

WELCOME

Marys Peak

*Bonneville Power Administration
Communications Site Project*

Public Scoping Meeting

January 25, 2018

Open house 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Overview presentation at 6 p.m.

Project Need

BPA needs take action because:

- **Some of BPA's Marys Peak communications site equipment is outdated and unstable and can no longer be repaired**
- **The existing BPA radio dish is attached to an aging and unstable single wood-pole that can shift and misalign during extreme wind and ice conditions, impairing communications**
- **Sensitive communications equipment within the BPA building is sometimes subject to high temperatures that could cause equipment damage and failure**
- **The BPA communications site does not have a reliable back-up power source for use during power outages**



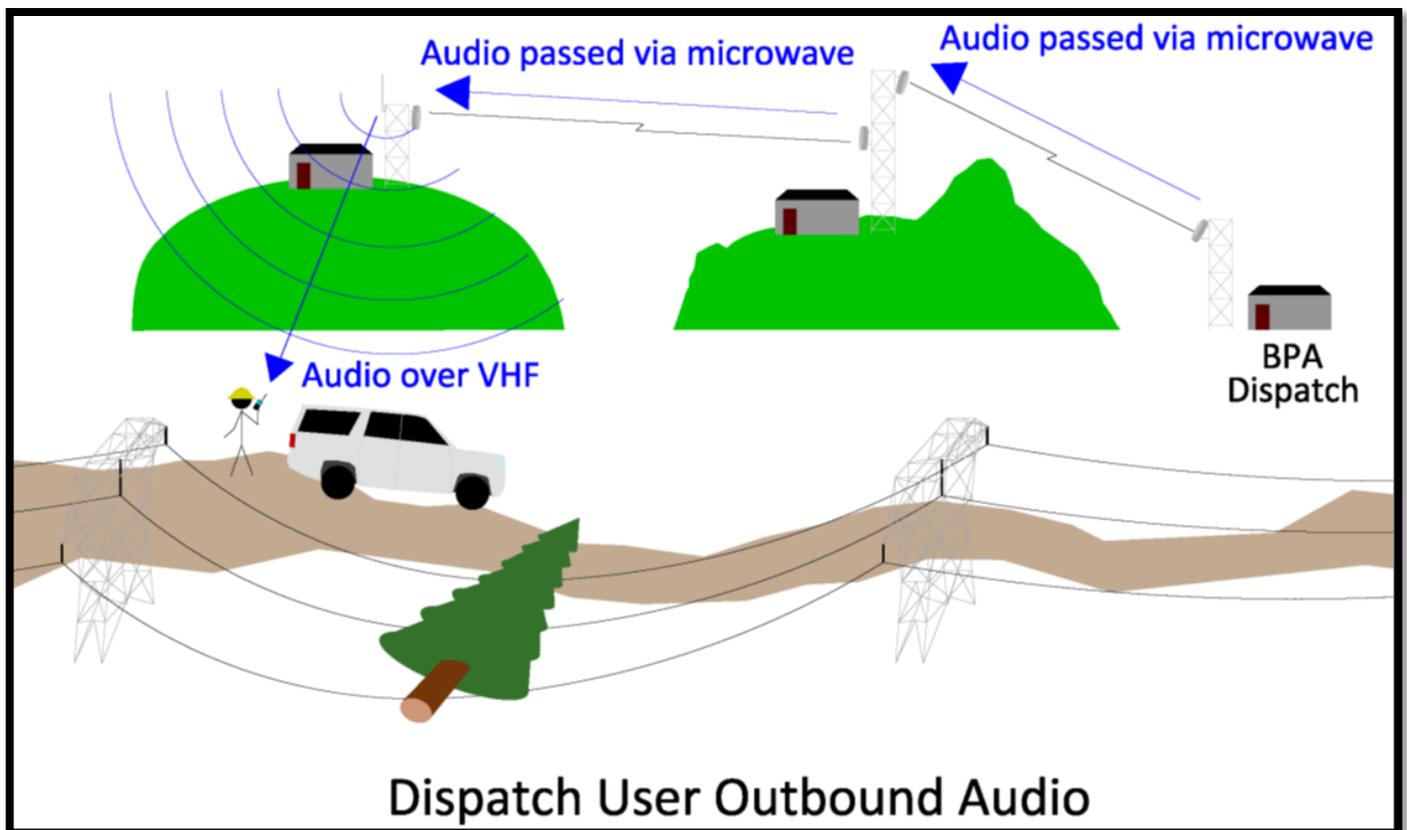
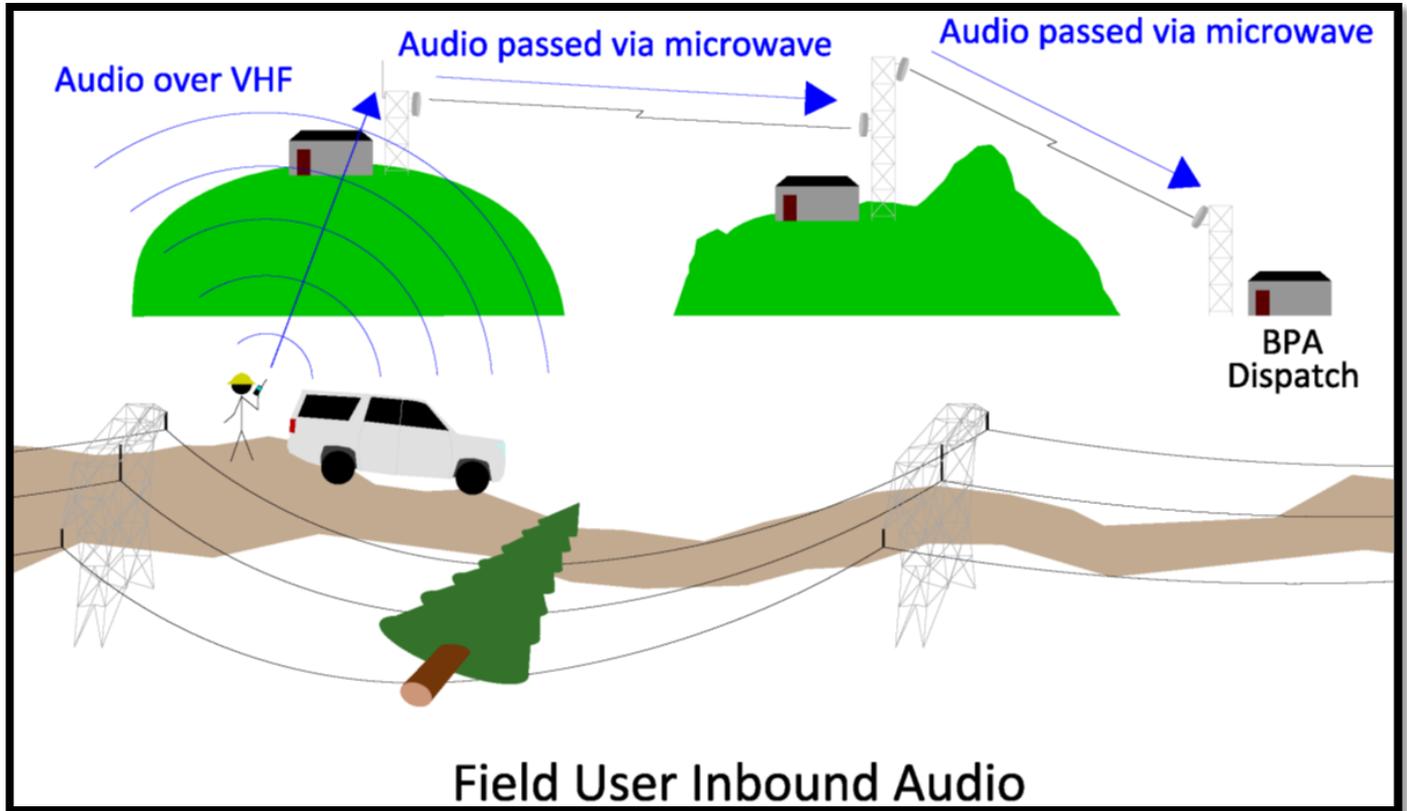
Project Purposes

