Reinforcing the transmission highway

I-5 Corridor Reinforcement Project: what it is and why we need it
Bonneville Power Administration

- We are committed to working to provide low cost, reliable and environmentally responsible electricity recognizing that we are accountable to the people of the Pacific Northwest whom we serve.
- We are a self-funded, nonprofit agency that cover costs through sales of electricity and transmission services.
About BPA

- We supply about a third of region’s electricity over 75 percent of high-voltage transmission lines.
- More than 1,500 of our employees live in Washington and we care about the quality of life in our communities.
Local utility benefits

- Cowlitz PUD buys over 90 percent of its wholesale power from BPA.

- Clark PUD buys about two-thirds of their power primarily from BPA.
About the project

- A proposed high-voltage line between two proposed substations in Castle Rock, Washington and Troutdale, Oregon.
- Would relieve a major transmission bottleneck in the Northwest.
- BPA has not built a major power line in the area in more than 40 years.
- The population in Clark and Cowlitz counties has more than doubled during that time.
  - 197,000 in 1970
  - 525,000 in 2008
Energy use trends

- The project area has grown, bringing in new businesses, jobs, hospitals and schools.
- Homes are larger and we have more appliances, computers and other things plugged in.
- Over the past five years, summer energy use is on the rise.
  - Cowlitz up 6%, Clark up 21%, Multnomah up 18%

1973
1,660 sq.ft.

2007
2,521 sq.ft.
Meeting growth

- Building transmission lines is not the only solution to growing demand.
  - The region conserved 200 megawatts in 2007, equal to about half of our annual electricity growth.
  - BPA and regional utilities are designing programs to capture over 5,000 aMW of energy efficiency in the next 20 years.
BPA is using several innovative, interim solutions to further manage backups.

Technological advances have allowed us to delay the need for a new line.
Benefits of a new line

- **Reliable power**
  - Uninterrupted, reliable power is critical to economic development and jobs

- **Environmentally responsible power**
  - Reinforcement would bring renewable power from where it is generated to where it is needed

- **Low cost power**
  - As with all other high-voltage transmission lines, local utilities and BPA keep their costs low by selling excess power.
  - Lines like this support the exchange of power throughout the west region which leads to lower prices for all consumers.
    - For example 15 percent of BPA’s power revenues come from selling surplus power. All of this revenue is used to reduce rates for our Pacific Northwest preference customers like Clark and Cowlitz PUDs.
Making a decision about a new line

Throughout 2010
Refine proposal, meet with local stakeholders, study and document project impacts

October 2009
Notify public of the project

October-December 2009
Collect “scoping” comments

2009

2010

2011

2012

2011
Publish draft environmental impact statement and collect public feedback

2012
Publish final EIS and agency decision

October 2009
Notifı public of the project
Project outreach

- Six open-house style public meetings in 2009
  - more than 2,700 people attended
  - provided information and answers face-to-face
- We continue to gather public input from residents and constituent groups
Moving forward

- We are developing the draft EIS using comments and additional studies to shape the routes we consider and best tower locations.

- Reviewing segments for impacts, seeking to:
  - Meet electrical needs of the project
  - Avoid the need to ask people to move from their homes
  - Avoid or mitigate impacts to residents, plants and animals
Electric and magnetic fields

- We take health concerns seriously and continue to monitor scientific EMF research.
- So far, no direct cause-and-effect relationships have been proven.
- BPA will rely on the latest studies in our environmental review process.
We are listening to residents

- Your feedback helps shape the routes we consider and the best locations for the towers.
- We appreciate and rely on the engagement of all interested and affected individuals in these decisions.