



BONNEVILLE POWER ADMINISTRATION I-5 Corridor Reinforcement Project Draft EIS Drop-in Sessions Summary December 2012

Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) hosted six informal drop-in sessions throughout Southwest Washington in December 2012. BPA released its draft environmental impact statement (EIS) for the I-5 Corridor Reinforcement Project, on November 13, 2012, for public review and comment through March 1, 2013. BPA identified its preferred alternative as the Central Alternative using Central Option 1. Under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), BPA is required to evaluate how people and the environment could be affected by the project.

Purpose

The purpose of the drop-in sessions was to provide an opportunity for the public to get help finding information in the draft EIS, ask questions about the environmental review process, submit written comments on the document, request property maps, and learn about the public comment period and how to make a comment on the draft EIS.

Format:

The informal drop-in sessions were staffed by BPA and its consultants. Attendees were asked to sign-in at the entrance and directed to different stations set up around the room including:

- **Large project maps:** Large poster boards of the Preferred Alternative map (November 2012) and Alternatives & Options map (May 2011) were displayed near the sign-in table.
- **Map request and printing station:** This station provided attendees with a means to locate their property using BPA's interactive, online mapping system. Staff was available to show attendees the interactive map, print property maps from the interactive map, show attendees how to navigate the draft EIS on CD, and show attendees the project website. Materials available at this station included the 'guide to viewing your property online' and 'reading the EIS on compact disc' handouts.
- **Draft EIS hard copy reference station:** Hard copies of the draft EIS were available at this station for people to review and ask questions of staff about the document.
- **Comment table:** This station was set up to provide an area where attendees could write their comments on the draft EIS and project. Comment forms, reply paid envelopes, a comment box, pens and a poster on 'where to view the draft EIS and how to provide a comment' were available at this station.
- **Resource table:** The project's traveling display board and project materials were located here. Resource materials are listed in the appendix.

Attendance

A total of 155 people signed in at the six sessions and about 180 are estimated to have attended. Attendees included property owners, residents, local business representatives and members of the citizens group, A Better Way for BPA. A space was made available for A Better Way for BPA to set-up a station with the group's materials. Attendance and information requested at each event is outlined on the following page.



Location	Date	Signed in	Approximate attendance	Comment Forms completed	Site visit requests	Draft EIS hard copy requests	Maps printed (per address)
Castle Rock	12/4	57	65	6	3	1	20
Amboy	12/6	38	45	6	6	1	12
Camas	12/8	12	15	1	0	0	7
Vancouver	12/11	17	20	1	1	1	2
Camas	12/12	9	10	1	0	1	5
Amboy	12/15	22	25	5	0	0	10
Total		155	180	20	10	4	56

Draft EIS comments

Drop-in session attendees shared their comments, questions and concerns about the I-5 Corridor Reinforcement Project with staff. As the sessions were held during a formal NEPA comment period for the draft EIS, all staff encouraged attendees to provide their comments on the project using the formal comment methods including writing to BPA, calling the toll free comment and information voice messaging system, attending a verbal comment session at the public meetings in January-February 2013, or submitting comments electronically using the project email address or web comment form on the project website.

Some attendees provided written comments or requests at the sessions. Others took the comment forms and reply paid envelopes with them as they left the sessions. All comments submitted during the draft EIS comment period will be responded to in the final EIS.

Several attendees (56) requested printed copies of their properties or specific locations in the project area from the online interactive map. Most attendees were interested in finding out where their properties are located in relation to BPA's preferred alternative. Ten attendees requested site visits from the project team showing property owners where project components (access roads and towers) would be located and whether they would be visible from their properties. Four attendees requested hard copies of the draft EIS.

Topics attendees were interested in finding in the draft EIS included:

- Proposed tower configurations – size and locations
- Proposed access roads
- Maps of all segments
- Maps of the preferred alternative
- Purpose of the project
- Vegetation clearing and width of new right-of-way
- Impacts to property values
- Impacts to fish
- Other routes considered but eliminated
- Project schedule
- Terrain and geological maps
- Land and property acquisition process
- Electric and magnetic field effects
- Impacts to views
- Undergrounding of the transmission line

Project next steps

Six public meetings will be held in January and February 2013. These meetings will include two parts. There will be an open house format, where people can gather project information from handouts and display boards and ask questions of BPA project staff. BPA will also host a verbal comment session, where verbal comments can be submitted to the project team and included as draft EIS comments.



Public review of and comment on the draft EIS will continue through March 1, 2013. BPA staff will review all comments received and respond to them in the final EIS, expected in 2014.

Following the final EIS, the BPA Administrator will issue a record of decision (ROD) announcing BPA's final decision for the project. The ROD will identify decision factors and describe commitments for mitigating unavoidable environmental impacts documented in the EIS, if the decision is to move forward with a build alternative.





Bonneville Power Administration I-5 Corridor Reinforcement Project Draft EIS Drop-in sessions December 2012

Appendix

The informational materials available at the resource table of the I-5 Corridor Reinforcement Project drop-in sessions are listed below. Copies of each material are included starting on the next page.

