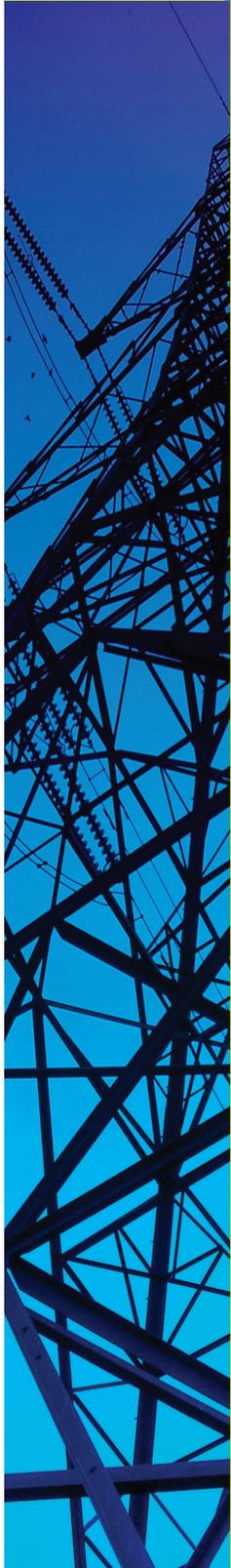


I-5 Corridor Reinforcement Project

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

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