



## BONNEVILLE POWER ADMINISTRATION I-5 Corridor Reinforcement Project Scoping Meeting Summary

October 27, 2009 — Amboy, Wash.  
4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.  
Amboy Middle School, 22115 NE Chelatchie Road

---

### **Attendees**

Five hundred forty seven (547) members of the public signed-in at this open house. Attendees included area property owners, local business owners, representatives of homeowners' associations, and staff from Clark County and Cowlitz County governments.

### **Overview of comments heard**

Open house attendees shared their comments and questions about the I-5 Corridor Reinforcement Project with Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) staff. Some common themes from the evening's discussions included the following:

- *Project schedule:* Attendees expressed concerns about the project's multi-year decision schedule and the uncertainty this created for property owners about where a potential transmission line could be sited. Participants were also interested in learning as soon as possible when potential route segments have been eliminated from consideration by the project.
- *Route selection:* Some expressed a preference for certain route segments over others. In addition to individual property impacts, comments included concerns about segments that had the potential to impact many smaller properties in more developed areas versus fewer property owners in less developed areas or in existing rights-of-way (ROW). In particular, some expressed a preference for the Ross-Lexington route to keep the line in the existing ROW. Others prefer that BPA not move forward with Segments 26, 27 and 31. Others also wished to see the line placed farther to the east, out of more populated areas.
- *Property values and economic effects:* Many expressed concerns about how a transmission line sited on or near a property could impact their property values. Several attendees also commented that the current recession has already lowered property values and that this low-point in the economy would be a bad time for property values to be assessed.
- *Impacts to views:* Property owners shared their concerns about potential impacts to views on their property.
- *Impacts to natural and cultural resources:* Property owners identified specific natural and cultural resources present on their properties for the project team to investigate further.
- *Electric and magnetic field effects:* Many had questions and concerns about potential effects from a transmission line, including the health effects of living or working near high-voltage power lines, noise, and interference with electronic equipment.
- *Land and property acquisition process:* Attendees had specific questions about the process once BPA makes a decision about siting a transmission ROW on their property, including what this would mean in terms of purchase and/or compensation, timing, negotiations, land ownership, and assessment of property taxes. Participants also asked questions about the "Permission to Enter Property" letters and forms sent to landowners.
- *Timber compensation:* Property and business owners have timber on their land and had questions about how BPA would compensate for these assets if a transmission line were sited in these locations, including compensation for future harvest value, wind damage associated with ROW corridors, and possible tax-deferred timber liability.



### **Meeting purpose**

The purpose of this open house meeting was to provide the public with information about BPA's I-5 Corridor Reinforcement Project and to have members of the project team available to answer questions and accept oral and written comments. BPA is proposing to build the I-5 Corridor Reinforcement Project, a new 500-kilovolt transmission line that would run between Castle Rock, Wash., and Troutdale, Ore. BPA will prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) for the proposed project. The first step is requesting comments about environmental impacts and other issues that should be considered in the EIS, and comments on preliminary transmission line route segments and proposed substations.

### **Meeting format**

The meeting followed an open house format and included "stations" staffed by BPA employees to provide information, address questions, and listen to public comments on the following topics:

- Existing System and Project Need
- Transmission Line Siting and Design
- Substation Design
- Maintenance Activities and Access Roads
- Environmental Resources
- Land and Permission to Enter Property (PEP) Process

Resource stations included project information in the form of proposal descriptions, maps, schematics, and schedules. Additional stations at the meetings provided attendees with a means to locate their property through a set of indexed maps, as well as an area for learning more about the public process and how to provide comments.

### **Project next steps**

BPA is currently gathering public input on the scope of EIS for this project and is accepting these comments through November 23, 2009. BPA will compile a summary of public comments received in a Scoping Summary Report that will be available in early 2010.

In 2010, BPA will conduct field work and environmental analyses to prepare a draft EIS on a number of defined project alternatives. In spring 2011, BPA expects to issue a draft EIS for public review and comment. A final EIS and agency decision is anticipated in spring 2012.

### **Learn more and stay connected**

There are a number of ways the public can learn more about the project and submit their comments:

- *Visit the I-5 Corridor Reinforcement Project Web site:* Project updates, property maps and information can be found at [www.bpa.gov/go/i5](http://www.bpa.gov/go/i5).
- *Sign up for the mailing list:* To be added to the mailing list, visit the project Web site and view the "Get Involved" link or call (800) 230-6593 to leave your contact information.
- *Submit comments:* Online at [www.bpa.gov/go/i5](http://www.bpa.gov/go/i5); by mail at BPA I-5 Corridor Reinforcement, PO Box 9250, Portland, OR 97207; toll free at (800) 230-6593; by fax at (888) 315-4503.
- *Attend open houses:* A total of six open house scoping meetings are being held throughout the project area. A list of open house dates and locations can be found on the project Web site.