



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

November 7, 2009 — Vancouver, Wash.
1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Hazel Dell Grange, 7509 NE Hazel Dell Avenue

Attendees

Three hundred forty-four (344) members of the public signed in at this open house. Attendees included property owners, local business owners, and representatives of homeowners' associations and Vancouver Public Schools. Washington State Representative Ed Orcutt also attended.

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 afternoon's discussions included the following:

- **Route selection:** Attendees provided comments on specific route segments a new transmission line should avoid or follow. Some suggested using the existing rights-of-way (ROW), including the Ross-Lexington transmission corridor. Others prefer that a new transmission line avoid more populated areas and follow a route through properties to the east, including state and federal lands. Property owners along segments 9, 18, 25, 26, 30, and 31 shared specific concerns about property value and quality of life issues including visual impacts, noise, human and animal health effects, and disturbing natural areas. Many attendees were 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 width of corridors needed for a new transmission line. Some participants also suggested that new transmission line corridors be placed so the ROW could double as a forest fire break in fire-prone areas.
- **Line maintenance:** Several property owners expressed concerns about potential damage to property from increased use of access roads and the ROW by off-road recreational vehicles. Others commented that the use of an existing ROW for this transmission line would help keep overall system maintenance costs lower.
- **Recreation facilities:** Several participants identified recreational facilities that could be impacted by a new transmission line, including the Ellen Davis Trail near Salmon Creek and the Wolverton Mountain Gun Club. A comment was also made that BPA should mitigate any new transmission line placed in residential areas by funding new parks, trails, or other community amenities nearby.
- **Electric and magnetic field effects:** Attendees had questions and concerns about the impacts from electric and magnetic fields from transmission lines, including health effects on people and animals, noise, and interference with electronic equipment and television reception.
- **Timberlands:** Property owners that harvest timber on their land had specific concerns about impacts to this source of income, including compensation and increased off-road vehicle use on access roads and cleared areas.
- **Natural and archaeological resources:** Attendees identified specific natural and archaeological resources on or near their properties including streams, vegetation, wetlands, and wildlife species. Specific streams and habitat areas discussed include Cold



Creek, Husky Creek, Rock Creek, and the East Fork of the Lewis River. Species identified included eagles, owls, red tail hawks, amphibians, elk, deer, cougars, and marmots. A participant also discussed an archaeological resource along segment 31 at 212th Ave.

- 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. Property owners were concerned about impacts to property values from a transmission line sited on or near their property, especially since the housing market has already lowered values over the past couple of years. Land owners were also concerned about the multi-year decision timeframe for the project and the uncertainty this creates for their plans to build/remodel homes or sell their property.
- 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. Attendees suggested revising the letters and forms sent to landowners to clarify this process.
- Tribal coordination: Attendees had questions about the project's coordination with area tribes, including the Yakama, Umatilla, and Nez Perce tribes.

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.