



Department of Energy

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

TRANSMISSION SERVICES

May 7, 2012

In reply refer to: TEP-TPP-3

To Parties interested in the Creston – Bell Transmission Line Rebuild Project

Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) has finalized the environmental assessment (EA) for the Creston - Bell Rebuild Project in Lincoln and Spokane counties, Washington. Based on the Final EA, BPA is issuing a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) 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 Creston - Bell transmission line extends from BPA's existing Creston Substation near the City of Creston, Washington, approximately 54 miles east to BPA's existing Bell Substation in Spokane, Washington. The condition of line has gradually deteriorated due to exposure to the elements and normal wear and tear. BPA proposed to replace wood pole structures on the Creston - Bell line to ensure continued safe and reliable transmission service. Construction will begin at the Creston Substation in mid May, 2012.

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 April, BPA made the preliminary EA available for public review and comment. Six comments were received and minor revisions were 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 - Access road work is scheduled to begin in mid May, 2012. 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 www.bpa.gov/go/CrestonBellRebuild.

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. Thank you for your interest in the project.

Sincerely,

/s/ Erich Orth

Erich T. Orth
Project Manager

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