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 the Central Alternative using Central Option 1.

Updates to preferred alternative — new interactive map

BPA published the draft environmental impact statement (EIS) in 2012 and identified the preferred alternative. Since then, we have received comments and questions about proposed tower and access road locations and potential impacts to residents, wetlands, wildlife, timber harvest and other resources. We have reviewed comments and met with private, public and corporate landowners; federal, state and local agencies, and tribes. After listening to many concerns and doing more analysis, we have adjusted some tower and access road locations to reduce impacts along the preferred alternative. The final adjustments to the preferred alternative are shown on our interactive map dated June 2014.

Our new map shows the updated preferred alternative based on changes we have made after working with landowners and other interested parties. Zoom in to the areas of interest to you and search for specific locations with the easy-to-use online version. A user guide is available online at www.bpa.gov/goto/I-5.
The original interactive map (updated in November 2012), which included all four action alternatives and identified the preferred alternative, is still online and available for review and reference at www.bpa.gov/goto/I-5. You can compare the June 2014 map and the 2012 version to see changes that have been made in the locations of interest to you.

If you do not have Internet access or have questions, call or write us with your request. Give us your name, phone number, mailing and property addresses and we will send you a printed map.

Non-wire measures provide temporary relief
Reliability of our transmission system is crucial to the region. In addition to and outside of the proposed I-5 project, we are exploring other measures to maintain transmission system reliability that do not require a new transmission line or new substations. BPA has determined that non-wires measures cannot eliminate the need for the I-5 project, but they may be able to bridge any potential gap between the date we would need the line and the date we could have the proposed I-5 project built and energized.

More information on non-wire measures will be included in the final EIS.

Current project schedule
To incorporate the revised preferred alternative in the final EIS, update our analysis and respond to the comments we received on the draft EIS, we now plan to release our final EIS in late 2015, followed by a record of decision (ROD) in early 2016. In addition, we regularly update load (or power demand) forecasts and other studies as we monitor our transmission system. Available information will be used to update the EIS and/or be included in the ROD.