The following Project purposes are the goals to be achieved while meeting the need for the Proposed Action:

- **Meet BPA and industry standards established for communications sites for public safety, reliability, and security to support the safe and reliable operation and maintenance of the federal transmission system**
- **Provide at least equal VHF radio coverage compared to the existing VHF coverage**
- **Continue to meet BPA contractual and statutory obligations**
- **Demonstrate responsible environmental stewardship by avoiding or minimizing impacts on the human and natural environments**
- **Demonstrate cost effectiveness**
- **Use facilities and resources efficiently**



Radio Communications



Alternatives*

1. **No Action (the communications site would not be upgraded)**
- 2A. **Marys Peak at Existing BPA Site – BPA Albany Substation**
- 2B. **Marys Peak at Existing BPA Site – BPA Prospect Hill Site**
- 3A. **Marys Peak Colocate at New USFS Site – BPA Albany Substation**
- 3B. **Marys Peak Colocate at New USFS Site – BPA Prospect Hill Site**
4. **West Point Spur Colocate at Existing Consumer’s Power, Inc. Site – BPA Prospect Hill Site**
5. **West Point Spur Proposed New BPA Site – BPA Prospect Hill Site**

*All sites are communications sites except the BPA Albany Substation, which includes communications equipment



Alternative 1

NO ACTION



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Radio communications currently pass between these two communications sites

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The following proposed activities WOULD NOT OCCUR at Marys Peak:

- Stage materials within the fence
- Improve the unpaved access road,
- Improve the building (paint and install HVAC system)
- Install and maintain equipment inside the building
- Construct a 40-foot tall steel-lattice structure within the fence
- Install an 8-foot diameter microwave dish on the steel-lattice structure
- Install a 20-foot tall VHF whip antenna on top of the steel-lattice structure
- Construct an ice-bridge between the steel-lattice structure and the building
- Upgrade electrical service between the building and meter within the fence
- Repaint the propane tank

The following proposed activities WOULD NOT OCCUR at Prospect Hill:

- Install equipment inside the building
- Reinforce the steel-lattice structure with steel bars
- Install an 8-foot microwave dish on the steel-lattice structure



Alternative 2A

Marys Peak at Existing BPA Site – BPA Albany Substation



*Radio communications
pass between
communications sites*



Proposed activities at Marys Peak could include:

- Stage materials within the fence, if possible
- Improve the unpaved access road, if needed
- Improve the building (paint and install HVAC system)
- Install and maintain equipment inside the building
- Construct a 40-foot tall steel-lattice structure within the fence
- Install a 6-foot diameter microwave dish on the steel-lattice structure
- Install a 20-foot tall VHF whip antenna on top of the steel-lattice structure
- Construct an ice-bridge between the steel-lattice structure and the building
- Upgrade electrical service between the building and meter within the fence
- Repaint the propane tank
- Top or remove up to 14 noble fir trees
- Revegetate areas disturbed by construction with native plants

Proposed activities at the Albany Substation could include:

- Install equipment inside the building
- Install a 6-foot diameter microwave dish on the steel-lattice structure
- Top or remove some trees near the Calapooia River, if needed



Alternative 2B

Marys Peak at Existing BPA Site – BPA Prospect Hill Site



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Radio communications pass between communications sites

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Proposed activities at Marys Peak could include:

- Stage materials within the fence, if possible
- Improve the unpaved access road, if needed
- Improve the building (paint and install HVAC system)
- Install and maintain equipment inside the building
- Construct a 40-foot tall steel-lattice structure within the fence
- Install an 8-foot diameter microwave dish on the steel-lattice structure
- Install a 20-foot tall VHF whip antenna on top of the steel-lattice structure
- Construct an ice-bridge between the steel-lattice structure and the building
- Upgrade electrical service between the building and meter within the fence
- Repaint the propane tank
- Revegetate areas disturbed by construction with native plants

