



Department of Energy

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

TRANSMISSION SERVICES

July 10, 2025

In reply refer to: TEPS-TPP-1

To: People interested in the Montana-to-Washington Transmission System Upgrade Project

Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) is proposing to upgrade parts of its existing transmission system in Montana, Idaho, and Washington as a result of recent requests for transmission service from its customers. This letter explains what is being proposed, outlines our anticipated environmental review process and schedule, and requests your comments.

Background: In April 2012, BPA initiated preparation of an environmental impact statement on its proposed Montana-to-Washington Transmission System Upgrade Project to increase the electrical capacity of its transmission system to meet customer requests. In September 2014, BPA was informed that most of the transmission service requested by customers was no longer needed and decided in 2015 to no longer pursue the proposed project at that time. Based on current requests for long-term transmission services, BPA reinitiated the project in May 2023, with a revised proposal to conduct necessary engineering design to inform its National Environmental Protection Act analysis.

Proposal: BPA's current proposed upgrade project includes several types of physical improvements and additions to the BPA transmission system in multiple locations in Montana, Idaho, and Washington (see enclosed project map). These improvements and additions would include:

- Construction of a new Moose Gully Compensation Substation adjacent to the existing BPA Garrison-Taft No. 1 & 2 500-kilovolt (kV) transmission lines, located near the Miller Creek neighborhood in Missoula, Montana, and a new microwave tower either within the new substation yard or a short distance away to facilitate a communications pathway to the Miller Peak Radio Station.
- Replacement of electrical wires along approximately 11 miles of BPA's existing Dworshak-Taft No. 1 500-kV transmission line in northeastern Idaho and western Montana, which would also require improvements to existing transmission line access roads.
- Electrical equipment upgrades at five existing BPA substations and possible expansion of substation yards at BPA's Hatwai Substation in Idaho and Bell Substation in Washington.

An interactive project location map is available at the link below. Directions about how to use the online project map are available on the landing page.

<https://bpagis.maps.arcgis.com/apps/instant/media/index.html?appid=5ed2b436ec704a12aeddea73ceba99a7>

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 will 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 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. 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:

Scoping comment period	July 10, 2025 to August 10, 2025
EA determination (if warranted)	Spring 2026
Draft EA available for public comment (if warranted)	Spring/Summer 2026
Final EA (if warranted)	Fall 2026
Finding of No Significant Impact (if warranted)	Fall 2026
If decision to build, construction start	Summer 2029 (at the earliest)

How to Comment: Please send your comments by **August 10, 2025**, and reference the "Montana-to-Washington Transmission System Upgrade Project." All comments will be available on the project website at www.bpa.gov/nepa/M2W. 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/>

For More Information: BPA staff or contractors are already in the area conducting 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, Laura Roberts, toll-free at 800-622-4519, directly at 503-230-5073, or by email at laroberts@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 503-230-5167, or by email at mbhenjum@bpa.gov.

Thank you for your interest in this project.

Sincerely,

FOR Mike Henjum
Transmission Project Manager

Enclosures:
Project Map
Comment Form
Return Envelope