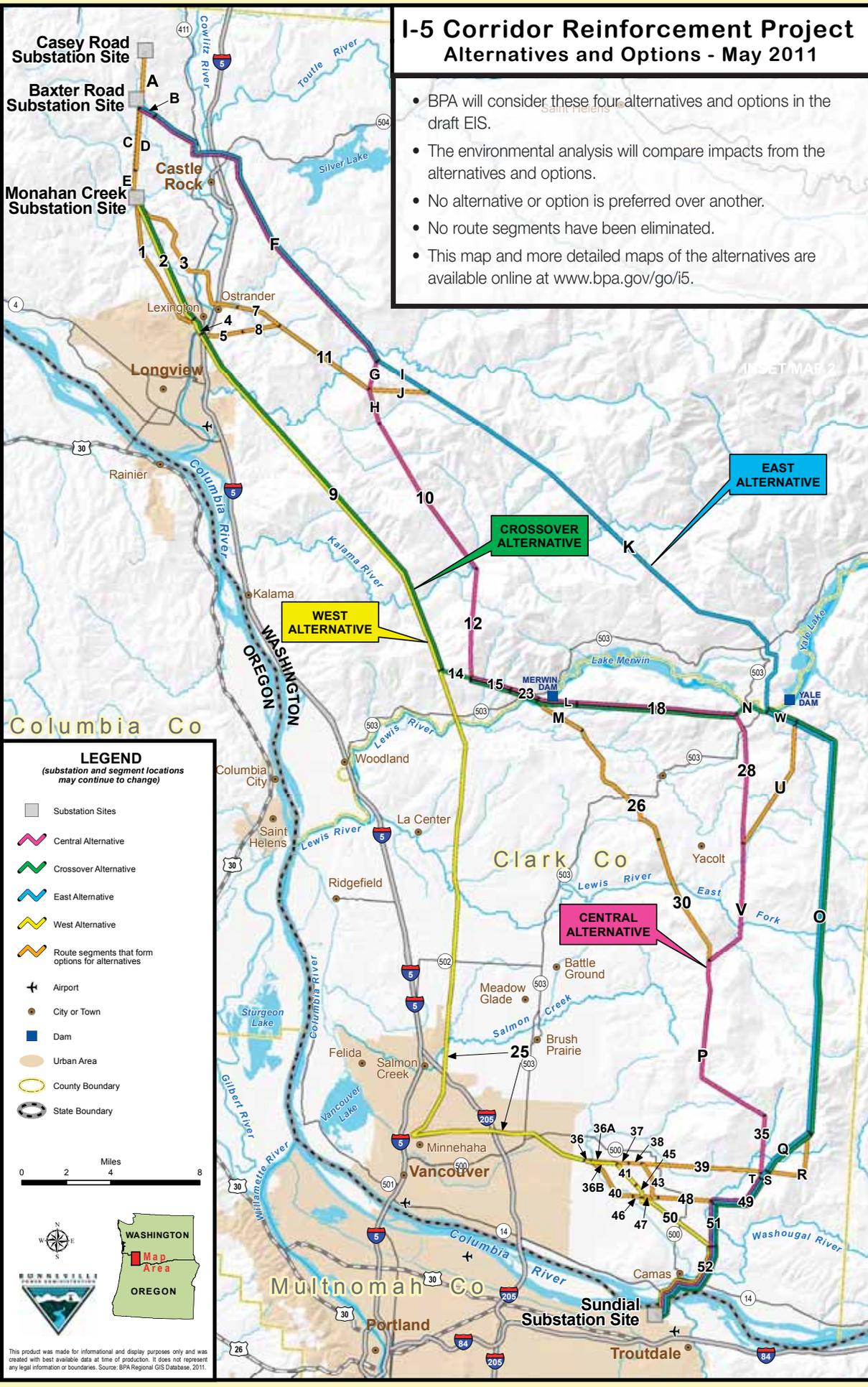
- May 2011 alternatives and options map
- November 2012 preferred alternative map
- Project update – November 2012
- Issue brief – Why BPA prefers Central Alternative using Option 1
- Reading the EIS on compact disc
- Complete list of viewing locations for hard copy draft EIS
- Guide to finding your property online
- Draft environmental impact statement comment form
- I-5 Corridor Reinforcement Project schedule
- A guide to being heard during the NEPA process

The resource table also included copies of the draft EIS summary and frequently asked questions. These materials can be found on the project website www.bpa.gov/goto/i5.



I-5 Corridor Reinforcement Project Alternatives and Options - May 2011

- BPA will consider these four alternatives and options in the draft EIS.
- The environmental analysis will compare impacts from the alternatives and options.
- No alternative or option is preferred over another.
- No route segments have been eliminated.
- This map and more detailed maps of the alternatives are available online at www.bpa.gov/go/i5.



LEGEND
(substation and segment locations may continue to change)

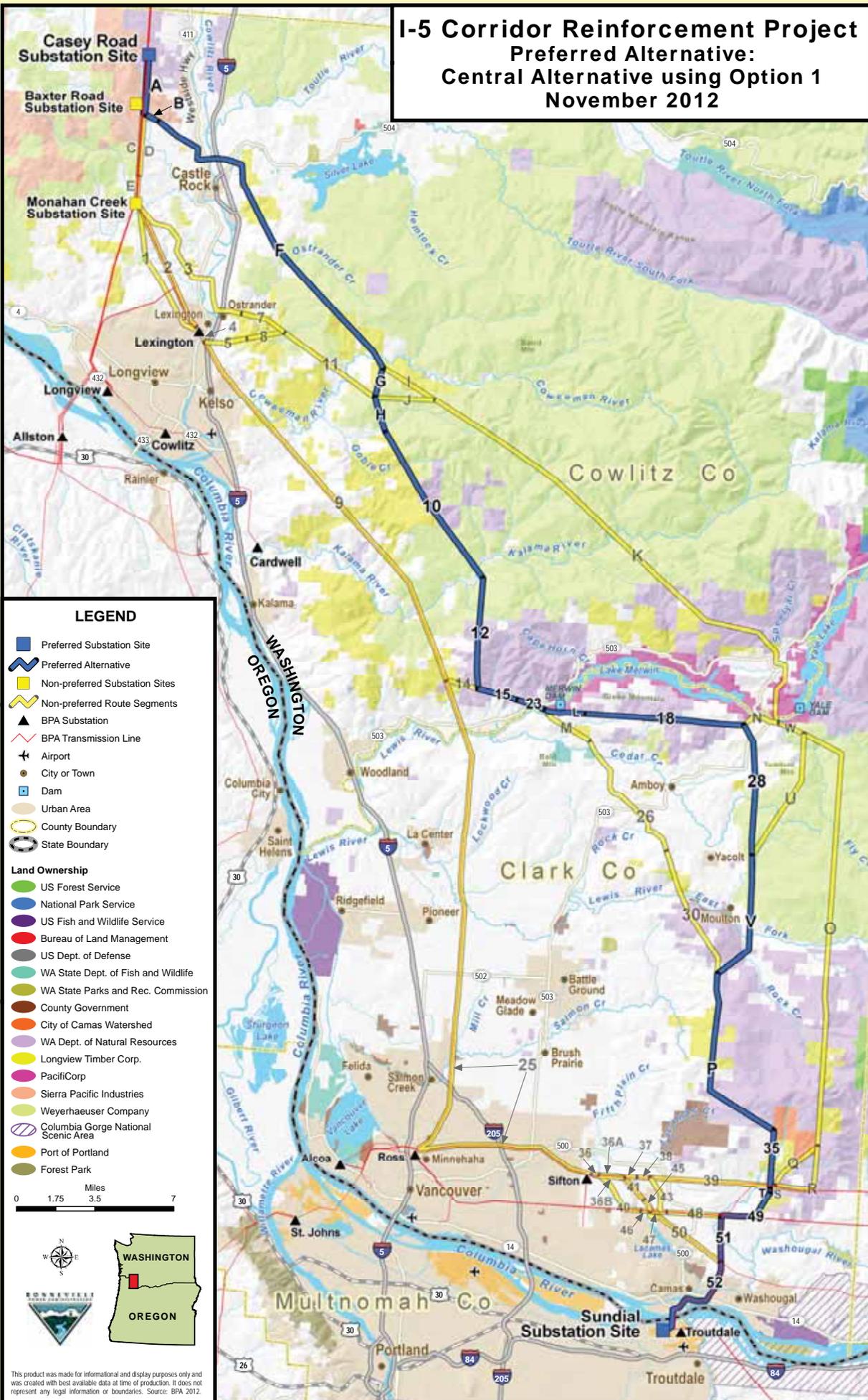
- Substation Sites
- Central Alternative
- Crossover Alternative
- East Alternative
- West Alternative
- Route segments that form options for alternatives
- Airport
- City or Town
- Dam
- Urban Area
- County Boundary
- Slate Boundary

0 2 4 8 Miles

WASHINGTON
Map Area
OREGON

This product was made for informational and display purposes only and was created with best available data at time of production. It does not represent any legal information or boundaries. Source: BPA Regional GIS Database, 2011.

