



Department of Energy

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

TRANSMISSION SERVICES

September 29, 2016

In reply refer to: TEP-TPP-1

To: Interested Parties of the Bonneville-Hood River Transmission Line Rebuild Project

Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) has prepared a draft environmental assessment (EA) for the proposed Bonneville-Hood River Transmission Line Rebuild Project. The draft EA describes the project and why it is needed, discusses the environmental impacts the project would create, and lists the mitigation measures that would lessen or eliminate those impacts. This letter requests your comments on the EA and outlines the next steps for the project.

BPA is proposing to rebuild portions of its 23-mile-long, 115-kilovolt Bonneville-Hood River transmission line and an associated tap line running to Cascade Locks. Portions of the transmission line and the tap line are in poor condition due to normal deterioration. In addition, many of the existing roads and foot trails used to access the transmission line are in poor condition, and there currently is not access to all of the line's existing transmission structures. BPA is proposing to replace the aged wood and steel lattice H-frame structures and other line components along the line and tap, and to improve its access road and trail system. If BPA decides to proceed with the project, access road work would likely begin in the spring/summer of 2017 and structure work would likely begin in the summer of 2018.

Public Meeting: We have scheduled an informal, open-house style meeting to answer questions and accept comments on the EA, so please come at any time. The meeting will be held on:

Wednesday, October 12, 2016
4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Hood River Valley High School Cafeteria
1220 Indian Creek Road
Hood River, OR 97031

How to Comment: The EA can be viewed at the project website at www.bpa.gov/goto/HoodRiver. If you requested a copy of the document, it is enclosed. If you would like a hard copy (about 400 pages), please call our toll-free phone number listed below.

Please send your comments by **October 31, 2016**, and reference the Bonneville-Hood River Transmission Line Rebuild Project. We will consider all comments submitted during the comment period and provide responses to substantive comments in the final EA. In addition, comments will be available on the project website. There are several ways to comment:

Mail: Bonneville Power Administration
Public Affairs – DKE-7
PO Box 14428
Portland, OR 97291-4428

Toll-free: 800-622-4519
Fax: 503-230-4019
Online: www.bpa.gov/comment

Schedule: The proposed schedule for the EA process is as follows:

Scoping comment period:	March 4 through April 21, 2014
Scoping public meeting:	March 20, 2014 in Hood River, Oregon
Draft EA available for public comment:	September 29 to October 31, 2016
Draft EA public meeting	October 12, 2016 in Hood River, Oregon
Final EA:	Fall/Winter 2016/2017
Finding of No Significant Impact (if warranted):	Fall/Winter 2016/2017
If decision to rebuild, construction start:	Spring/Summer 2017

For More Information – To find out more about the project, please go to BPA’s project website www.bpa.gov/goto/HoodRiver. If you have questions regarding the environmental process, please contact the environmental project lead, Katey Grange, toll-free at 800-282-3713, directly at 503-230-4047, or by e-mail at kcgrange@bpa.gov. If you have other questions or would like more project information, please contact me at the toll-free number listed above, directly at 360-619-6557, or by e-mail at cjhamel@bpa.gov.

Thank you for your interest in this project.

Sincerely,

/s/ Chad Hamel

Chad Hamel
Project Manager

Enclosures: (if requested)

Draft EA
Comment Form
Return Envelope