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BONNEVILLE POWER ADMINISTRATION
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Environmental review of new power line in Richland, Washington available
Proposed 18-mile transmission line would enhance reliable delivery of electricity

Richland, Wash. – The Bonneville Power Administration has prepared a [draft environmental assessment](#) documenting the potential impacts of a new 500-kilovolt substation and 18-mile 115-kilovolt power line and substation in Richland, Washington. The new South of Tri-Cities Reinforcement project would strengthen the BPA transmission network in the area that provides power to Tri-Cities residents, helping prevent unplanned power interruptions in the absence of other measures.

The Tri-Cities area is growing, and the increasing demand for electricity is adding to the area's existing transmission system constraints. The primary goals of this project are to improve long-term electric reliability, improve short-term flexibility and address system maintenance needs. Additionally, this project could help BPA incorporate future generation and new electric loads in the area.

"This line is all about making sure there's sufficient transmission capacity to keep the lights on in the Tri-Cities area," said Jeff Cook, acting vice president, Transmission Engineering and Technical Services. "It also would help local utilities keep pace with growth and provide electric service to new and existing end-use customers."

This is one of four projects BPA is proposing to reinforce the transmission system in the area, collectively referred to as the Tri-Cities Reinforcement program. This work also updates BPA's current infrastructure in the Tri-Cities through the reinforcement of existing substations and transmission lines.

On June 4, BPA will host a [public meeting](#) to provide local residents an opportunity to learn more about the project. BPA project managers and subject-matter experts will share more about the project purpose, timeline and environmental review. The open-house style meeting will be held from 6 to 8 p.m. at Cottonwood Elementary School, 16734 Cottonwood Creek Blvd., Kennewick, Washington.

About BPA The Bonneville Power Administration is a federal non-profit power marketing administration that delivers reliable, low-cost hydropower produced in the Columbia River Basin as well as the output from the region's only nuclear plant to communities across the Northwest. BPA also owns and operates more than 15,000 circuit miles of high-voltage transmission lines. More information about these and other activities is available on our [Media Relations page](#)

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