I-5 Corridor Reinforcement Project Preferred Alternative: Central Alternative using Option 1 November 2012



LEGEND

- Preferred Substation Site
 - Preferred Alternative
 - Non-preferred Substation Sites
 - Non-preferred Route Segments
 - BPA Substation
 - BPA Transmission Line
 - Airport
 - City or Town
 - Dam
 - Urban Area
 - County Boundary
 - State Boundary
- Land Ownership**
- US Forest Service
 - National Park Service
 - US Fish and Wildlife Service
 - Bureau of Land Management
 - US Dept. of Defense
 - WA State Dept. of Fish and Wildlife
 - WA State Parks and Rec. Commission
 - County Government
 - City of Camas Watershed
 - WA Dept. of Natural Resources
 - Longview Timber Corp.
 - PacifiCorp
 - Sierra Pacific Industries
 - Weyerhaeuser Company
 - Columbia Gorge National Scenic Area
 - Port of Portland
 - Forest Park

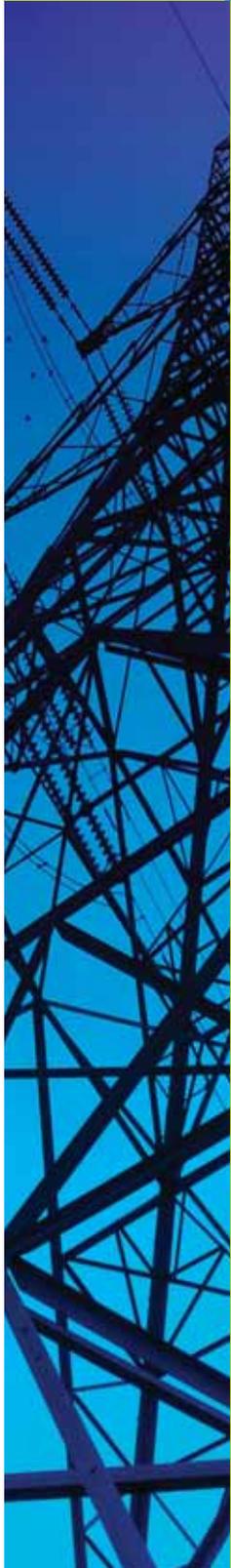


This product was made for informational and display purposes only and was created with best available data at time of production. It does not represent any legal information or boundaries. Source: BPA 2012.

I-5 Corridor Reinforcement Project

Project Update

November 2012



The Bonneville Power Administration has completed a draft environmental impact statement (EIS) for our proposed I-5 Corridor Reinforcement Project. BPA is proposing to build a 500-kilovolt transmission line to reinforce the high-voltage power grid in southwest Washington and northwest Oregon. The line would be approximately 79 miles long between a new substation near Castle Rock, Wash., and a new substation near Troutdale, Ore.

Preferred alternative

The draft EIS describes the proposed project and why it is needed, discusses the environmental impacts the project would create, lists the mitigation measures that would lessen or eliminate those impacts, and identifies BPA's preferred alternative. BPA's preferred alternative is the Central Alternative using Option 1 and is described in the enclosed Issue Brief.

Next steps

We will consider all comments submitted during the comment period. We will also continue to work and communicate with our cooperating agencies, as well as with other federal, state, regional, and local agencies, tribes, landowners, interest groups and citizens. We will publish all comments and our responses to comments in the final EIS. The final EIS also will include any changes to our proposal or analysis. BPA expects to complete and publish the final EIS in 2014. We intend to issue a record of decision after completing the final EIS to announce and explain BPA's decision about whether to build the project and, if a decision is made to build, which alternative we have chosen.

Working with landowners along preferred route

BPA's project design team is very interested in working with land owners along the preferred route to discuss our proposed tower and road locations. As we learn more about the route, and its impacts, we may propose changes to specific tower and road locations. If you would like to discuss specific locations on or near your property with the design team directly, please include that request in your comments on the draft EIS and tell us how you would like the design team to contact you.

In addition, BPA will again request permission to access properties where needed to conduct more surveys, refine our preliminary designs or gather other information. If we need access to your property, you will receive a separate letter from us early next year requesting permission to enter your property. Granting permission to enter private property for surveying and information gathering does not constitute a grant of future easement or that a transmission line will be constructed across the property, it simply allows us to conduct surveys and studies.



Why was the draft EIS prepared?

The draft environmental impact statement (EIS) for the I-5 Corridor Reinforcement Project was released Nov. 13, 2012, for public comment through March 1, 2013. The document describes the:

- Purpose of and need for the project
- Description of the potentially affected environment
- Analysis of the four action alternatives and their options, and the No Action Alternative
- Expected positive and negative effects of each alternative to the human and natural environments (or resources)
- Preferred alternative
- Measures to avoid, minimize or mitigate negative effects
- Preliminary costs of the alternatives

The draft EIS was prepared to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the federal law that requires federal agencies to prepare an EIS for proposed federal actions that will significantly affect the human and natural environments. NEPA and its regulations require that environmental information be made available to officials and the public before the agency decides whether and how to proceed with the proposed action.

The draft EIS describes and compares the potential impacts of the four action alternatives and their options, and the No Action Alternative. Some of the resources BPA analyzes include the following:

- Land ownership and use
- Cultural resources
- Aesthetics
- Sensitive plants and animals and their habitats
- Fish and water resources
- Erosion and soils
- Socioeconomics and public services
- Electric and magnetic fields
- Noise
- Public health and safety
- Air quality
- Recreation
- Environmental justice

The draft EIS considers the potential positive and negative effects of all components of the project, including the following:

- Towers
- Conductors
- Counterpoise
- Fiber optic cable
- Right-of-way clearing
- Access roads
- Staging areas
- Gates
- Substation facilities

Reviewing the draft EIS

The draft EIS can be accessed in the formats listed below.

Internet

The full document can be accessed on the project website: www.bpa.gov/goto/i5.

Compact disc

A CD copy was mailed to everyone on the project mailing list in November. If you would like to request a CD to be mailed to you, submit a request online or call the automated phone line and leave a message.

