



BONNEVILLE POWER ADMINISTRATION I-5 Corridor Reinforcement Project Scoping Meeting Summary

November 5, 2009 — Gresham, Ore.
4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Gresham Holiday Inn, 2752 NE Hogan Drive

Attendees

Forty-seven members of the public signed in at this open house. Attendees included property owners, local business owners, representatives of homeowners' associations, the Port of Portland and Troutdale Mayor Jim Knight.

Overview of comments heard

Open house attendees shared their comments and questions about the I-5 Corridor Reinforcement Project with Bonneville Power Administration staff. Some common themes from the evening's discussions included the following:

- *Route selection:* Attendees provided comments on specific route segments a new transmission line should avoid or follow. Some stated a preference for siting the route through state and federal lands to the east to avoid more populated areas. Others suggested using the existing Ross-Lexington transmission corridor. Property owners along segments 31 and 11 expressed their concerns about property value and quality of life issues including visual and noise impacts and disturbance of natural areas. Attendees were also interested in learning about any route eliminations as soon as possible.
- *Line design:* Participants had specific transmission line design questions, including the feasibility of burying transmission lines, the design options for transmission towers, and the use of existing rights-of-way (ROW) for new transmission lines.
- *Line maintenance:* Several property owners expressed concerns about potential damage to property from use of access roads, the feasibility of building access roads in residential areas and the use of existing roads that are not designed for heavy vehicles. Participants also had questions about how BPA planned to maintain the ROW for vegetation control.
- *Planned developments:* Attendees identified planned developments along proposed route segments that could be affected by a transmission line. This included plans of the Hockinson School District and Little League to develop a complex of baseball and soccer fields in the area of segment 31.
- *Natural resources:* Attendees identified specific natural resources on their properties including streams and wildlife species. Several property owners commented on challenging topography, steep stream banks, and/or poor soils as potential limiting factors for siting a transmission line through their properties. Species identified included beaver, bear, owls, amphibians, deer and moles.
- *Land and property process:* Attendees had specific questions about BPA's property and real estate process. Questions related to purchase and/or compensation, timing, negotiations, land ownership, disclosure requirements and assessment of property taxes. Several property owners spoke about the uncertainty the decision timeframe creates for their plans to build/remodel homes or sell their property. A comment was also made that BPA should pay landowners rent for easements rather than a one-time compensation.
- *Permission to enter property process:* Property owners asked specific questions about the "Permission to Enter Property" letters and forms they received, including the purpose and need for survey work on their property, specific concerns about impacts to resources on their properties from survey activities, and what happens if the permission forms are not signed. Several attendees suggested revising the letters and forms sent to landowners to clarify this process.



- *Electric and magnetic field effects*: Attendees had questions and concerns about potential health effects, noise and interference with electronic equipment from a transmission line.
- *Impacts to air traffic*: Attendees commented on the potential for transmission lines to interfere with air traffic, including commuter routes that go near Bells Mountain, as well as additional lines across the Columbia River.

Meeting purpose

The purpose of this open house meeting was to provide the public with information about BPA's I-5 Corridor Reinforcement Project and to have members of the project team available to answer questions and accept oral and written comments. BPA is proposing to build the I-5 Corridor Reinforcement Project, a new 500-kilovolt transmission line that would run between Castle Rock, Wash., and Troutdale, Ore. BPA will prepare an environmental impact statement for the proposed project. The first step is requesting comments about environmental impacts and other issues that should be considered in the EIS and comments on preliminary transmission line route segments and proposed substations.

Meeting format

The meeting followed an open house format. The format of this open house was modified based on feedback and experience at the first three meetings in Amboy, WA; Vancouver, WA; and Longview, WA to better accommodate the large numbers of participants. Upon arrival, attendees were guided through a series of project maps to locate their property and were provided copies of detailed property maps to use at the meeting and take home. BPA employees continued to staff several stations to take comments and address questions on the following topics:

- Existing System and Project Need
- Transmission Line Siting and Design
- Substation Design
- Maintenance Activities and Access Roads
- Environmental Resources
- Land and Permission to Enter Property Process

Resource stations provided project information in the form of proposal descriptions, maps, schematics and schedules. An additional station provided attendees with an area for learning more about the public process and how to provide comments.

Project next steps

BPA is currently gathering public input on the scope of EIS for this project and is accepting these comments through November 23, 2009. BPA will compile a summary of public comments received in a Scoping Summary Report that will be available in early 2010.

In 2010, BPA will conduct field work and environmental analyses to prepare a draft EIS on a number of defined project alternatives. In spring 2011, BPA expects to issue a draft EIS for public review and comment. A final EIS and agency decision is anticipated in spring 2012.

Learn more and stay connected

There are a number of ways members of the public can learn more about the project and submit their comments:

- *Visit the I-5 Corridor Reinforcement Project Web site*: Project updates, property maps and information can be found at www.bpa.gov/go/i5
- *Sign up for the mailing list*: To be added to the mailing list, visit the project Web site and view the "Get Involved" link or call 800-230-6593 to leave your contact information.
- *Submit comments*: Online at www.bpa.gov/go/i5; by mail at BPA I-5 Corridor Reinforcement, PO Box 9250, Portland, OR 97207; toll free at 800-230-6593; by fax at (888) 315-4503.