

Notes to Readers

Thank you for taking time to review the I-5 Corridor Reinforcement Project EIS. We acknowledge the complexity of the project and this document, and hope that these notes make the information contained in the EIS easier to find and understand. These notes are not a complete chronicling of what is contained in the EIS; rather, they highlight a few key aspects to assist readers as they navigate through this EIS.

We have also included information about submitting comments on the EIS at the end of these notes.

Navigating the EIS

Summary: The summary provided as part of this EIS gives a good overview of the proposed project, project alternatives, and potential impacts associated with these actions. However, if you are interested in a better and deeper understanding of these aspects of the proposed action and other considerations and the EIS itself, we encourage you to read the main body of the EIS.

Getting Started—Read Chapters 1-4: At a minimum, we recommend you read these chapters first to understand the project and alternatives, and details about how a transmission project is built. The route alternatives for the I-5 Project analyzed in detail in this EIS total over 300 miles. The information in these chapters will help as you read the resource chapters and their impact analyses.

Project Need (Chapter 1): The need for the project is explained in Chapter 1. The various purposes, or goals, we are trying to meet are also described in this chapter.

Project Alternatives (Chapters 2 and 4; Appendix B): How the project developed from route segments to alternatives is described in Chapter 2. We are considering four *action* alternatives, that is, these alternatives propose taking action and building a new 500-kV transmission line and two substations.

The four action alternatives are the West, Central, East and Crossover alternatives. Each action alternative also includes three options (e.g., West Option 1, West Option 2, and West Option 3). Options were developed along with each alternative so that all route segments were used, and they provide additional route segment combinations in certain areas of the alternative.

In this document when we refer to the West Alternative, for example, it does not include the options. If the options are included it will say “West Alternative and Options.”

The action alternatives are briefly introduced in Chapter 2, but more detail about each alternative and their options, and the No Action Alternative (i.e., the project would not be built) are found in Chapter 4 and Appendix B. Appendix B has a table that describes potential right-of-way configurations (types of towers, amount of right-of-way needed) for each action alternative. Appendix B also includes figures referenced in the table that show existing and proposed right-of-way configurations. This appendix can be used as you read through Chapter 4 and the resource chapters.

Chapter 4 also includes a table with a comparison of the alternatives to the project need and purposes, and a summary table of impacts from each alternative.

Project Components (Chapter 3): This chapter provides an overview of the components of the proposed project and the typical area of disturbance created by these components. This chapter also discusses project design activities; and construction, operation, and maintenance requirements for the project, including removing and replacing existing transmission lines.

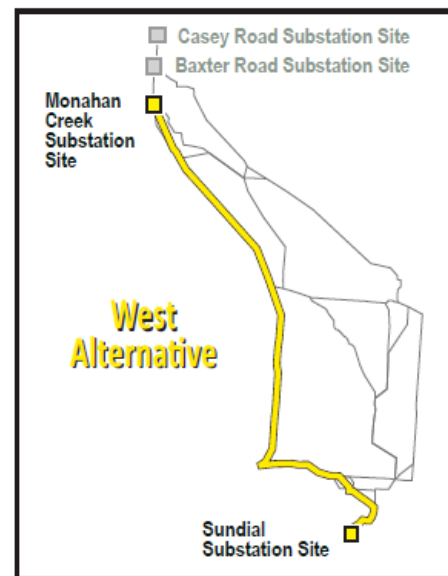
Mitigation included in the Project (Chapter 3): We have included many mitigation measures as part of our project design and if a decision is made to build the project, we are committed to implementing these measures. The measures are found in a table at the end of Chapter 3. Additional measures that BPA is considering for specific resources can be found in the chapter covering that resource (e.g., see Recommended Mitigation Measures in Chapter 17, Vegetation).

Resource Chapters—Read Chapters 5-22: The chapters following Chapter 1-4 are referred to as the “resource chapters” of the EIS. These are the chapters that describe the resources (such as land, wildlife, etc.) in the existing environment and how the project would affect these resources. Resource chapters in the EIS begin with Chapter 5, Land, and end with Chapter 22, Greenhouse Gases.

Icons: When discussing individual alternatives and options throughout the document, we have inserted icons, such as the one to the right, to help you recall the different alternatives and options.

