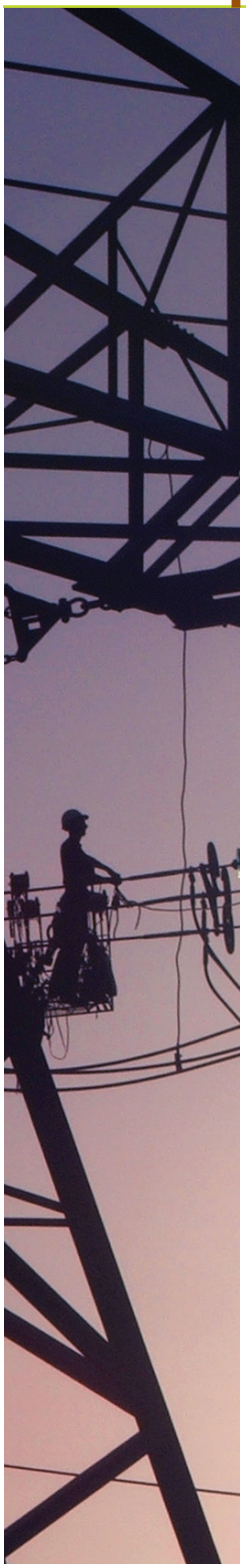
I-5 CORRIDOR REINFORCEMENT PROJECT

Project Update

December 2013



The Bonneville Power Administration is proposing to build a 500-kilovolt transmission line to reinforce the high-voltage power grid in southwest Washington and northwest Oregon as part of the I-5 Corridor Reinforcement Project. The line would be approximately 79 miles long, running between a new substation near Castle Rock, Wash., and a new substation near Troutdale, Ore. In November 2012, BPA completed a draft environmental impact statement (EIS) for the proposed project. The draft EIS identified BPA's preferred alternative as Central Alternative using Central Option 1. You can look at a map of BPA's preferred alternative online at www.bpa.gov/goto/i5

BPA has been reviewing comments received on the draft EIS and our preferred alternative. Project team members and contractors have been meeting with landowners and conducting field work. We would like to share information with you about recent project activity and next steps.

Meeting with landowners

Project team members have been meeting with landowners along the preferred alternative. This gives BPA a better understanding of the impact to people and what we can do to avoid or minimize potential impacts from the project. As this work nears completion, BPA will update our interactive map to reflect modifications online at *www.bpa.gov/goto/i5.*

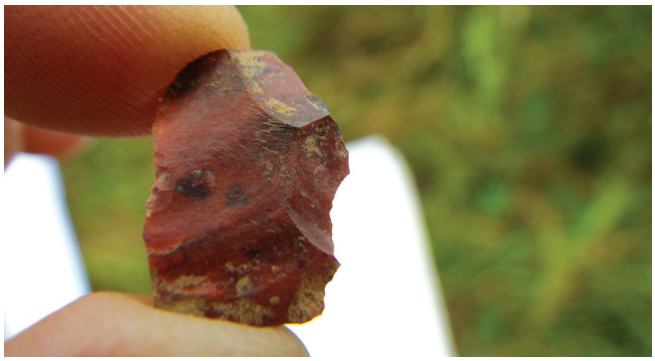
Field work and analysis

In the past few months, BPA and its contractors have been studying potential impacts within the project area and determining how we can reduce or minimize these impacts. BPA only conducts surveys in areas where we have our own land rights, public access or permission to enter private property. Here are some highlights of the work.

Archaeological shovel test excavation and screening of excavated sediments to search for artifacts.

Archaeological and historical survey

Archaeological Investigations Northwest (AINW) studies are designed to help BPA identify archaeological and historic resources in the project area. AINW archaeologists look for surface features and dig shovel test holes to identify material evidence of past human activities. Evidence includes artifacts, such as stone tools left behind by Native Americans who lived in the area for many thousands of years, and more recent historic artifacts representing pioneer settlement or other 19th- to mid-20th-century activities. In assessing archaeological discoveries, AINW seeks to determine how archaeological information can contribute to our understanding of events that happened in the past and how people lived over a period spanning several millennia.



Small jasper flake found in fine-mesh screen, which represents ancient stone tool-making.

AINW and architectural historians identify buildings, structures, sites and objects that are 45 years or older — generally from the 1800s to mid-1900s. These resources are documented and researched to help BPA understand their possible contribution to local history, either through their architectural distinction or their association with significant events or people of our past. The information gathered during this process furthers our understanding of historical occurrences and patterns of development within and near the project area, and documents the ways this history is expressed.

Once archaeological and historic resources are identified in the project area, BPA will determine whether they meet federal criteria for significance and whether significant resources would be affected by the I-5 Project. For resources that are found to be significant, BPA would work to avoid or to mitigate impacts from planned construction and operation of project facilities.

Wetlands survey

Environmental Science Associates (ESA) ecologists are mapping wetlands, ponds and streams to provide needed information on the size and location of these natural resources for the I-5 Project. Field work involves walking portions of existing and proposed rights-of-way and access roads to document soils, plants and hydrology as part of baseline studies. Results from the field mapping would be used to avoid impacts to natural resources, where possible, or to determine the amount of mitigation if impacts cannot be avoided.

Land survey

Cadastral surveys document the boundaries of land ownership by the production of documents, diagrams, sketches, plats, charts and maps. Using a mix of Global Positioning System, terrestrial and digital imaging technologies for collecting spatial data, the data library developed for this project will be unprecedented within the state. Due to multiple sources of land data, records are often incomplete and have to be found through private collections, public works departments or within court records. This project requires close collaboration with operations managers of major timber companies, county surveyors, public works directors, geographic information system specialists and land surveying professionals to ferret out the existence of land records that were developed prior to the institution of a Survey Recording Act and do not reside within the Public Land Survey Office of the Washington Dept. of Natural Resources.

Next steps

BPA is beginning to upgrade existing facilities; the upgrades will delay the need for this project to 2018 from 2016. In addition, we continue to pursue non-wires options that could further delay the need for this project, but they would not eliminate the need for a new transmission line.

BPA is considering and responding to more than 600 emails, phone calls and letters that resulted in nearly 3,000 separate comments on the draft EIS. We are working with property owners to secure permission to access their land for more ground surveys and environmental study. We hope to release our final EIS for the project and a decision about whether to build it late next year.

How to comment or contact us.

ONLINE

www.bpa.gov/goto/i-5

EMAIL

I-5@bpa.gov

WRITE

I-5 Corridor Reinforcement Project
P.O. Box 9250, Portland, OR 97207

PHONE

800-230-6593 (voice mail)

FAX

888-315-4503

www.bpa.gov

BONNEVILLE POWER ADMINISTRATION

DOE/BP-4567 • DECEMBER 2013