



Department of Energy

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

TRANSMISSION SERVICES

March 16, 2011

In reply refer to: TEP-TPP-2

To: **Parties Interested in the Creston-Bell Transmission Line Rebuild Project**

The Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) is proposing to rebuild a transmission line in your area. This letter briefly explains what is being proposed, outlines our environmental review process and schedule, and invites you to meetings where you can learn more and comment on the proposal.

Proposal - BPA is proposing to rebuild the 54-mile long, 115-kilovolt (kV) wood pole Creston-Bell No. 1 transmission line located in Lincoln and Spokane Counties, Washington. The wood pole line was constructed in 1942 and most of the structures, conductor, and associated structural components (cross arms, insulators, and dampers) are physically worn and structurally unsound in places. Based on the deteriorated condition of this line, there is a need to rebuild the line to maintain reliable electrical service and to avoid risks to the public and ensure worker safety.

Proposed activities would include improving existing access roads, establishing temporary staging areas for storage of materials, removing and replacing existing wood pole structures and conductor, and revegetating areas disturbed by construction activities. The transmission line would continue to operate at 115-kV.

To understand the potential environmental impacts of this proposal, BPA will prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA). As a federal agency, we follow procedures of the National Environmental Policy Act. Two alternatives will be studied: to rebuild the line or not to rebuild, or continuing with current operation and maintenance practices. The EA will describe anticipated impacts to natural and human resources and include mitigation measures that would enable BPA to avoid or minimize impacts. During this process BPA will be working with federal, state and local agencies, landowners, interest groups and tribes.

Public Meetings - We will soon start to assess the potential environmental impacts of the proposed alternatives and would like to hear from you. What questions do you have? What resources should we analyze? Do you have information or concerns about specific areas? BPA will seek public input and comments during the upcoming scoping process. The initial comment period begins March 17, 2011. We have scheduled two public scoping meetings:

Thursday, March 31, 2011

1:30 to 3 p.m.
Lincoln County Public Works
27234 SR 25 North
Davenport, Washington

Thursday, March 31, 2011

5:30 to 7 p.m.
Whitworth University
Hixson Union Building, room A/B/C
300 W Hawthorne Rd
Spokane, Washington

Other Ways to Comment - If you cannot come to one of the meetings, you can still comment. You may submit comments to BPA online at: www.bpa.gov/comment, return the enclosed comment form or other written correspondence in the postage-paid envelope provided, or fax your comments to (503) 230-3285. You also may call us with your comments toll free at (800) 622-4519. Please submit comments to us by **April 18, 2011** and reference "Creston-Bell Transmission Line Rebuild Project" on your comments. We will post all comments we receive on our Web site at www.bpa.gov/comment.

Process and Schedule - Starting this spring and summer you may see BPA staff or contractors in the area as they 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 will produce a Preliminary EA that will be available for review and comment in the winter of 2011. If you would like to receive a copy of the Preliminary EA, please indicate on the enclosed reply card whether you would like to receive it by regular, electronic mail or compact disc. If you would like to be taken off the project mailing list, please mark the box on the reply card. If you do not return the reply card, you will still receive notice when the Preliminary EA is available.

BPA will produce a Final EA in spring 2012. Based on the analysis in the Final EA, BPA will either prepare a Finding of No Significant Impact and decide whether to proceed with the project, or will 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 project Web site at: http://www.efw.bpa.gov/environmental_services/Document_Library/Creston_Bell.

If you have questions regarding the environmental process, please contact the environmental project lead, Jennifer Stolz, toll free at (800) 282-3713, directly at (503) 230-3233 or e-mail jpstolz@bpa.gov. If you have other questions or would like more project information, please call me Mark Kjelland, at the toll-free number, directly at (360) 619-6021 or e-mail mckjelland@bpa.gov. Thank you for your interest in this project.

Sincerely,

/s/ Mark Kjelland

Mark Kjelland
Project Manager

Enclosures:
Project map
Reply card
Comment form
Return envelope