Proposed activities at Prospect Hill could include:

- Install equipment inside the building
- Reinforce the steel-lattice structure with steel bars
- Install an 8-foot microwave dish on the steel-lattice structure



Alternative 3A

Marys Peak Colocate at New USFS Site – BPA Albany Substation



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**Radio
 communications
 pass between
 communications
 sites**
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Proposed activities at Marys Peak could include:

- Stage materials within the fence, if possible
- Improve the unpaved access road, if needed
- Construct a new USFS-owned communications building for communication users
- Construct an 80-foot tall steel-lattice structure within the fence
- Install a 6-foot diameter microwave dish on the steel-lattice structure
- Install a 20-foot tall VHF whip antenna on top of the steel-lattice structure
- Install electrical service between the new building and meter, within the fence
- Install a 2,000 gallon propane tank
- Remove the existing BPA and USFS communications buildings and equipment
- Move fence closer to the new USFS communication facility
- Top or remove some trees, if needed
- Revegetate areas disturbed by construction with native plants

Proposed activities at Albany Substation could include:

- Install equipment inside the building
- Install a 6-foot diameter microwave dish on the steel-lattice structure
- Top or remove some trees near the Calapooia River, if needed



Alternative 3B

Marys Peak Colocate at New USFS Site – BPA Prospect Hill Site



←
**Radio
communications
pass between
communications
sites**
→



Proposed activities at Marys Peak could include:

- Stage materials within the fence, if possible
- Improve the unpaved access road, if needed
- Construct a new USFS-owned communications building for communication users
- Construct an 80-foot tall steel-lattice structure within the fence
- Install an 8-foot diameter microwave dish on the steel-lattice structure
- Install electrical service between the new building and meter within the fence
- Install a 2,000 gallon propane tank
- Remove the existing BPA and USFS communications buildings, and equipment
- Move fence closer to the new USFS communication facility
- Top or remove some trees, if needed
- Revegetate areas disturbed by construction with native plants

Proposed activities at Prospect Hill could include:

- Install equipment inside the building
- Reinforce the steel-lattice structure with steel bars
- Install an 8-foot diameter microwave dish on the steel-lattice structure



Alternative 4

West Point Spur Colocate at Existing Consumer's Power, Inc. Site – BPA Prospect Hill Site



Proposed activities at the CPI site could include:

- Stage materials within the fence, if possible
- Improve the unpaved access road, if needed
- Renovate the CPI building (including HVAC system), if needed
- Install BPA communication equipment inside the building
- Increase the height of the steel-lattice structure (up to 200-feet tall)
- Install a 10-foot diameter microwave dish on the CPI steel-lattice structure
- Install two 20-foot tall VHF whip antennae to the steel-lattice structure
- Construct an ice bridge between the steel-lattice structure and the CPI building, if needed
- Install at least one 2,000 gallon propane tank and propane supply lines
- Install new fence and/or repair/relocate CPI's fence and gate, if needed
- Top or remove some trees, if needed
- Revegetate areas disturbed by construction with native plants

Proposed activities at Prospect Hill could include:

- Install equipment inside the building
- Reinforce the steel-lattice structure with steel bars
- Install a 10-foot diameter microwave dish on the steel-lattice structure
- Install two 20-foot tall VHF whip antennae to the steel-lattice structure



Alternative 5

West Point Spur Proposed New BPA Site – BPA Prospect Hill Site



*Radio communications
pass between
communications sites*



Proposed activities at West Point Spur could include:

- Stage materials near the new building site
- Improve the unpaved access road, if needed
- Construct a new BPA-owned communications building
- Install equipment inside the building
- Construct a 100-foot tall steel-lattice structure
- Install a 10-foot diameter microwave dish on the steel-lattice structure
- Install two 20-foot VHF whip antennae on the steel-lattice structure
- Construct an ice bridge between the steel-lattice structure and the new building
- Install electrical service to the building
- Install at least one 2,000 gallon propane tank and supply lines
- Install a chain link fence around the new communications facility
- Top or remove some trees, if needed
- Revegetate areas disturbed by construction with native plants

