

Department of Energy

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

TRANSMISSION SERVICES

July 3, 2014

In reply refer to: TEP-TPP-1

To: Parties interested in the Salem-Albany Transmission Line Rebuild

Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) has prepared a draft environmental assessment (EA) for the proposed Salem-Albany Transmission Line Rebuild Project. This letter requests your comments on the EA, invites you to public meetings, and outlines the next steps for the project.

BPA is proposing to rebuild the 24-mile Salem-Albany No. 1 and the 28-mile Salem-Albany No. 2 wood-pole transmission lines. The lines run from Salem to Albany, Oregon, through Polk, Benton, Marion, and Linn counties. The proposed project would include replacing all components of the two transmission lines, including the wood poles and conductors (existing fiber on both lines would remain). Associated activities would include improving, acquiring, and building access roads and removing trees where needed. The proposed project is needed due to the age and deterioration of the two lines.

Since BPA conducted public scoping for the proposed project in January 2013, there have been some changes to the proposed design. Most notably, the design changed to address safety issues from the proximity of the line to the edge of the right-of-way on Salem-Albany No. 1. The proposed solution would be to move portions of the transmission line to the center of the right-of-way, move some structures forward or back, and replace about nine miles of H-frame wood poles with steel monopoles. Chapter 2 of the draft EA explains this and other project details.

Draft EA

The draft EA further describes the project and why it is needed, discusses the environmental impacts the project would create, and lists the mitigation measures that would lessen or eliminate those impacts. The EA is available for your review and comment; you may access it online at www.bpa.gov/goto/SalemAlbany; or, if you requested a copy of the document, it is enclosed. If you would like a hard copy (about 300 pages), please call our toll-free document request line at 1-800-622-4520. Please leave a message with the project name, your name, and complete mailing address.

Public Meetings

We have scheduled two informal, open-house public meetings to answer questions and accept comments about the draft EA:

Wednesday July 23, 2014

4 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Henry Hill Educational Support Center
(Formerly Henry Hill Elementary)
750 S. 5th Street
Independence, OR 97351

Thursday July 24, 2014

4 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Fairmount Grange
835 NW North Albany Road
Albany, Oregon 97321

How to Comment

Please send comments you have on the EA by **August 6, 2014**. All comments will be posted in their entirety on the project website. There are several ways that you can 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
		E-mail:	www.bpa.gov/comment

Next Steps

We will consider all comments submitted during the comment period and provide responses to substantial comments in the final EA. If BPA decides to implement the proposed project, the final EA and a finding of no significant impact would likely be available in November 2014.

For More Information:

You may visit the project website at www.bpa.gov/goto/SalemAlbany. If you have questions regarding the environmental process, please contact the environmental protection specialist, Doug Corkran, at 503-230-7646, or by e-mail at dfcorkran@bpa.gov. If you would like more project information, please call me, Amanda Williams, at 360-619-6634, or amloran@bpa.gov. You can also reach us toll free at 1-800-282-3713. Thank you for your interest in our work.

Sincerely,

/s/ Amanda Williams
Amanda Williams
BPA Project Manager

Three enclosures (if requested):

Draft EA
Comment Form
Return Envelope