Printed copy of summary

An 80-page summary is part of the draft EIS and is available on the CD, our website and at outreach events during the draft EIS comment period. This summary highlights and condenses the key findings from the draft EIS. If you would like a printed copy of the summary, submit a request online or call the automated phone line at 800-230-6593.

Printed copy of full document

The full document is nearly 2,000 pages. To save paper and reduce costs, limited print copies will be available. If you are unable to access the document via the Internet or CD, print copies can be reviewed at multiple community locations, listed on the next page. If none of these options work for you, request a copy of the document by submitting a request online or by calling our automated phone line and leaving a message.

Full printed copies are available for review at the locations listed below. All of these locations except for Yacolt Town Hall also have electronic copies available for viewing.

- Longview** ■ Longview Public Library
- McMinnville** ■ Linfield College, Nicholson Library
- Monmouth** ■ Western Oregon University, Hamersly Library
- Olympia** ■ Evergreen College
Daniel J Evans Library,
Government Documents
and Maps
- Portland** ■ Lewis and Clark College,
Paul L. Boley Law Library
■ Portland State University,
Branford P. Millar Library
■ Multnomah County Library
(central)
- Seattle** ■ University of Washington,
Suzzallo Library
- Troutdale** ■ Troutdale Library
- Vancouver** ■ Vancouver Cascade Park Library
■ Vancouver Community Library
(main)
■ WSU Vancouver Library
- Yacolt** ■ Yacolt Library Express
■ Yacolt Town Hall

What kind of comments are most useful?

Comments should be as specific as possible, with references to particular pages, sections and chapters. Additional or clarifying information that should be considered is helpful. Factual corrections are appreciated.

Draft EIS comments submitted by fax, mail, email, or on the project website will receive a fax, postcard, or email within two weeks confirming that the comment has been included in the official record. Comments submitted directly to project staff, on the project voice mail, or made verbally at the draft EIS public meetings

(see page 4) will not receive a written acknowledgement of receipt. Responses to comments will be in the final EIS.

How to comment

We invite your comments on the draft EIS. Please let us know if we analyzed all the resources important to you. We would also like for you to tell us if there are other ways we could lessen potential impacts or if you have any other comments concerning the proposed project or its potential impacts. BPA staff will review all comments received and respond to them in the final EIS. We greatly appreciate your time reviewing the document and giving us your comments.

We are accepting comments through March 1, 2013. A comment form and a postage-paid return envelope were mailed to everyone on the project mailing list in November. All comments will be posted on BPA's website at www.bpa.gov/goto/i-5.

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

Draft EIS public drop-in sessions

Project staff will be available at various times and places throughout the project area in December 2012 to offer help accessing information in the draft EIS. These sessions will be informal. You are encouraged to drop in anytime during the session to get help navigating the draft EIS or ask questions about the EIS process, documentation and how to submit comments on the document. There will be no formal presentations. Laptops will be available to review the document, view the interactive map and submit comments through the project website.

Dec. 4, Tuesday	5 – 8 p.m.	Castle Rock – Castle Rock Elementary, Cafeteria
Dec. 6, Thursday	5 – 8 p.m.	Amboy – Amboy Middle School, Common Room
Dec. 8, Saturday	1 – 4 p.m.	Camas – Liberty Middle School, Cafeteria
Dec. 11, Tuesday	5 – 8 p.m.	Vancouver – Vancouver Community Library, Columbia Room
Dec. 12, Wednesday	5 – 8 p.m.	Camas – Liberty Middle School, Cafeteria
Dec. 15, Saturday	1 – 4 p.m.	Amboy – Amboy Middle School, Common Room

Public meetings

Early next year, you are invited to attend any of the following public meetings to provide comments on the draft EIS. These public meetings will include two parts. There will be an open house format, where people can gather project information from handouts and display boards and ask questions of BPA staff. BPA will also host a verbal comment session, where verbal comments can be submitted to the project team and included as draft EIS comments. BPA will respond to all comments in the final EIS.

Jan. 10	5 – 9 p.m.	Camas – Liberty Middle School, Cafeteria	Verbal comments 6 - 7:30 p.m.
Jan. 12	1 – 5 p.m.	Amboy – Amboy Middle School, Common Room	Verbal comments 2 - 3:30 p.m.
Jan. 23	5 – 9 p.m.	Battle Ground – Battle Ground Community Center, Lewis River Reception Hall and Moulton Falls Creek Room	Verbal comments 6 - 7:30 p.m.
Feb. 2	1 – 5 p.m.	Longview – Mark Morris High School, Common Room	Verbal comments 2 - 3:30 p.m.
Feb. 4	5 – 9 p.m.	Castle Rock – Castle Rock Elementary, Multipurpose Room	Verbal comments 6 - 7:30 p.m.
Feb. 6	5 – 9 p.m.	Vancouver – Clark College, Gaiser Hall, Student Center and Fireplace Room	Verbal comments 6 - 7:30 p.m.

www.bpa.gov

BONNEVILLE POWER ADMINISTRATION

DOE/BP-4434 • November 2012

Why BPA prefers Central Alternative using Option 1

November 2012

BPA identifies its preferred alternative

After three years of public outreach, environmental analysis and technical study, BPA has identified the Central Alternative using Option 1 as the preferred alternative for the I-5 Corridor Reinforcement Project. The I-5 Project would be BPA's first new north-south transmission line in the Vancouver-Portland metropolitan area in 40 years. The new line would be built from Castle Rock, Wash., to Troutdale, Ore. The Bonneville Power Administration is sharing its preferred alternative for where to site the 79-mile line and its two new substations as part of the release of the draft environmental impact statement for the project. The draft EIS identifies the preferred alternative and other alternatives considered.

After thoroughly analyzing many factors, the agency believes Central Alternative using Option 1 strikes the best balance to fulfill diverse project objectives. While it is neither the least expensive alternative nor the easiest to construct, the preferred alternative provides a way forward that would limit project impacts and disruptions across a broad array of communities and neighbors, manages costs to ratepayers, and achieves the goal of preserving transmission system reliability for everyone in the I-5 area in the future.

Why we identified the preferred alternative now

We believe the public, as well as the decision process, will benefit from our identification of a preferred alternative now. Doing so as soon as possible allows the public, private landowners, our cooperating agencies, tribes and other stakeholders to better evaluate information in the draft EIS and provide more specific comments to help us refine our study. BPA has reviewed public comments and listened carefully to public concerns expressed during more than 100 meetings. We acknowledge that building this project will affect neighboring communities, regardless of which route is ultimately chosen.

