



Department of Energy

Bonneville Power Administration
P.O. Box 61409
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TRANSMISSION SERVICES

February 25, 2013

In reply refer to: TEP-TPP-3

To: Parties Interested in the Grand Coulee-Creston Transmission Line Rebuild Project

The Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) is proposing to rebuild nearly 28 miles of the Grand Coulee-Creston No. 1 115 kilovolt (kV) transmission line between the cities of Coulee Dam in Grant County and Creston in Lincoln County, Washington (*please see the enclosed project map*). This letter briefly explains what is being proposed, outlines our environmental review process and schedule, and invites you to a meeting where you can learn more about and comment on the proposal.

The proposed project would include replacing all wood-pole structures (including poles, cross arms, cross braces, guys, anchors and insulator assemblies) and conductor (including groundwire), improving existing access roads, and developing temporary access roads. If the proposed project is constructed, the rebuilt line will continue to operate at 115-kV. The intention is that the rebuilt line will maintain the same structure locations and similar pole heights as the existing line. The existing line was built in 1941 and is in need of replacement due to age, rot, and deterioration. Rebuilding the line would help maintain reliable electrical service and avoid risks to the safety of the public and maintenance crews.

To understand the potential environmental impacts of this proposal, BPA will prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA) pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. We are presently considering two alternatives to be studied in detail in the EA: the proposed system rebuild described above and a "no action" alternative in which BPA would not rebuild this transmission line. The EA will describe anticipated impacts to natural and human resources and will include mitigation measures to avoid or minimize those impacts. During this process, BPA will be working with federal, state and local agencies, tribes, landowners, and interest groups.

Public Meeting

BPA recently held two public scoping meetings in January 2013 in the vicinity of the project area to hear comments from the public on the proposed project. At these meetings, BPA learned that some landowners were inadvertently left off the original mailing list. In order to ensure that all interested parties have the chance to provide their input on the scope of the proposed project, BPA has decided to hold an additional scoping meeting and to extend the comment period for this proposed project.

The meeting is open-house style so you can drop in anytime between 4 and 7 p.m. to talk with members of the project team who will be available to answer your questions, accept comments and listen to your ideas. Information on the additional scoping meeting is below:

Wednesday, March 13, 2013
4:00 to 7:00 p.m.
Wilbur Community Center
5 SW Railroad Avenue
Wilbur, WA 99185

How to Comment

If you are unable to attend the meeting, you can still comment. Comments may be submitted online at www.bpa.gov/comment, or you may return the enclosed comment form or other written correspondence in the postage-paid envelope provided, or you may fax your comments to (503) 230-4019. You also may call us with your comments toll free at (800) 622-4519. **We have extended our comment period to March 27, 2013.** Please submit comments to us by this date and reference the “*Grand Coulee-Creston Transmission Line Rebuild Project*” with your comments. We will post all comments we receive on our website at www.bpa.gov/comment.

Process and Schedule

You may have already seen BPA staff or contractors in the area this winter as they began to conduct engineering and environmental surveys. If we need to enter property where we do not have existing access rights, we will contact property owners for permission through a separate mailing.

BPA is planning to produce a Preliminary EA for review and comment in the fall of 2013. If you would like to receive a copy of the Preliminary EA, please indicate on the enclosed comment form as to how you would like to receive it once it is available. If you would like to be taken off the project mailing list, please mark the box on the form. If you do not return the form, you will still receive notice when the Preliminary EA is available.

BPA will produce a Final EA in summer of 2014. Based on the analysis in the Final EA, BPA will either prepare a Finding of No Significant Impact or decide whether to proceed with the project, or prepare an Environmental Impact Statement if there is the potential for significant environmental impacts.

For More Information

To find out more about the project, please go to BPA’s project website at www.bpa.gov/goto/CouleeCrestonRebuild.

If you have questions regarding the environmental process, please contact the environmental project lead, Andrew M. Montano, toll-free at (800) 282-3713, directly at (503) 230-4145 or by e-mail at ammontano@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) 619-6559 or e-mail at etorth@bpa.gov.

Thank you for your interest in this project.

Sincerely,

/s/ Erich T. Orth

Erich T. Orth
Transmission Project Manager

Enclosures:
Project Map
Comment Form
Return Envelope