



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

November 3, 2009 — Camas, Wash.  
4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.  
Liberty Middle School, 1612 NE Garfield St.

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### **Attendees**

Four hundred eighty (480) members of the public signed-in at this open house. Attendees included area property owners, local business owners, representatives of homeowners' associations, Hockinson School District, Pistons Wild Outdoor Recreational Vehicle Club, and staff from the City of Camas, Port of Camas-Washougal, and the City of Washougal. State Representative Ed Orcutt, State Representative Jaime Herrera, and staff from Senator Maria Cantwell's office also attended.

### **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:

- *Route selection:* Many attendees suggested that a new transmission line should follow route segments that avoid more populated areas. Some expressed a preference for siting the route through forest owned by the Washington Department of Natural Resources or U.S. Forest Service. Others stated a preference for a transmission line to follow Interstate 5 or Interstate 205 to reach a proposed substation in Troutdale. Others cited potential impacts to homes and property values along specific route segments near their properties.
- *Project schedule and route elimination decisions:* Attendees were concerned about the project's multi-year decision schedule and were interested in learning about any route eliminations as soon as possible. Many property owners spoke about the uncertainty the decision timeframes creates for their plans to build/remodel homes or sell their property. Several participants were interested in learning more about the specific impacts to properties from segments 50, 51, and 52 through Camas and over the Columbia River, as there don't appear to be alternative routes for this portion of the transmission line.
- *Line Design:* Participants had specific project design questions, including the feasibility of burying transmission lines, or to use existing towers and have them double- or triple-circuited to carry both existing and new transmission lines.
- *Existing or planned developments:* Attendees identified several existing or planned developments along proposed route segments that could be affected by a transmission line. These include the area near the northeast portion of Lacamas Lake and the planned Village at Green Mountain. Also, Camp Curry, a Boy/Girl Scout camp operates in the area of route segments 41, 44, 46, and 50 near Lacamas Creek.
- *Natural and historic resources:* Attendees identified specific natural and historic resources on their properties including wetlands, floodplains, and wildlife species. Specific species included beaver, cougar, bear, coyote, lynx, and white owls. Historic properties were also identified in the Port of Camas/Washougal Marina area, including Parker's Landing Park, which is a registered historic site.
- *Land and property acquisition process:* Attendees had specific questions about BPA's property and real estate process. Questions related to purchase and/or compensation, timing, negotiations, land ownership, and assessment of property taxes. Several comments were made about how BPA should pay landowners rent for easements rather than a one-time compensation. Others preferred that BPA compensate landowners for their entire property, rather than having an easement on property they continue to own.



Many attendees were concerned about depressed property values and the potential for permanent losses if land valuation occurs at a low point in the housing market. Some were interested in the specifics of property tax assessment relative to potential impacts to view lots, for which they currently pay specific taxes. In addition, some attendees wondered about the lands process in a situation where a property owner owes more on their mortgage than the current assessed value. Also, some identified expensive homes in the route segment study areas that could affect project costs.

- *Permission to enter property process*: Property owners asked specific questions about the "Permission to Enter Property" letters and forms they received, including the purpose and need for survey work on their property, specific concerns about impacts to resources on their properties from survey activities, and what happens if the permission forms are not signed.
- *Electric and magnetic field effects*: Attendees had questions and concerns about potential health effects, noise, and electronic interference from a transmission line.

### **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. The format of this open house was modified based on feedback and experience at the first three meetings in Amboy, WA; Vancouver, WA; and Longview, WA to better accommodate the large numbers of participants. Upon arrival, attendees were guided through a series of project maps to locate their property and were provided copies of detailed property maps to use at the meeting and take home. BPA employees continued to staff several stations to take comments and address questions 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. An additional station provided attendees with 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.