



Department of Energy

Bonneville Power Administration
P.O. Box 491
Vancouver, Washington 98666-0491

TRANSMISSION SERVICES

November 15, 2011

In reply refer to: TEP-TPP-3

To: Parties Interested in the Alvey-Fairview Transmission Line Rebuild Project

Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) is proposing to rebuild a transmission line in your area. This letter briefly explains what is being proposed, outlines our environmental review process and schedule, and invites you to a meeting where you can learn more and comment on the proposal.

Proposal - Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) proposes to rebuild the Alvey-Fairview No. 1 230-kV Transmission Line between Eugene, OR and Coquille, OR. The 97.46 mile line will be rebuilt by replacing all wood pole structures, including poles, cross arms, cross braces, guys, anchors, insulator assemblies, and line switches if required. The existing conductor will remain, but will be placed in travelers and re-sagged. The line is made up of two sections: Alvey-Reston (67.93 miles) and Reston-Fairview (29.53 miles). The existing line has 82.41 miles of wood pole H-frame construction and 15.05 miles of SC Lattice Steel construction. The lattice steel section towers will not be replaced, although existing hardware holding the conductors will be replaced. A fiber optic cable is attached for the length of the line and will be transferred along with associated hardware (risers, junction boxes, etc.). The rebuilt line will maintain the same structure locations and similar pole heights as the existing line except where changes may be needed to correct safety code violations. Construction is scheduled for summer of 2013.

No major rebuild work has been done on the Alvey-Fairview line since it was originally built in the late 1950's. In general, wood poles for transmission lines are expected to have a service life of 55 to 60 years, at which point they are usually replaced due to age, rot, and other causes of deterioration. Most of the wood pole structures on the Alvey-Fairview line are at the end of their service life and are physically worn and structurally unsound in places.

Based on the current condition of these lines, there is a need for replacement of the wood pole structures and associated structure components to maintain reliable electrical service and to avoid risks to the public and worker safety.

The line would remain a 230-kV transmission line within the existing 125-foot-wide right-of-way (ROW). Most activities would take place within the existing ROW, including upgrading existing roads or developing new roads, and removing and replacing existing structures. Structures would generally be replaced within 10 feet of their existing location, although they may be shifted within the existing ROW to avoid or decrease impacts to sensitive environmental resources such as wetlands, where possible. BPA may need to acquire and develop new access roads to structures that currently are difficult to access by vehicle.

To understand the potential environmental impacts of this proposal, BPA will prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA). As a federal agency, we follow procedures of the National Environmental Policy Act. Two alternatives will be studied: rebuild the line, or do not rebuild it and continue with current operation and maintenance practices. The EA will describe anticipated impacts to natural and human resources and include mitigation measures that would enable BPA to avoid or minimize impacts. During this process, BPA will be working with federal, state and local agencies, landowners, interest groups, and tribes.

Public Meetings - We will soon start to assess the potential environmental impacts of the proposed alternatives and would like to hear from you. What questions do you have? What resources should we analyze? Do you have information or concerns about specific areas? BPA is seeking public input and comments through December 28, 2011. We have scheduled two open house scoping meetings:

Wednesday, November 30, 2011
5 p.m. to 7 p.m.
Sutherlin Community Center
(Small conference room)
126 E. Central Avenue
Sutherlin, OR 97479

Wednesday, December 7, 2011
5 p.m. to 7 p.m.
Cottage Grove City Hall
(Council Chambers)
400 E Main Street
Cottage Grove, OR 97242

We do not plan to give a formal presentation, so you may come any time during the meeting. Several members of the project team will be available to answer your questions and listen to your ideas.

Other Ways to Comment - If you cannot attend the meeting, you can still comment. You may submit comments to BPA online at: www.bpa.gov/comment, return the enclosed comment form or other written correspondence in the postage-paid envelope provided, or fax your comments to (503) 230-3285. You also may call us with your comments toll free at (800) 622-4519. Please submit comments to us by **December 28, 2011** and reference "Alvey-Fairview Transmission Line Rebuild Project" with your comments. We will post all comments we receive on our Web site at www.bpa.gov/comment.

Process and Schedule - Starting this fall and winter you may see BPA staff or contractors in the area as they conduct 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.

BPA will produce a Preliminary EA that will be available for review and comment in the fall of 2012. If you would like to receive a copy of the Preliminary EA, please indicate on the enclosed postcard whether you would like to receive it by regular or electronic mail. If you would like to be taken off the project mailing list, please mark the box on the form. If you do not return the form, you will still receive notice when the Preliminary EA is available.

BPA will produce a Final EA in the spring of 2013. Based on the analysis in the Final EA, BPA will either prepare a Finding of No Significant Impact and decide whether to proceed with the project, or will prepare an Environmental Impact Statement if there is the potential for significant environmental impacts.

For More Information - To find out more about the project please go to BPA's project Web site at: www.bpa.gov/go/alveyfairviewrebuild.

If you have questions regarding the environmental process, please contact the environmental project lead, Doug Corkran, toll-free at (800) 282-3713, directly at (503) 230-7646 or e-mail dfcorkran@bpa.gov. If you have other questions or would like more project information, please contact me at the toll-free number, directly at (360) 619-6398 or e-mail at rheredia@bpa.gov.

Thank you for your interest in this project.

Sincerely,

/s/ Richard Heredia

Richard Heredia
Project Manager

Enclosures:
Project Map
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