



Department of Energy

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

ENVIRONMENT, FISH AND WILDLIFE

March 13, 2025

In reply refer to: ECT-4

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT DETERMINATION

Proposed Action: South of Tri-Cities Reinforcement Project

Environmental Project Manager: Douglas Corkran ECT-4, 503-230-7646, dfcorkran@bpa.gov

Location: City of Kennewick in Benton County, Washington

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA)

Description of the Proposed Action: BPA is proposing to construct a new 18-mile-long 115-kilovolt (kV) transmission line and substation between BPA's existing Badger Canyon Substation and BPA's existing Ashe-Marion 500-kV transmission line to the west in Benton County, Washington. As part of the project, a new Webber Canyon Substation located next to the existing Ashe-Marion 500-kV line would connect the new substation to BPA's existing Badger Canyon Substation by the new 18-mile-long transmission line. A small portion of the new line would be built with steel monopoles in an existing transmission corridor near Badger Canyon Substation. The rest of the new line would be built using wood pole structures. Two proposed route alternatives are under consideration. Fiber optic cable would be added to the new line, as well as other existing transmission lines in the area, to improve regional system operations and communications to support the new transmission facilities. Badger Canyon Substation would be reconfigured and upgraded to incorporate the new transmission line.

Class of Action to be Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021): C4 Upgrading, Rebuilding or Construction of Powerlines.

We have determined that the proposed action is within the class of actions normally requiring an environmental assessment (EA), but not necessarily requiring an environmental impact statement (EIS) as listed in Subpart D of 10 C.F.R. Part 1021. Therefore, we have determined that an EA will be prepared to assess the impacts of the proposed action. On the basis of the analysis in the EA, BPA may prepare a finding of no significant impact and proceed with the action, or prepare an EIS if the EA analysis reveals the potential for significant environmental impacts.

Katey C. Grange
NEPA Compliance Officer