



## Department of Energy

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

TRANSMISSION SERVICES

September 13, 2017

In reply refer to: TEP-TPP-1

### **To: People interested in the Hills Creek-Lookout Point Transmission Line Rebuild Project**

The Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) and USDA Forest Service (Forest Service) have completed the environmental review process for the Hills Creek-Lookout Point Transmission Line Rebuild Project. This letter briefly describes the BPA and the Forest Service decisions, the construction schedule, and how to obtain additional information.

**Background:** BPA proposed 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 built in 1953 and needs rebuilding. As part of the rebuild, BPA also proposed to realign two sections of the transmission line within Willamette National Forest which were recently damaged by rock fall and landslides. BPA requested a special use permit from the Forest Service for the realignment of the sections of line.

BPA and the Forest Service prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) to help the agencies determine if the project would cause significant impacts that would warrant preparing an environmental impact statement. The draft EA was released for public comment in August 2016; seven entities submitted comments on the document. The final EA which provided responses to those comments and minor revisions to the EA, was released June 30, 2017. Release of the final EA also marked the beginning of the Forest Service's objection process, which ran from June 30 to August 13, 2017—no objections were received. Based on the final EA, BPA and the Forest Service are now issuing separate agency Findings of No Significant Impact (FONSI).

**Decision:** BPA has decided to proceed with the Proposed Action and will rebuild the Hills Creek-Lookout Point transmission line as described in the final EA. In addition, the Forest Service has decided to issue BPA a special use permit for realignment of the two sections of line. BPA is working now to determine the best way to sequence the work over the next few years. BPA will issue a separate public notification of the construction schedule once it is determined.

**Copies Available:** BPA's final EA, FONSI, and mitigation action plan, as well as the Forest Service's Decision Notice and FONSI, are available on BPA's website at [www.bpa.gov/goto/HillsCreekLookoutPoint](http://www.bpa.gov/goto/HillsCreekLookoutPoint). If you would like to obtain paper copies of any of these documents, please call our toll-free document request line at 1-800-622-4520; leave a request with your name, the name of the project, and your complete mailing address. If you previously requested a copy of the documents, they are enclosed.

**For More Information:** If you have questions regarding the project, please contact me at 360-619-6326 or [makorsness@bpa.gov](mailto:makorsness@bpa.gov). If you have questions regarding the environmental process, contact Justin Moffett, Environmental Protection Specialist, at [jtmoffett@bpa.gov](mailto:jtmoffett@bpa.gov) or 503-230-3233. You can also reach us toll free at 800-622-4519.

Thank you for your interest in our work.

Sincerely,

/s/ Mark Korsness

Mark Korsness  
Project Manager

**Enclosures (if requested):**  
Finding of No Significant Impact  
Mitigation Action Plan