



Department of Energy

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

TRANSMISSION SERVICES

May 1, 2014

In reply refer to: TEP-TPP-3

To: Parties interested in Bonneville Power Administration's Hooper Springs Transmission Project

You are invited to review and comment on the supplemental draft environmental impact statement (SDEIS) for Bonneville Power Administration's (BPA) Hooper Springs Transmission Project in Caribou County, Idaho. The SDEIS includes responses to all comments we received on the draft EIS and consideration of Option 3A as a route option to the South Alternative. The project is needed to improve system reliability in the southern portion of Lower Valley Energy's (LVE) transmission system and to address ongoing load growth in southeast Idaho and northwestern Wyoming. This letter includes information that will help you comment on the SDEIS, invites you to a public meeting and outlines the project's next steps.

Project proposal and preferred alternative

The new transmission line would extend from the proposed Hooper Springs Substation, near the city of Soda Springs, Idaho, to a proposed BPA connection facility that would connect with LVE's existing transmission system in northeastern Caribou County, about 22 to 32 miles depending on the route alternative. BPA's preferred alternative is Option 3A to the South Alternative. BPA also would construct an approximately 0.2-mile-long transmission line between the proposed Hooper Springs Substation and PacifiCorp's existing Threemile Knoll Substation to connect the electrical facilities to the regional transmission grid.

Public meeting

You are invited to an open house public meeting on this project. During the meeting, BPA's project manager will review the proposed project. This will be followed by an oral comment period. Members of the project team will be available to talk to you about the SDEIS and answer any other questions you may have. The meeting will be held:

Tuesday, May 27, 2014, 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.
Project Overview Presentation, 5:15-5:30
Oral Comment Period, 5:30-6:30
Tigert Middle School
250 E. 2nd S., Soda Springs, ID

How to comment

Please send your comments on the SDEIS by **August 7, 2014** so they may be considered in our final EIS and decision on this project. When commenting, please refer to "Hooper Springs Transmission Project" in your communications. All comments will be posted on BPA's website at www.bpa.gov/comment. Comments and responses will be included in the final EIS.

Mail to: Bonneville Power Administration Toll-free: 800-622-4519
Public Affairs – DKE-7 FAX: 503-230-4019
P.O. Box 14428 Online: www.bpa.gov/comment

Portland, OR 97293-4428

Copies available

If you requested and received a hardcopy of the draft EIS, a copy of the SDEIS is enclosed for your review. The SDEIS is available online at www.bpa.gov/goto/HooperSprings. You may request a copy of the SDEIS by calling BPA's toll-free document request line at 800-622-4520. Please leave a message naming this project, giving your complete mailing address and requesting the document format (hard copy or CD) you would prefer.

Next Steps

We will consider all comments submitted during the comment period. You may already be seeing BPA staff or contractors conducting surveys in areas where we have permission to enter property from the landowners. These surveys will continue through the spring and summer. We will continue to work with federal, state, regional, and local agencies, tribes, landowners and interest groups. The final EIS will include all comments and our responses, as well as any changes to our proposal or analysis. We expect to publish the final EIS in winter 2015 followed by a record of decision in late winter 2015. The record of decision will explain BPA's decision about whether to build the project and, if so, the alternative or option selected.

For More Information

BPA is committed to providing reliable, low-cost transmission products and services to the region while minimizing environmental impacts. Please visit the project website at www.bpa.gov/goto/HooperSprings if you would like more information. If you have questions or would like additional information about the project, please call us toll free at 800-622-4519 or email me at etorth@bpa.gov. Thank you for your interest in this project.

Sincerely,

/s/ Erich T. Orth

Erich T. Orth
Project Manager

Enclosures:
Supplemental Draft EIS, if requested
Comment form
Return envelope