



Department of Energy

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

TRANSMISSION SERVICES

August 10, 2016

In reply refer to: TEP-TPP-1

To: Parties interested in the Hills Creek-Lookout Point Transmission Line Rebuild Project

The Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) has prepared a draft environmental assessment (EA) for the proposed Hills Creek-Lookout Point Transmission Line Rebuild Project. The draft EA describes the project and why it is needed, discusses the environmental impacts the project would create, and lists the mitigation measures that would lessen or eliminate those impacts. This letter requests your comments on the EA and outlines the next steps for the project.

BPA proposes to rebuild the 26-mile, 115-kilovolt Hills Creek-Lookout Point wood-pole transmission line between the City of Oakridge and Lowell, Oregon. The line was originally built in 1953 and is showing normal deterioration due to age. The rebuild would replace all wood-pole structures, replace conductors and ground wires, and improve access roads.

BPA also proposes to realign two sections of the transmission line recently damaged by rock fall and landslides. These sections of line are within Willamette National Forest. The U.S. Forest Service is a cooperating agency in the development of the EA and is considering whether to issue a special use permit to allow BPA to realign the sections of line.

How to Comment: Please send your comments on the EA by **September 19, 2016** and reference Hills Creek-Lookout Point Transmission Line Rebuild Project. We will consider all comments submitted during the comment period and provide responses to substantive comments in the final EA. The EA and comments will be available on the project website at www.bpa.gov/goto/HillsCreekLookoutPoint. If you would like a hard copy (about 200 pages), please call our toll-free phone number listed below. 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
Online: www.bpa.gov/comment

Schedule: The schedule for the EA process is as follows:

Draft EA available for public comment	August 10, 2016 to September 19, 2016
Final EA	Winter 2016/2017
Finding of No Significant Impact (if warranted)	Winter 2016/2017
If decision to build, construction start	Summer 2018

The Forest Service Responsible Official, District Ranger Duane Bishop, has identified BPA as the designee to receive comments on this project. On March 27, 2013, a final rule revising 36 CFR Part 218 was published in the Federal Register Volume 78, No. 59. The new rule replaces the previous USFS appeal rules defined in 36 CFR 215, and expands the use of the pre-decisional objection process. The new rule provides the public an opportunity to comment and express concerns on projects before decisions are made, rather than after. This project is subject to USFS specific pre-decisional objection regulations. Only those who submit timely and specific comments regarding the proposed project or activity during a formal public comment period, such as this one, established by the Responsible Official, are eligible to file an objection. For objection eligibility, each individual or representative from each entity submitting timely and specific written comments regarding the proposed project or activity comments must either sign the comments or verify their identity upon request. All comments will be posted in their entirety on the project website.

For More Information: If you have questions regarding the environmental process, please contact the Environmental Protection Specialist, Justin Moffett, toll free at 800-622-4519, directly at 503-230-3233, or by email at jtmoffett@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 360-524-5262, or by email at rhhheredia@bpa.gov.

Thank you for your interest in this project.

Sincerely,

/s/ Richard Heredia

Richard Heredia
BPA Project Manager

Enclosures (if requested):

Draft EA
Comment Form
Return Envelope