Copies of these icons are on a separate page that follows these notes. This page is perforated (in the hard copy version) and can be torn out to use as you go through the EIS. The project map and the action alternative maps in Chapter 2 are also perforated and can be torn out for your use.

Project Area and Study Area: As you read through the chapters you will notice we use two different terms to describe areas. The project area is the general vicinity of the proposed project alternatives. Rather than having prescribed boundaries, the project area is intended to simply be those areas generally adjacent to or nearby the proposed project facilities. The project area is intended to give a general sense of the key resources in areas surrounding the proposed project. The study area is a more focused area that was determined to ensure that we identified the resources that could be affected by the direct and indirect impacts of the project. The study area may be defined for an individual resource in that resource chapter. For example, the study area for recreation is a 2,000-foot-wide corridor along the entire route of each action alternative, 1,000 feet on either side of the transmission line centerline. This area is large enough to include the proposed transmission line right-of-way, new and improved access roads, substation areas, and removed, rebuilt, and new towers on existing right-of-way. For those resources where a study area has been defined and is used, the relevant resource chapter specifically describes this in the text.



Note: Icons are used throughout the EIS

Tables: Tables used throughout the EIS display information referred to in the text. In tables where impacts are shown for an alternative and its options, the information for the options is the net impact, that is, an increase or decrease from the amount of impact in the portion of the alternative the option replaces. For example, the West Alternative creates impacts to about 141 acres of soil with moderate soil erosion potential. If West Option 1 is used, this amount would decrease by 7 acres.

More Information: The EIS draws from many sources for information. In general, resource specialists used a combination of geographic information system (GIS) analysis of existing databases, aerial photo interpretation, reconnaissance-level on-the-ground observation, and aerial review. Supporting information is in Chapter 29, References; appendices; and on the I-5 Project website: www.bpa.gov/go/i-5. The website provides additional information referred to in the EIS that may be helpful when reviewing the EIS.

Submitting Comments on the EIS

Providing Helpful Comments: Public review of and comment on this Draft EIS will continue through March 1, 2013. BPA staff will review all comments received and respond to them in the Final EIS. Comments should be as specific as possible, with references to particular pages, sections and chapters. Additional or clarifying information that should be considered is helpful. Factual corrections are appreciated.

There are many ways to submit a comment:

- Online: www.bpa.gov/corporate/i-5-eis/ecomment.cfm
- Mail: I-5 Corridor Reinforcement Project
PO Box 9250
Portland, OR 97207
- Email: I-5@bpa.gov
- Voicemail: 800-230-6593
- Fax: 888-315-4503

Comments will also be accepted at the following drop-in sessions and public meetings.

Draft EIS Drop-In Sessions

Drop in anytime to get help navigating the Draft EIS. Review the document, view the project interactive map, and submit comments through the project website.

Date	Time	Location
Tuesday, December 4, 2012	5 pm–8 pm	Castle Rock, Castle Rock Elementary School, Cafeteria
Thursday, December 6, 2012	5 pm–8 pm	Amboy, Amboy Middle School, Commons area
Saturday, December 8, 2012	1 pm–4 pm	Camas, Liberty Middle School, Cafeteria
Tuesday, December 11, 2012	5 pm–8 pm	Vancouver, Vancouver Community Library, Columbia Room
Wednesday, December 12, 2012	5 pm–8 pm	Camas, Liberty Middle School, Cafeteria
Saturday, December 15, 2012	1 pm–4 pm	Amboy, Amboy Middle School, Commons area

Public Comment Meetings

BPA will host six public meetings to accept comments on the Draft EIS.

Date	Time	Location
Thursday, January 10, 2013	5 pm–9 pm	Camas, Liberty Middle School, Cafeteria
Saturday, January 12, 2013	1 pm–5 pm	Amboy, Amboy Middle School, Commons area
Wednesday, January 23, 2013	5 pm–9 pm	Battle Ground, Battle Ground Community Center, Lewis River Reception Hall, and Moulton Falls Creek Room
Saturday, February 2, 2013	1 pm–5 pm	Longview, Mark Morris High School, Commons area
Monday, February 4, 2013	5 pm–9 pm	Castle Rock, Castle Rock Elementary School, Cafeteria
Wednesday, February 6, 2013	5 pm–9 pm	Vancouver, Clark College, Gaiser Hall