



Department of Energy

Bonneville Power Administration
P.O. Box 3621
Portland, Oregon 97208-3621

TRANSMISSION SERVICES

April 14, 2026

In reply refer to: TIPL-TPP-1

Hot Springs-Rattlesnake transmission line rebuild

The Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) is proposing to rebuild the 70-year-old Hot Springs-Rattlesnake No. 1 transmission line, 59 miles that extend from BPA's Hot Springs Substation west of Flathead Lake across the Flathead Reservation to NorthWestern Energy's Rattlesnake Substation just north of Missoula.

This project would involve replacing existing wood poles, hardware and conductor with new 230-kilovolt H-frame and single pole construction, including fiber optic cable for transmission network communications. The rebuild would primarily follow the existing route, aiming for similar pole heights where feasible.

Public meeting and providing public comment

BPA is seeking your comments to help determine the issues that should be addressed in the environmental review and in BPA's compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, which requires BPA to consider the effects from this proposal on historic properties.

BPA invites interested members of the public and local communities to learn about the project, provide input and ask questions of BPA representatives. The meeting will be an open house where you can talk directly with BPA staff.

May 5, 2026, from 6 to 8 p.m.

Garden City Harvest - Community Barn
1657 River Road, Missoula, Montana 59801

If you are unable to attend, you may still submit comments online at www.bpa.gov/comments, by mail to BPA Public Involvement, P.O. Box 14428, Portland, OR 97293, or call toll free 1-800-622-4519. Please include "Hot Springs-Rattlesnake" with your comments. Your input is valuable and helps inform BPA decisions.

Details and next steps

Engineering analysis and design work are ongoing. BPA is conducting an environmental review under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) to identify potential impacts on communities, natural resources, land, water and wildlife.

Please visit the project [website](#) for current information and maps.

For More Information: If you have questions regarding the environmental process, please contact the Environmental Protection Specialist, Douglas Corkran, toll-free at 800-622-4519, directly at 503-230-7646, or by e-mail at dfcorkran@bpa.gov.

If you have other questions or would like more project information, please call me at the toll-free at 800-622-4519, directly at 360-619-6230, or by e-mail at mdnelson@bpa.gov.

Thank you for your interest in our work.

Sincerely,

Meadow Nelson
Transmission Project Manager