



Department of Energy

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

TRANSMISSION SERVICES

October 22, 2021

In reply refer to: TEP-CSB-2

To: People interested in the Radio System Upgrades at Willow Creek Summit and Windy Devil Annex

Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) has finalized the environmental assessment (EA) for the Radio System Upgrades at Willow Creek Summit and Windy Devil Annex. 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 have two radio stations built in Custer County, Idaho: one at Willow Creek Summit on Bureau of Land Management- (BLM) managed land, and one at Windy Devil on U.S. Forest Service-managed land. The project will provide greater reliability and coverage of the Very High Frequency (VHF) two-way radio system used by BPA field personnel, thereby enhancing the safety of the Federal Columbia River Transmission System.

BPA and the BLM prepared an EA to help the agencies determine if the project would cause significant impacts that would warrant preparing an environmental impact statement. The agencies released the draft EA for public review and comment in June 2021 and received joint comments from two Idaho state agencies. The final EA provides responses to those comments and highlights minor revisions to the Draft EA. Based on the EA analysis and mitigation measures to help lessen impacts, BPA and the BLM have found that the project will not cause any significant impacts and, therefore, an environmental impact statement will not be prepared.

Decision: BPA has decided to construct the Radio System Upgrades at Willow Creek Summit and Windy Devil Annex. Project construction is expected to begin in June 2022 and continue through October 2023, with breaks in construction during seasonal restrictions.

Copies Available: The final EA, FONSI, and mitigation action plan are available on BPA's website at <http://www.bpa.gov/goto/WillowCreekWindyDevil>. If you previously requested a copy of the documents, they are enclosed. If you would like to obtain paper copies of any of these documents, please call our toll-free document request line at 1-800-622-4520; leave a request naming this project and giving your name and complete mailing address.

For More Information: If you have questions regarding the environmental process, please contact the Environmental Protection Specialist, Mike O'Connell, toll-free at 800-622-4519, directly at 503-230-7692, or by e-mail at mjocconnell@bpa.gov.

If you have other questions or would like more project information, please call Charley Majors at the toll-free number listed above, directly at 360-619-6683, or by e-mail at vcmajors@bpa.gov.

Thank you for your interest in our work.

Sincerely,

/s/ Dean Freel

Dean Freel

Supervisory Project Management Officer

Enclosures (if requested):

Final EA

FONSI/Mitigation Action Plan