Why the I-5 Project is needed

Since BPA last built a north-south transmission line in the 1970s, the population of the area along I-5 in Washington and northern Oregon has more than doubled. Residents and businesses now use new energy resources and more air conditioning. The transmission system in the I-5 corridor is approaching capacity during key high-demand periods, such as summer heat waves. The Northwest was once a winter peaking region in terms of energy use. But the emergence of new homes, most of which have air conditioning, has increased demand for energy in the summer. A combination of growth and limited transmission capacity has raised the likelihood of serious transmission reliability problems by as early as 2016, including the possibility of blackouts, if additional transmission or other measures are not provided to support the area. The primary driver for building this line is the responsibility resting on BPA to provide reliable service. Additionally, BPA has received requests for commercial transmission service from utilities and power generators that could be served by this line.

What identifying a preferred alternative means

Identifying a preferred alternative does not represent a final decision concerning the route for the project, but it does show the direction BPA is leaning. It presents a strong indication based on three years of scoping and information gathering, followed by thorough analysis of the likely advantages and disadvantages, documented in the draft EIS, of the four action alternatives and the No Action Alternative. Though BPA has identified a preferred alternative at this time, all other alternatives in the draft EIS are still being considered.



What principles guided BPA's selection of a preferred route?

- System reliability — BPA must ensure the route we choose meets the electrical needs of the project.
- While all routes meet the electrical requirements and transmission planning standards we follow, the West and Crossover alternatives would site more of the new line adjacent to our existing transmission system, which inherently decreases reliability because it increases the likelihood of losing more than one line at a time.
- Low rates — We considered impacts to our transmission rates, as well as how each alternative would affect our capital budget and other critical BPA projects that use capital funds.
- Environmental stewardship — We considered the impacts to both the human and natural environment and what we could do to mitigate those impacts.
- Regional accountability — We engaged the public and stakeholders in our decision making. We listened to their concerns and took their values into account. We are also committed to meeting our statutory and contractual obligations.
- Since announcing the project in 2009, we have met and spoken with thousands of stakeholders at public meetings we hosted, as well as those hosted by others. Our extensive project mailing list is nearing 14,000. We reviewed more than 4,000 public comments.

What specific advantages does the preferred alternative provide?

- Many members of the public and elected officials strongly urged us to limit impacts to private property, nearby residences, schools and highly populated areas. The preferred route responds to these concerns and largely avoids these areas though some homes are still affected. For example, there are 327 homes within 500 feet of the Central Alternative, compared to 3,032 along the West Alternative.
- Many stakeholders have asked us to move the new line as far north and east as possible. The preferred alternative avoids many small, rural parcels of private land by crossing significant lengths of land held by Weyerhaeuser, PacifiCorp, Longview Timber and Washington Department of Natural Resources, while avoiding the most environmentally, mission-sensitive

and high impact lands these stakeholders manage on the East Alternative.

- The preferred alternative helps minimize impacts to wetlands and waterways, and we believe the Army Corps of Engineers will ultimately be able to issue the required permits to build this proposed route. The Army Corps of Engineers is responsible for protection of wetlands and water ways of the United States.
- The preferred alternative includes the Casey Road substation site. As compared to the Baxter Road substation site, the Casey Road substation site avoids significant steep, rocky terrain, as well as wetlands and streams. Although it adds about two miles of transmission line, it has fewer overall project impacts and reduces costs.
- The overall visual impacts of the preferred route were rated lower than other alternatives, but did have higher impacts in several areas and around the 327 residences along the proposed route.
- The cost of this alternative is estimated at \$459 million. While not the least-cost, nor the highest-cost alternative, it provides advantages that make it the preferred choice.

What's next?

BPA's draft EIS has been released for public comment and review through March 1, 2013. BPA then will prepare a final EIS that responds to all comments received and includes any necessary revisions of the EIS. BPA expects to complete and publish the final EIS in 2014. During the remainder of the EIS process we will work closely with property owners and others who could be affected by the preferred alternative to help us refine transmission tower and access road locations for this alternative.

Following the release of the final EIS, BPA will issue a record of decision (ROD). The ROD will announce and explain BPA's final decision on whether to build the project. If a decision is made to build, the ROD also will explain BPA's final decision concerning which alternative route it will build.

For more information

Online: www.bpa.gov/goto/i5

Call and leave a voice mail message: 800-230-6593

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

Reading the EIS on compact disc

The draft EIS is divided into several folders on the CD. As you open the CD, you will find a list of the folders as shown on the right.

To open a folder and see the files contained within it, double click on the folder.

Name	Type	Date Modified
DEIS Volume 1	File Folder	10/18/2012 12:58 PM
DEIS Volume 2	File Folder	10/17/2012 4:25 PM
DEIS_Appendices	File Folder	10/17/2012 4:25 PM
DEIS_Maps	File Folder	10/18/2012 11:13 AM
ReadMeFirst.pdf	Adobe Acrobat Doc...	10/18/2012 1:14 PM

For example, when you click on the DEIS Volume 1 folder, you will see a list containing the Cover, Abstract, Notes to Readers, Perforated Icons, Table of Contents, and all chapters in that volume. Files are listed in the order they appear in the hard copy version of the document. Double click on the specific file you wish to view.

Folders	Name	Size	Date Modified
I-5 Corridor Reinforcement Draft EIS	1Volume 1 Cover.pdf	2,731 KB	10/15/2012 1:43 PM
DEIS Volume 1	2Volume 1 Inside cover.pdf	133 KB	10/15/2012 1:44 PM
DEIS Volume 2	3Abstract.pdf	225 KB	10/15/2012 1:44 PM
DEIS_Appendices	4Notes to Reader.pdf	341 KB	10/17/2012 10:14 AM
DEIS_Maps	5Perforated Icons.pdf	626 KB	10/15/2012 1:52 PM
	6Table of Contents.pdf	265 KB	10/17/2012 8:33 PM

Maps are not embedded in the chapters and are listed in their own folder. Maps are named by the chapter in which they appear. For example, Map 2-1 appears in Chapter 2. Some maps appear in a series, for example, Maps 5-1A through 5-1D. These maps split the project area into four sections to show greater detail.

Folders	Name	Size	Date Modified
I-5 Corridor Reinforcement Draft EIS	1Map 5-1 Alternatives and Options.pdf	708 KB	8/7/2012 10:05 AM
DEIS Volume 1	Map 1-1 Alternatives and Options.pdf	708 KB	8/7/2012 8:54 AM
DEIS Volume 2	Map 1-2 Regional System Map.pdf	3,883 KB	8/7/2012 8:54 AM
DEIS_Appendices	Map 2-1 Route Segment and Substation Site D...	1,676 KB	8/7/2012 8:55 AM
DEIS_Maps	Map 2-2 Project Map November 2010.pdf	1,005 KB	8/7/2012 8:55 AM
	Map 2-3 West Alternative and Options.pdf	820 KB	8/7/2012 8:56 AM

Files vary in size. Large files are split into several smaller ones, but some files are over 30 megabytes and may take a few minutes to load onto your screen.



