



Department of Energy

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

TRANSMISSION SERVICES

September 20, 2010

In reply refer to: TEP-TPP-3

To: Parties Interested in the Central Ferry-Lower Monumental Transmission Line Project

Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) is proposing to construct a 500-kilovolt (kV) transmission line in Garfield, Columbia and Walla Walla counties, Washington. The proposed line would extend west from a new BPA 500-kV substation, called Central Ferry Substation, in Garfield County, to BPA's existing 500-kV Lower Monumental Substation in Walla Walla County. The proposed line is needed to increase the electrical capacity of our transmission system in response to requests for transmission service in this area. BPA has identified a preferred routing alternative after considering the comments we received and potential impacts we analyzed in the draft Environmental Impact Statement.

In June 2009, BPA began to study the environmental impacts of constructing the new transmission line. In July 2010, BPA released a draft EIS for public review and comment, and held a public meeting in Dayton, Washington to gather public comments on the draft EIS and proposed project. Although BPA will not make a decision on whether to proceed with the proposed line or on any particular routing alternative until after we complete the final EIS for the project, we are sending this letter now to notify you as early as possible of our identified preferred alternative.

Preferred Alternative – BPA's preferred alternative is the Combination A Alternative. The preferred alternative route extends southwest from Central Ferry Substation for about 11 miles mostly parallel to and about 1,200 to 2,500 feet south of BPA's two existing Little Goose-Lower Granite 500-kV lattice steel transmission lines (see enclosed map). At this point, the route angles away from the existing lines and proceeds southwest for about 6 miles before crossing the Tucannon River directly north of the town of Starbuck. The route proceeds west for about 20 miles from the Tucannon River crossing to BPA's existing Lower Monumental Substation. This alternative is about 38 miles long.

Schedule – We are revising the draft EIS based on the comments we received and expect to release a final EIS by early spring 2011. The final EIS will reflect that the Combination A Alternative is our preferred alternative. A decision on whether and how to proceed with the project is expected by late spring 2011. BPA's decision will be documented in a Record of Decision that will follow the final EIS.

For More Information - To find out more about the project please go to BPA's website www.bpa.gov/go/centralferrylomo.

If you have questions regarding the environmental process for this project, please contact the environmental project lead, Tish Eaton, toll free at 800-282-3713, or at 503-230-3469; or by e-mail tkeaton@bpa.gov. If you have other questions or would like more project information, please call me, Theresa Berry, at the toll-free number or directly at 360-619-6313; or e-mail tberry@bpa.gov.

Thank you for your interest in this project.

Sincerely,

/s/ Theresa Berry

Theresa Berry
Project Manager

Enclosure:
Preferred Alternative Map