



## Department of Energy

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

TRANSMISSION SERVICES

June 12, 2014

In reply refer to: TEP-TPP-3

### **To: People Interested in the Grand Coulee-Creston Transmission Line Rebuild**

Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) has finalized the environmental assessment (EA) for the Grand Coulee-Creston Transmission Line Rebuild. Based on the final EA, BPA is issuing a finding of no significant impact (FONSI) and has made a decision to proceed with the project. This letter describes BPA's decision, the construction schedule, and how to obtain additional information.

**Background:** Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) will 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. The project will 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 routes of travel. The rebuilt line will continue to operate at 115 kV.

BPA prepared an EA under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) to help the agency determine if the Proposed Action would cause significant impacts that would warrant preparing an environmental impact statement. BPA released the draft EA for public review and comment in December 2013 and received five comments. The final EA provides responses to those comments and minor revisions to the EA. Based on the EA analysis and mitigation measures outlined in the mitigation action plan to help lessen impacts, BPA has found that the Proposed Action will not cause significant impacts within the meaning of NEPA and, therefore, preparation of an environmental impact statement is not required.

**Decision:** BPA has decided to proceed with the Proposed Action and will rebuild the Grand Coulee-Creston transmission line as described in the final EA. Access road improvements will likely begin in September of 2014. Transmission line construction will likely begin in May 2015 or shortly thereafter. All major construction activities will likely be completed by November 2015.

**For More Information:** The final EA, FONSI and mitigation action plan are enclosed if you previously requested them. If you did not receive a copy of any of these documents and would like one, please call our toll-free document request line at 1-800-622-4520. Leave a request naming this project and giving your name and complete mailing address. The documents are also available on BPA's website at [www.bpa.gov/goto/ CouleeCrestonRebuild](http://www.bpa.gov/goto/CouleeCrestonRebuild).

If you need more information or have any questions, please call me toll free at 1-800-622-4519, or e-mail me at [etorth@bpa.gov](mailto:etorth@bpa.gov). Thank you for your interest in our work.

Sincerely,

*/s/ Erich T. Orth*  
Erich T. Orth  
BPA Project Manager

**Enclosures (if requested):**  
FONSI and Mitigation Action Plan  
Final EA