include replacing all wood-pole structures and conductor (wires) and improving access roads. Most structures would be replaced with the same size poles in the same locations unless changes are needed for safety or to minimize environmental impacts. Access roads would be improved and new access roads may need to be acquired or developed. The transmission line would continue to operate at 115-kV.

To understand the potential environmental impacts of this proposal, BPA will prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA) following the procedures of the National Environmental Policy Act. The EA will study the line rebuild, as well as a no action alternative in which the line is not rebuilt and current maintenance practices continue. The EA will describe anticipated impacts to natural and human resources and include mitigation measures that would help avoid or minimize impacts. During this process, BPA will work with landowners, federal, state and local agencies, interest groups, and tribes.

Public Meetings - We are starting to assess the potential environmental impacts of the proposal and 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? We have scheduled two open house scoping meetings to hear your ideas and accept comments about the scope of the EA that will be prepared:

Tuesday April 2, 2013
5 p.m. to 7 p.m.
Florence Event Center
715 Quince Street
Florence, Oregon 97439

Wednesday April 3, 2013
5 p.m. to 7 p.m.
Veneta Elementary School
88131 Territorial Road
Veneta, Oregon 97487

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

How to Comment -

Please send comments you may have on the proposal and potential impacts by **April 22, 2013** so they may be considered while we draft the EA. When commenting, refer to the Lane-Wendson Transmission Line Rebuild Project. Comments will be posted in their entirety on BPA's website at www.bpa.gov/comment. Choose the way you would like to comment:

Mail:	Bonneville Power Administration Public Affairs – DKE-7 P.O. Box 14428 Portland, OR 97293-4428	FAX:	503-230-4019
		On-Line	www.bpa.gov/comment
		E-Mail:	comment@bpa.gov
		Call toll-free:	800-622-4519

Process and Schedule - Starting this fall and winter, you may see BPA staff or contractors in the area as we 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 preliminary EA will be available for review and comment in the summer of 2014. Please indicate on the enclosed postcard whether you would like to receive the EA, and if so whether by regular or electronic mail, or if you would like to be taken off the project mailing list. If you do not return the form, you will still receive notice when the preliminary EA is available.

BPA plans to produce a final EA in early 2015 and 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. Should BPA decide to rebuild the line, construction would likely begin in summer of 2015.

For More Information - To find out more about the project please go to BPA's project web site at: www.bpa.gov/goto/LaneWendson.

If you have questions regarding the environmental process, please contact the environmental compliance project lead, Doug Corkran, toll-free at (800) 282-3713, directly at (503) 230-7646 or e-mail dfcorkran@bpa.gov. If you have other questions or would like more project information, please contact me at the toll-free number, directly at (360) 619-6398 or e-mail at rheredia@bpa.gov.

Thank you for your interest in this project.

Sincerely,

/s/ Richard Heredia

Richard Heredia
Project Manager

Enclosures:
Project Map
Comment Form
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