



## Department of Energy

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

TRANSMISSION SERVICES

September 16, 2011

In reply refer to: TEP- TPP-1

### **To: Parties interested in the Big Eddy-Knight Transmission Project**

The Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) has prepared a Record of Decision (ROD) for the Big Eddy-Knight Transmission Project in Wasco County, Oregon and Klickitat County, Washington. This letter describes BPA's decision, the project schedule, open-house meeting information, how to obtain copies of documents and how to contact us if you have questions. If you requested a copy of the ROD, it is enclosed.

#### **Decision**

BPA analyzed three transmission line alternatives and a no-action alternative in its draft and final environmental impact statements (EIS) for this project. The final EIS (DOE/EIS-0421, July 2011) included comments received on the documents, agency responses to the comments, and changes made to the draft EIS. BPA has selected East Alternative Option 3.

BPA will use double-circuit towers to carry the new line and existing adjacent BPA transmission lines on mostly existing rights-of-way for the first 14 miles of the new line. We will use single-circuit towers within newly-established transmission line rights-of-way for the remaining 14 miles. BPA will also implement the small (about 1-mile) realignment of the East Alternative on the Oregon side of the Columbia River, as described in the final EIS.

BPA will build the new Knight Substation on Site 1 about a half a mile west of Knight Road. For the fiber optic cable necessary for system communications, BPA will build the Loop Back Option and will string this cable on the new Big Eddy-Knight transmission towers from BPA's Big Eddy Substation to Knight Substation and back again. The ROD explains the factors that were considered in reaching the decision and includes mitigation measures that will be used to avoid or reduce environmental impacts.

#### **Open-house meetings and construction schedule**

BPA is holding informal open houses where you can learn more about the project and meet the contractors who will do the construction work. Staff will be available to answer your questions about this project, easement acquisition, and the proposed construction schedule. There will not be a formal presentation. Visitors may drop in any time between 4:30 and 7:30 p.m.

#### **Tuesday, Oct. 4, 2011**

4:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Shilo Inn Suites Hotel

3223 Bret Clodfelter Way, The Dalles, OR

#### **Wednesday, Oct. 5, 2011**

4:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Goldendale High School

525 E. Simcoe Drive, Goldendale, WA

Construction is scheduled to begin the week of Sept. 19, after contract terms are determined. Construction is expected to begin with development of the Knight Substation site at the northern end of the new line. Construction of other portions of the project will proceed as remaining permits and approvals are granted and easements are purchased. Construction is expected to be completed and the line energized by late winter 2013.

**Additional information**

The ROD and EIS documents are available on the project website: <http://www.bpa.gov/go/BEK>. If you would like hard copies (the ROD is 23 pages; the EIS is in three volumes totaling about 1,000 pages), or a compact disc with an electronic copy of these documents, please call our toll-free document request line at 800-622-4520 and leave a message with the name of the project and your complete mailing address.

If you have questions about this project, you may contact me toll free at 800-282-3713, directly at 360-619-6116, or by e-mail at [ejaramillo@bpa.gov](mailto:ejaramillo@bpa.gov).

Thank you for your interest in this project.

Sincerely,

*/s/ Emmanuel Jaramillo*

Emmanuel Jaramillo  
Project Manager

Enclosure:  
Record of Decision (if requested)