



Department of Energy

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

TRANSMISSION SERVICES

December 30, 2016

In reply refer to: TEP-TPP-1

To: People Interested in the Kalispell-Kerr Transmission Line Rebuild Project

The Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) has finalized the environmental assessment (EA) for the Kalispell-Kerr Transmission Line Rebuild Project. Based on the final EA, BPA is issuing a finding of no significant impact (FONSI) and has made a decision to proceed with the project. This letter describes BPA's decision, the construction schedule, and how to obtain additional information.

Background: BPA will rebuild the 41-mile, 115-kilovolt Kalispell-Kerr wood-pole transmission line between Kalispell and Polson, Montana. The project is necessary due to the overall age and condition of the line. BPA will rebuild the line using generally the same structure locations; pole heights will be 10 to 15 feet taller to accommodate a new overhead ground wire and to conform to current safety standards. Improvements will involve replacing all wood-pole structures, replacing conductors and ground wires, and improving access roads.

BPA prepared an EA to help the agency determine if the Proposed Action would cause significant impacts that would warrant preparation of an environmental impact statement. BPA released the draft EA for public review and comment in February 2016 and received comments from eight entities. The final EA provides responses to those comments and minor revisions to the EA. Based on the EA analysis and mitigation measures, BPA has found that the Proposed Action will not cause any significant impacts. Therefore, an environmental impact statement will not be prepared.

Decision: BPA has decided to proceed with the Proposed Action and will rebuild the Kalispell-Kerr line as described in the final EA. Project construction is expected to begin in spring 2017 and continue until winter 2018, with a break in construction during the winter months.

Copies Available: The final EA, FONSI, and mitigation action plan are enclosed if you previously requested them. If you did not receive a copy of any of these documents and would like one, please call our toll-free document request line at 1-800-622-4520. Leave a request your name, the name of the project, and your complete mailing address. The documents are also available on BPA's website at www.bpa.gov/goto/KalispellKerr.

For More Information: If you have questions regarding the project, please contact me at 360-619-6634 or amloran@bpa.gov. For questions regarding the environmental process, contact Justin Moffett, Environmental Protection Specialist, at jtmoffett@bpa.gov or 503-230-3233. You can also reach us toll free at 800-622-4519.

Thank you for your interest in our work.

Sincerely

/s/ Amanda Williams

Amanda Williams

Transmission Project Manager

Enclosures (if requested):

Final EA

FONSI and Mitigation Action Plan