I-5 draft EIS reference and viewing locations

Full printed copies are available for review at the locations listed below. All of these locations except for Yacolt Town Hall also have electronic copies available for viewing.

Washington

Battle Ground - Battle Ground Community Library

Camas - Camas Public Library

Castle Rock - Castle Rock Public Library

La Center - La Center Community Library

Longview - Longview Public Library

Olympia - Evergreen College, Daniel J Evans Library, Government Documents and Maps

Seattle - University of Washington, Suzzallo Library

Vancouver

- Vancouver Cascade Park Library
- Vancouver Community Library (main)
- WSU Vancouver Library

Yacolt

- Yacolt Library Express
- Yacolt Town Hall

Oregon

Corvallis - Oregon State University, The Valley Library

Forest Grove - Pacific University, Forest Grove Campus Library

McMinnville - Linfield College, Nicholson Library

Monmouth - Western Oregon University, Hamersly Library

Portland

- Lewis and Clark College, Paul L. Boley Law Library
- Portland State University, Branford P. Millar Library
- Multnomah County Library (central)

Troutdale - Troutdale Library



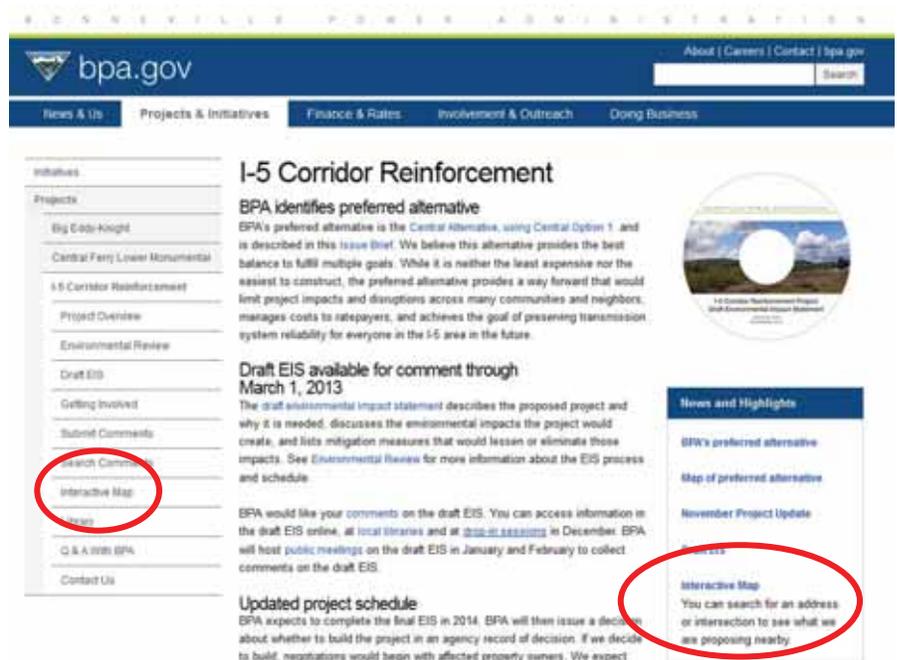
I-5 Corridor Reinforcement Project

Guide to finding your property online

Step 1:

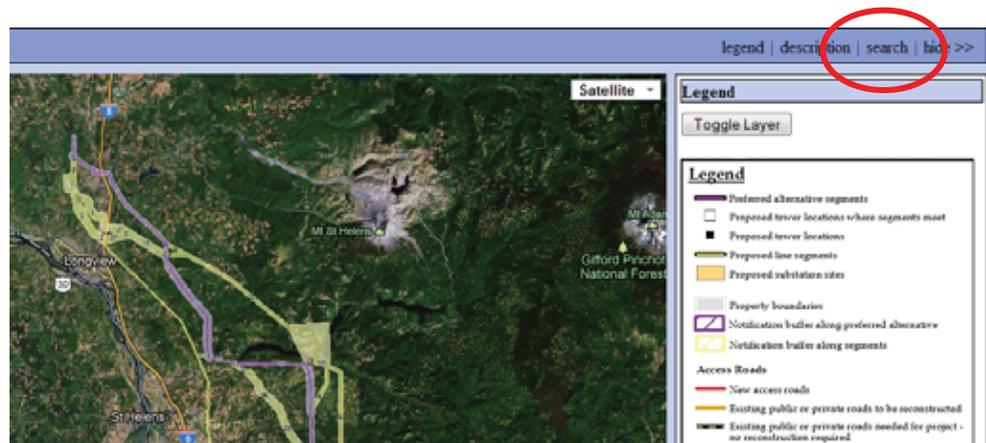
From the project website

www.bpa.gov/goto/i-5, select Interactive Map under “News and Highlights” on the right side of the page. You can also select Interactive Map on the left hand side of the page.



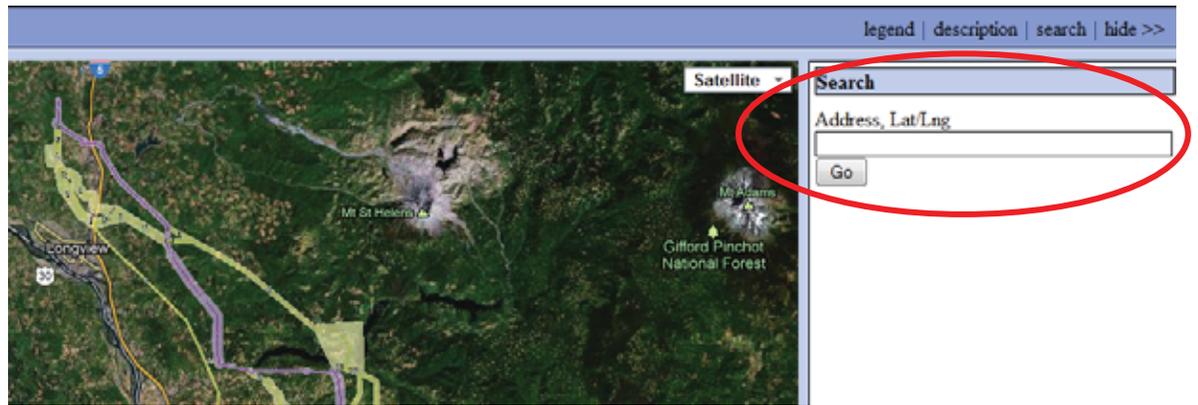
Step 2:

Select the option to “search” at the top right corner of the map page.



