



Department of Energy

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

TRANSMISSION SERVICES

June 17, 2022

In reply refer to: TEPL-TPP-1

To: People interested in the Big Eddy-Ostrander Conductor Replacement Project

Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) is proposing to replace the conductor (the transmission wires) on the Big Eddy-Ostrander No. 1 (BEOS) transmission line. This letter explains what is being proposed, outlines the anticipated environmental review process and schedule, and requests your comments.

Proposal: BPA proposes to replace the existing conductor on 68.5 miles of the BEOS 500-kilovolt (kV) transmission line. The line begins at BPA's Big Eddy Substation in The Dalles, Oregon and continues west to Ostrander Substation near Eagle Creek, Oregon (see enclosed project map). The transmission line was originally constructed in 1960 and consists of lattice steel structures. The existing conductor is past its service life and is in need of replacement. In some locations, the existing transmission structures would be increased in height to maintain a safe distance between the ground and the conductor.

The existing access road network would also be improved, as needed. This work could include improving or reconstructing the access roads (blading, grading, rocking), installing drainage features (drain dips, water bars, and cleaning, replacing, or installing new culverts), improving or replacing fords, gates, and cattle guards. Landings would be created at the base of certain lattice structures to provide safe parking and turnarounds for transmission line maintenance crews.

To meet electrical reliability requirements, BPA is also proposing to remove trees (danger trees) that pose a threat of falling or growing into the conductor and causing unplanned electrical outages. The majority of tree removal would occur along the edge of the right-of-way.

Environmental Review: To understand the potential environmental impacts of this proposal, BPA may prepare an environmental assessment (EA). If BPA determines that an EA should be prepared, the EA would describe anticipated impacts to natural and human resources and include mitigation measures that would help avoid or minimize impacts. **We are asking for your comments to help determine the issues that should be addressed in the environmental review.**

During this process, BPA will work with Federal, state, and local agencies, Tribes, potentially affected landowners, and other interest groups.

The proposed schedule for the environmental review process is as follows:

Comment scoping period	June 17, 2022 – July 18, 2022
EA determination (if warranted)	Fall 2022
Draft EA available for public comment (if warranted)	Fall 2022

Final EA (if warranted)
Finding of No Significant Impact (if warranted)
If decision to build, construction start

Early Winter 2023
Winter 2023
Fall 2023

How to Comment: Please send your comments by **July 18, 2022** and reference the Big Eddy-Ostrander Conductor Replacement Project. All comments will be available on the project website at www.bpa.gov/nepa/Big-Eddy-Ostrander. There are several ways to comment:

Mail: Bonneville Power Administration Public Affairs – DKE-7 P.O. Box 14428 Portland, OR 97291-4428	Toll-free: 800-622-4519 FAX: 503-230-4019
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Online: <https://publiccomments.bpa.gov/OpenCommentListing.aspx>

For More Information: Starting this spring and summer, you may see BPA staff or contractors in the area as we conduct engineering and environmental surveys. If we need to enter property where we do not have existing access rights, we will contact property owners for permission through a separate mailing. Please note that separate from this process, regular line and vegetation maintenance activities may continue to occur along the line to keep it safely operating.

If you have questions regarding the environmental process, please contact the Environmental Protection Specialist, Beth Belanger, toll-free at 800-622-4519, directly at 503-230-7579, or by e-mail at babelanger@bpa.gov.

If you have other questions or would like more project information, please call me at the toll-free number listed above, directly at 360-619-6634, or by e-mail at amloran@bpa.gov.

Thank you for your interest in this project.

Sincerely,

/s/ Amanda Williams

Amanda Williams
Transmission Project Manager

Enclosures:
Project Map
Comment Form
Return Envelope