



## Department of Energy

Bonneville Power Administration  
P.O. Box 61409  
Vancouver, WA 98666-1409

TRANSMISSION SERVICES

May 8, 2009

In reply refer to: TEP-TPP-3

### **To Parties interested in the Albany-Burnt Woods and Santiam-Toledo Pole Replacement Project:**

Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) has finalized the environmental assessment (EA) for the Albany-Burnt Woods and Santiam-Toledo Pole Replacement Project in Linn, Benton and Lincoln counties, Oregon. Based on the Final EA, BPA is issuing a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) and Floodplain Statement of Findings, and has made a decision on how to proceed with the project. This letter describes BPA's decision, construction schedule, and how to find more information about this project.

#### **Background**

The Albany-Burnt Woods transmission line extends from BPA's existing Albany Substation in the City of Albany, Oregon approximately 26 miles west to BPA's existing Burnt Woods Substation near the Benton and Lincoln county line. The Santiam-Toledo transmission line extends from BPA's existing Santiam Substation near the City of Stayton, Oregon approximately 67 miles west to BPA's existing Toledo Substation near the City of Toledo, Oregon. Pole replacement on the Santiam-Toledo transmission would begin at a point about two miles southeast of the City of Adair Village, Oregon, and continue approximately 21 miles west to near BPA's Burnt Woods Substation. The condition of both lines has gradually deteriorated due to exposure to the elements and normal wear and tear. BPA proposed to replace wood pole structures on the Albany-Burnt Woods and Santiam-Toledo lines to ensure continued safe and reliable transmission service.

BPA prepared the EA to help the agency determine if the Proposed Action would cause significant impacts that would warrant preparing an environmental impact statement. In March, BPA made the preliminary EA available for public review and comment. Two landowners commented. One minor revision was made to the EA. The EA Revision Sheet combined with the Preliminary EA constitutes the Final EA. Based on the analysis in the EA and the measures that will mitigate adverse effects, BPA has found that the Proposed Action will not cause any significant impacts.

#### **Decision**

BPA has decided to proceed with the Proposed Action. BPA will replace existing transmission line structures with new structures and improve some access roads.

**Construction schedule**

Pole replacement work is scheduled to begin in May. Construction will continue into the fall for as long as weather permits.

**For more information**

The EA Revision Sheet, FONSI, and Mitigation Action Plan are enclosed if you previously requested a Preliminary EA. If you did not receive a copy of any of these documents and would like copies, please call our toll-free document request line (800) 622-4520. These documents are available online at [http://www.efw.bpa.gov/environmental\\_services/Document\\_Library/Albany/](http://www.efw.bpa.gov/environmental_services/Document_Library/Albany/)

If you have any questions about the project, you may call me toll free at (800) 622-4519 or send me an e-mail at [etorth@bpa.gov](mailto:etorth@bpa.gov). Thank you for your interest in the project.

Sincerely,



Erich T. Orth  
Project Manager

Enclosure: (if Preliminary EA was received)  
EA Revision Sheet  
FONSI  
Mitigation Action Plan