



Department of Energy

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

TRANSMISSION SERVICES

June 24, 2021

In reply refer to: TEP-CSB-2

To: People interested in the Radio System Upgrades at Willow Creek Summit and Windy Devil Annex

The Bonneville Power Administration (BPA), with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) as a Co-lead Agency, has prepared a draft environmental assessment (EA) for the proposed Radio System Upgrades at Willow Creek Summit and Windy Devil Annex. The EA describes the project and why it is needed, discusses the environmental impacts the project would create, and lists the mitigation measures that would lessen those impacts. The project's potential environmental impacts are also compared with those of a No-Action alternative under which there would be no communication station development. This letter requests your comments on the EA and outlines the next steps for the project.

BPA is proposing to develop two communication stations in Custer County, Idaho with one in the existing Willow Creek Summit Communication Site on BLM-managed land and one in an annex of the existing Windy Devil Communication Site on US Forest Service (USFS)-managed land. The project would be important for the safe operation, maintenance, and continued reliability of the Federal Columbia River Transmission System for electricity customers in BPA's Idaho Falls Radio Region. The project would upgrade and modernize the two-way radio system in the area, the foundation of which is Very High Frequency (VHF)-based field voice transmission and reception. The two proposed communication stations would expand the VHF coverage for field communications by BPA personnel, and create linkage in a path for voice data routing to central dispatch sites.

How to Comment: The EA can be viewed at the project website, www.bpa.gov/goto/WillowCreekWindyDevil. If you requested a hard copy, it is enclosed. If you would like to request a hard copy (219 pages including appendices), please call our toll-free line listed below.

Please send your comments on the EA by **Friday, July 23** and reference the project: *Radio System Upgrades at Willow Creek Summit and Windy Devil Annex*. We will consider all comments submitted during the comment period and provide responses to substantive comments in the final EA. In addition, comments will be available on the project website. There are several ways to comment:

Mail: Bonneville Power Administration
Public Affairs – DKE-7
P.O. Box 14428
Portland, OR 97291-4428

Toll-free: 800-622-4519
FAX: 503-230-4019
Online: www.bpa.gov/comment

Schedule: The schedule for the EA process is as follows:

Comment scoping period	February 8, 2019 – March 8, 2019
Draft EA available for public comment	June 24, 2021 – July 23, 2021
Final EA	Summer 2021
Finding of No Significant Impact (if warranted)	Summer 2021
If decision to build, construction start	Summer 2021

For More Information: To find out more about the project, please go to BPA’s project website www.bpa.gov/goto/WillowCreekWindyDevil. If you have questions regarding the environmental process, please contact the environmental project lead, Mike O’Connell, toll-free at 800-282-3713, directly at 503-230-7692, or by e-mail at mjoconnell@bpa.gov.

If you have other questions or would like more project information, please contact Charley Majors, contract Project Manager, Aerotek, at the toll-free number listed above, directly at 360-619-6683, or by e-mail at vcmajors@bpa.gov.

Thank you for your interest in this project.

Sincerely,

/s/ Emmanuel Jaramillo
Emmanuel Jaramillo
Supervisory Electrical Engineer

Enclosures:

Draft EA (if requested)
Comment Form
Return Envelope