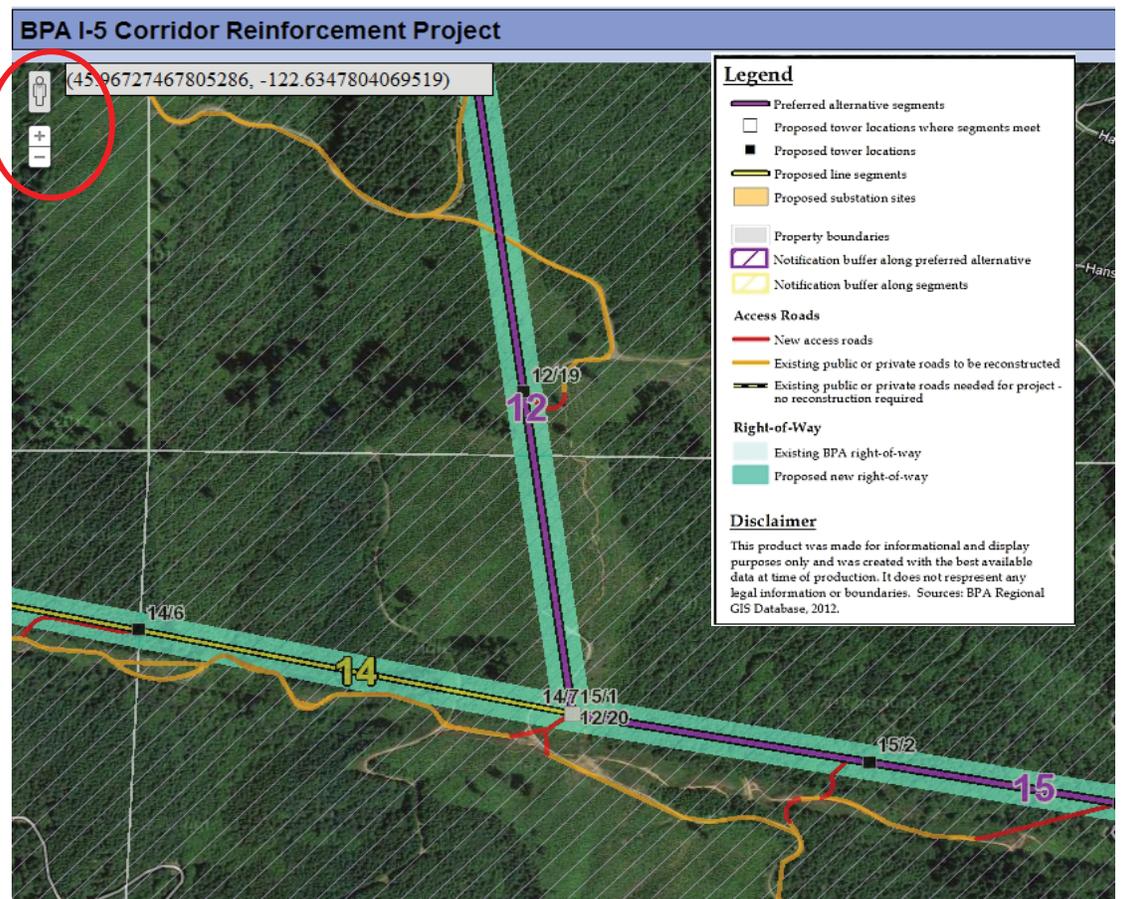
Step 3:

Enter your address, or nearest crossroads in the empty field and press "Go."



Step 4:

The map should zoom in and allow you to see if a proposed segment is close to your property. Use the tools on the top left corner of the map to zoom in and out of the area displayed or you can drag the map to an area you would like to view.



BPA's preferred alternative is shown in purple. All other proposed segments are shown in yellow.



I-5 Corridor Reinforcement Project Schedule

November 2012	Release draft environmental impact statement
March 1, 2013	Close of draft EIS comment period
2013-2014	Evaluate comments, complete environmental analysis
2014	Release final EIS Announce agency decision
2015-2018	If BPA decides to build: Negotiations with affected property owners Construction
2018	Complete construction and energize the line



The EIS process consists of several steps, each with opportunities for you to get involved. BPA follows these six steps for EISs on projects, plans and policies.

1. Notice of Intent (NOI) and letters to the public

Initially, BPA publishes a NOI in the Federal Register and sends a letter announcing the project to interested and affected parties. Landowners, tribes and interest groups, as well as federal, state and local agencies and the general public, are invited to participate in the EIS process. The NOI describes the need for action and provides preliminary information on the scope of issues to be addressed in the EIS, including the alternative actions and potential environmental impacts to analyze. The NOI also contains contact information and serves as the start of the formal scoping process under NEPA (see next step).

Get involved: The notice of intent and public letter explain how you can participate in the scoping process. These documents provide information about dates and locations of public meetings and how to access the project Web site.

2. Scoping

Scoping is an early and open process during which BPA solicits public input by asking questions such as the following:

- What issues should we evaluate?
- What potential environmental impacts should we analyze?
- What alternatives should we consider?

BPA's scoping process lasts at least 30 days for an EIS and includes at least one public meeting.

Get involved: Ask to be placed on the project mailing list. Tell BPA what EIS information you would like to receive and how you would like to receive it. For example, you might want a summary of the EIS, an e-mail with a link to the electronic EIS or the full document on CD or in hard copy. Be sure to submit comments – by letter, via Web comment form or at the scoping meeting – that you may have about the scope of the EIS before the close of the scoping period.

3. Draft EIS

BPA considers scoping comments and collects environmental data in preparing a draft EIS. The draft EIS compares alternatives and describes their potential environmental impacts. BPA is required to consider the “no action” alternative in its EISs, and to identify ways to avoid or reduce adverse environmental impacts. The draft EIS also identifies the agency's preferred alternative, if known at that time.

Access information: BPA's EIS schedules and related project information are available at BPA's Web site: www.bpa.gov/go/NEPA. Click on “Project Reviews – Active.”

4. Comment on a draft EIS

When BPA issues a draft EIS, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) publishes a notice of availability (NOA) for the draft EIS in the Federal Register. This kicks off an official public draft EIS comment period that lasts at least 45 days. In the NOA, BPA also will announce details about public meeting(s) for the draft EIS and how to comment during the comment period.

Get involved: If you're on the mailing list for an EIS on a project, you'll receive notice when the draft EIS is available for review. You also can check your local paper and the BPA Web site for information about the dates, times, and location of public meetings and ways to submit comments. Be sure to submit comments before the close of the comment period.

5. Final EIS

BPA considers and responds to timely substantive comments on the draft EIS and makes any necessary changes to the EIS text in preparing the final EIS. The final EIS also identifies BPA's preferred alternative, if it was not identified in the draft EIS. When BPA issues the final EIS, the EPA once again publishes a NOA for the final EIS in the Federal Register.