Proposed activities at Prospect Hill could include:

- Install equipment inside the building
- Reinforce the steel-lattice structure with steel bars
- Install a 10-foot diameter microwave dish on the steel-lattice structure
- Install two 20-foot tall VHF whip antennae to the steel-lattice structure



How to Participate

BPA, USFS and BLM are here to:

- **Share information about the BPA communications site's needs**
- **Share alternatives developed after community input**
- **Explain how the 3 agencies will work together during the environmental review**
- **Answer your questions**
- **Collect information and ideas as comments**

While you are here, you can:

- **Learn more information about each Project alternative**
- **Provide ideas, comments, concerns**
- **Help BPA determine what needs to be studied to make informed decisions**
- **Sign up to receive updates and Project information**



Real Property Services

BPA's Realty Group works with private property landowners and land managing agencies that could be affected by BPA projects.

The role of the BPA Realty Specialist:

- **Respond to landowner and land managing agency questions**
- **Address concerns regarding potential Project impacts to private and public property**
- **Negotiate and acquire rights for BPA, including permits**



Environmental Review

BPA will document the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process with an environmental assessment (EA)

The EA will describe the existing resources that could be affected by the Project and evaluate the potential impacts of the Project on natural and human resources

BPA seeks your input on:

- Resources in the Project area that we should consider and study
- Potential environmental impacts from the Project that we should analyze
- Recommendations to mitigate any impacts

Field studies include:

- Vegetation (special-status species, plant communities, and noxious weeds)
- Wildlife (special-status species and wildlife habitat)
- Cultural resources (archeological, historic, and traditional cultural properties)
- Visual resources



Cooperating Agencies

Lead Federal Agency (BPA)

- **BPA is the lead federal agency for conducting the Project environmental analysis, for cultural resources consultation under the National Historic Preservation Act, for Endangered Species Act consultation, and for developing the Project NEPA document**

Cooperating Agencies (USFS and BLM)

- **The USFS and the BLM have elected to become cooperating agencies under NEPA because lands managed by these agencies could be affected by the Project**
- **Cooperating agencies have jurisdiction by law or special expertise for proposals covered by NEPA**
- **Cooperating agencies (USFS and BLM) assist the lead federal agency (BPA) in developing the Project NEPA document**



NEPA Decision Notification and USFS Objection Process

After the final EA, BPA, USFS and the BLM will each release their own NEPA decision

- Each agency will decide if the selected alternative would have no significant impacts or if further analysis is required in an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)
- After the USFS issues a draft decision, there is a 45-day objection period when some members of the public are given the opportunity to dispute the USFS's decision

To object to the USFS decision, you must provide written comments during either the NEPA scoping comment period or provide written comments on the draft EA when it is released for comments



Environmental Review Schedule

Initial scoping period	9/27/2016 – 12/2/2016
Initial scoping meeting	11/9/2016
Additional scoping period	1/8/2018 – 2/21/2018
Conduct field and resource studies	2017-2019
Conduct environmental analysis and draft the EA	2018-2019
Provide draft EA for public comment	Early 2019
Address comments and finalize the EA	2019
Release the final EA, BPA NEPA decision and cooperating agency NEPA decisions (USFS with Draft Decision Notice)	Early 2020
USFS NEPA objection period, if needed	45 days



How to Comment and Obtain Information

Call: 800-622-4519

Fax: 503-230-4019

**Write: Bonneville Power Administration
Public Affairs Office - DKE-7
P.O. Box 14428
Portland, OR 97293-4428**

Online: www.bpa.gov/goto/MarysPeak

***Please clearly label all communications with:
“Marys Peak BPA Communications Site Project”***

***Scoping Comment Period Ends:
February 21, 2018***



Contact Information

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