



Department of Energy

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

TRANSMISSION SERVICES

February 2, 2016

In reply refer to: TEP-TPP-3

To: Parties interested in the I-5 Corridor Reinforcement Project Final EIS

The Bonneville Power Administration has completed the final environmental impact statement for our proposed I-5 Corridor Reinforcement Project. This is a significant milestone in completing our National Environmental Policy Act review process for this proposal. We are sending you this letter to let you know of the Final EIS's availability. That said, we are not done yet. We have not made a decision to build the project, and continue to evaluate the circumstances around the project to make sure we are making the right investments at the right time.

About the Final EIS

The Final EIS for the I-5 Corridor Reinforcement Project is the final version of the Draft EIS that BPA released to the public on Nov. 13, 2012. The Draft EIS described the proposed project and the problem it would solve, discussed and analyzed impacts to the human and natural environment the project may create and listed recommended mitigation measures that would lessen or eliminate those impacts. It identified BPA's preferred alternative, the Central Alternative using Central Option 1, from among those considered in the EIS.

The public review and extended comment period for the Draft EIS closed on March 25, 2013. We identified about 3,000 comments on the Draft EIS, which was in addition to the approximately 7,000 comments identified during the early scoping process for the EIS. BPA continued working with landowners and others after the close of the Draft EIS review period to obtain additional input for the EIS analysis and to improve the project design to reduce project impacts.

The Final EIS includes refinements, corrections and updates to the Draft EIS based on the comments and other input we received as well as from further study and analysis. The Final EIS also includes and responds to all comments received on the Draft EIS during the Draft EIS review and comment period. You can find responses to comments online or in Volume 3 of the Final EIS. As with the Draft EIS, the Final EIS includes a "Notes to Readers" section at the front of the document. These notes are not a summary of the document; rather, they are intended to make the information in the EIS easier to find and understand. The notes also identify the key changes that have been made to the EIS between the draft and the final. As noted in the Final EIS, BPA's preferred alternative remains the Central Alternative using Central Option 1 (maps are available online).

Obtaining the Final EIS

The Final EIS can be accessed in the formats listed below.

- *Internet* – The full document can be accessed on the project website: www.bpa.gov/goto/i5.

- *Compact disc* – If you would like to request a CD be mailed to you, submit a request online or call the automated phone line at 800-230-6593 and leave a message.
- *Printed copy of specific sections or summary* – If you would like a printed copy of the summary, or another chapter or section of the document, submit a request online or call the automated phone line at 800-230-6593.
- *Printed copy of full document* – The full document is more than 6,500 pages. To save paper and reduce costs, limited print copies will be available. If you are unable to access the document via the Internet or CD, print copies can be reviewed at multiple community locations, listed below. If none of these options work for you, request a copy of the document by submitting a request online or by calling our automated phone line and leaving a message.

Full printed copies will be available for review at the locations listed below. All of these locations, except for Troutdale Library and Multnomah County Library, will also have CDs available for viewing. Four other libraries will assist patrons in finding the document online: La Center Community Library, Vancouver Cascade Park Library, Battle Ground Community Library and Yacolt Library Express.

Camas	Camas Public Library
Castle Rock	Castle Rock Public Library
Corvallis	Oregon State University, The Valley Library
Forest Grove	Pacific University, Forest Grove Campus
Longview	Longview Public Library
McMinnville	Linfield College, Nicholson Library
Monmouth	Western Oregon University, Hamersly Library
Portland	Lewis and Clark College, Paul L. Boley Law Library Portland State University, Branford P. Millar Library Multnomah County Library (Central)
Seattle	University of Washington, Suzzallo Library
Troutdale	Troutdale Library
Vancouver	Vancouver Community Library (main) WSU Vancouver Library
Yacolt	Yacolt Town Hall

Next steps

While issuance of the Final EIS marks the completion of the EIS preparation process, it does not represent or include a decision concerning whether to build the proposed I-5 Corridor Reinforcement Project. Before we make any such decision, we are further reviewing the cost and rate implications of the project. We are also continuing to explore potential options that would not involve building the line – referred to as non-wire measures – to see if there are any feasible and cost-effective options that could defer the need for the project, either in the long term or indefinitely. More information on this separate effort concerning the ongoing evaluation of non-wire measures is in Section 1.1.2.3 of the Final EIS, and BPA soon will be posting a public update at our website on this and other due diligence efforts we are conducting before we make a decision about the project.

Given our desire to conduct this due diligence, we now expect to make a decision about the project by the end of 2016. If BPA does decide to build the I-5 Project, we would prepare and issue a record of decision that announces and explains our decision to build the project. The record of decision also would identify which alternative route we have chosen to construct.

In the interim, BPA will continue to work and communicate with our cooperating agencies, as well as with other federal, state, regional, and local agencies and officials, tribes, landowners, interest groups and citizens. If you would like to discuss proposed locations of project facilities on or near your property with the design team directly, please include that request when you contact us and tell us how you would like to be contacted.

How to contact us

Online: www.bpa.gov/goto/i-5
Write: I-5 Corridor Reinforcement Project
P.O. Box 9250, Portland, OR 97207
Phone: 800-230-6593 (voice mail)
Fax: 888-315-4503

Thank you for your interest in this project.

Sincerely,



Mark Korsness
BPA Project Manager