Access information: If you previously requested it, the final EIS or summary will be mailed or e-mailed to you. You can also check your local

paper, the BPA Web site or libraries for information about how to access or obtain copies of the final EIS.

6. Record of Decision (ROD)

BPA must wait at least 30 days after the NOA for the final EIS is published in the Federal Register before issuing a ROD. The ROD announces and explains BPA's decision and identifies alternatives, specifying the environmentally preferable one. It identifies and discusses decision factors and describes any commitments for mitigating potential environmental impacts.

Access information: BPA publishes either the ROD or a NOA of a ROD in the Federal Register, which you can access at: www.gpoaccess.gov/fr/ or at the BPA Web site www.bpa.gov/go/NEPA. You may also request a copy from BPA.

About BPA

The Bonneville Power Administration, part of the U.S. Department of Energy, is a not-for-profit federal electric utility that operates a high-voltage transmission grid comprising more than 15,000 miles of lines and associated substations in Washington, Oregon, Idaho and Montana. It also markets more than a third of the electricity consumed in the Pacific Northwest. The power is produced at 31 federal dams owned and operated by the U.S. Corps of Engineers and Bureau of Reclamation and one nuclear plant in the Northwest and is sold wholesale to more than 140 Northwest utilities. BPA purchases power from seven wind projects and has more than 2,200 megawatts of wind interconnected to its transmission system.

www.bpa.gov

BONNEVILLE POWER ADMINISTRATION
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BONNEVILLE POWER ADMINISTRATION

NEPA
National Environmental Policy Act

A guide to
being heard
during the
NEPA process





Have you ever wondered how environmental issues factor into Bonneville Power Administration decisions that may affect you? For example, how does BPA consider the environment in deciding where to put a transmission line or fish hatchery, or whether to put a new policy in place? Where do environmental considerations fit into the planning of these and other projects, programs and policies? And how can you make sure your opinions and concerns about the environment are heard and considered by decision makers?

The NEPA process is one opportunity for BPA to hear and consider the opinions and concerns of potentially affected communities. BPA believes that the more citizens know about the NEPA decision-making process, the more effectively we can work together to create the best environmental outcomes for our region. Specifically, we want to ensure that the Federal Columbia River Power System is safe, reliable and efficient; that our transmission system reliably integrates and transmits electrical power in the region; and that BPA is engaged in responsible environmental stewardship. In carrying out these responsibilities, we also strive to be responsive to regional communities and look at ways to minimize potential impacts from our actions.

Federal decisions have the potential to affect many aspects of your life, so at BPA we encourage your involvement in our NEPA processes.

NEPA and how it enhances decision making

The National Environmental Policy Act, enacted in 1969, is a federal law that is applicable to all federal agencies, including BPA. NEPA and its implementing regulations require these agencies to undertake an assessment of the environmental effects of their proposed actions before making decisions and taking action. Most federal agencies, including the U.S. Department of Energy (of which BPA is a part), also have enacted their own, agency-specific NEPA implementing regulations.

The NEPA process is intended to promote better agency decisions by ensuring that high-quality environmental information is available to agency officials and the public before the agency decides whether and how to undertake a federal action. While NEPA does not require that an agency achieve particular environmental results, it does require that an agency take a hard look at the potential environmental impacts of a proposed federal action. Under NEPA, BPA works closely with other federal agencies and state, local and tribal governments; public and private organizations; and the public to better understand these potential environmental impacts.

When conducting a NEPA analysis for a particular proposed project, plan, program or policy, BPA considers many different factors in the natural, economic and social environments, such as:

- endangered or sensitive species and their habitats
- cultural resources
- floodplains and wetlands
- noise levels, water quality and air quality
- human health and safety
- social and economic impacts to communities

In addition, where appropriate, measures to mitigate environmental impacts are included in the analysis.

Participate in the NEPA process

Your role is very important in the NEPA process that occurs during planning. With your input, we can have a better understanding of your opinions and concerns that should be considered throughout the NEPA process by agency decision makers. There are several ways to share your opinions and concerns with us and help shape the alternatives and factors considered in the analysis. To keep up with the latest developments, you can:

- Put your name on a mailing list to receive newsletters, updates and other information from BPA.

- Attend public meetings.
- Provide your input on BPA proposed projects, plans, programs and policies.
- Ask a BPA official to attend a meeting of your community organization, neighborhood association, school or other civic organization to talk about BPA's responsibilities and explain the NEPA process.
- Find out what specific public involvement opportunities are available in your area by checking out the public involvement page on our Web site at www.bpa.gov.

How BPA documents its decisions under NEPA

The appropriate NEPA documentation for a particular proposed project or action depends largely on the significance – in terms of context and intensity – of the project's potential environmental impacts. Typical NEPA documents include:

An **Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)** is prepared for federal actions that may have a significant effect on the human environment. The EIS process involves several steps defined by regulation that an agency must follow. See the back of this brochure for more details about the EIS process and how you can participate.

An **Environmental Assessment (EA)** is prepared for federal actions when the significance of environmental impact is not clear. If after preparing an EA, it is determined that the impact is significant, an EIS is then prepared. If not, a finding of no significant impact (FONSI) is documented. BPA requests public comments on preliminary EAs and considers those comments before either finalizing the EA and preparing a FONSI, or moving forward with an EIS.

A **Categorical Exclusion (CX)** is prepared for federal actions that do not require an EIS or an EA because they do not have the potential for significant

environmental impacts, either individually or cumulatively. A CX documents that the action fits within one of DOE's defined CX categories and that there are no extraordinary circumstances present.

For more information

We encourage you to learn more about NEPA, the environmental review process and BPA's current NEPA activities through one of the methods below:

- Visit BPA's Web site: www.bpa.gov/go/NEPA. Click on "Project Reviews – Active," to view or download project-specific information and BPA NEPA documents.
- Call BPA's toll-free document request line at (800) 622-4520 to request specific documents and other BPA-related information and publications.
- Subscribe to the BPA Journal by calling (800) 622-4519 to receive monthly updates on BPA projects and processes that are under review. View previous editions of the BPA Journal at: www.bpa.gov/corporate/pubs/Journal.
- Visit DOE's NEPA Web site at www.eh.doe.gov/nepa to find requirements and guidance that BPA, as an agency of DOE, follows for NEPA implementation.
- Visit the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's NEPA Web site at <http://nepa.gov/nepa/nepanet.htm> for government wide NEPA information.
- Browse the Federal Register online www.gpoaccess.gov/fr/ for notices about federal agency actions.

How BPA prepares an EIS

Both the draft and final EIS provide a full description of the proposed action and alternatives, the existing environment, and an analysis of the anticipated beneficial and adverse environmental effects of all reasonable alternatives. BPA requests public comments on the scope of each EIS and on the draft EIS. The EIS provides the basis from which a decision is made.