



Department of Energy

Bonneville Power Administration
P.O. Box 61409
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TRANSMISSION SERVICES

March 5, 2013

In reply refer to: TEP-TPP-1

To: Parties interested in the Boyer-Tillamook Access Road Improvement Project

Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) is proposing to improve a portion of the access road system for its existing 115-kilovolt Boyer-Tillamook Transmission Line located in Tillamook and Yamhill counties, Oregon (see vicinity map). Planning and survey work for this project has been on-going for the last couple of years. This letter briefly reviews what is being proposed, outlines our environmental review process and schedule, and invites you to comment on the proposal.

Proposal – The proposed project would improve 13 miles of access roads. Associated activities would include resurfacing roads, adding drainage, widening 3 miles of road, constructing 0.1 mile of new road, maintaining culverts, and constructing outlet ditches and retaining walls. In addition, new bridges would be built, and culverts that currently block fish passage for anadromous and resident fish would be replaced.

The project is necessary because existing access roads for this transmission line are in poor condition and do not meet current road standards for safety and operation. Many of the roads are washed out with limited access in the summer and no access in winter, making regular maintenance and emergency repairs to the lines difficult, time consuming, and dangerous. In order to ensure safe and reliable electric service to customers in the area and public and worker safety, improved access roads to this important line are needed.

BPA has decided to prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA) to understand the potential impacts of the proposed road improvements and identify ways to reduce those impacts. The EA will also consider a No Action Alternative where the improvements would not be made and BPA would continue with current operation and maintenance practices.

Public involvement – Please let us know if you have concerns about particular resources or questions about the project. BPA is seeking input through **March 22, 2013**. Information we receive from tribes; federal, state, and local agencies; landowners; and interest groups will be used to help inform the EA.

You can submit comments or questions online at www.bpa.gov/comment, return the enclosed comment form or other written correspondence in the postage-paid envelope provided (if mailed), fax your comments to (503) 230-4019, or call us toll free at (800) 622-4519. When submitting comments or questions, please include your name, phone number, and/or e-mail address, and

reference “Boyer-Tillamook Access Road Improvement Project.” All comments we receive by March 22, 2013 will be posted on our website at www.bpa.gov/comment.

Process and schedule – A Preliminary EA will be available for review and comment in the spring of 2013, and we will notify you when it is available. You can also request a copy; please see the enclosed forms (if mailed) or contact us for options. Based on the analysis in the EA and comments received, BPA will either prepare a Finding of No Significant Impact and decide whether to proceed with the project or prepare an Environmental Impact Statement if there is the potential for significant environmental impacts.

For more information – Please visit the project website at www.bpa.gov/goto/BoyerTillamookAccessRoads if you would like to learn more about the project. If you have questions regarding the environmental process, please contact Kara Hempy-Mayer at (503) 230-4982, or klhempymayer@bpa.gov. If you have questions about easements or property access, contact Jill Nystrom at (503) 230-5589, or jknystrom@bpa.gov. If you would like more project information, please call me, Jim Semrau, at (360) 619-6629, or jesebrau@bpa.gov. You can also reach us toll free at (800) 282-3713.

Sincerely,

/s/ James Semrau

Jim Semrau
Project Manager

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