



Department of Energy

Bonneville Power Administration
P.O. Box 491
Vancouver, Washington 98666-0491

TRANSMISSION SERVICES

April 11, 2012

In reply refer to: TEP-TPP-3

To: Parties Interested in the Proposed Creston – Bell Transmission Line Rebuild Project

The Bonneville Power Administration is proposing to rebuild the Creston – Bell 115-kilovolt (kV) transmission line located in Lincoln and Spokane counties, Washington. This 54-mile wood pole transmission line was built in the early 1940s. Most of the structures, conductor, and associated structural components (cross arms, insulators, and dampers) are physically worn and need to be replaced. BPA is proposing to rebuild this transmission line to maintain reliable electrical service and to ensure public and worker safety.

In March 2011, BPA began soliciting public input on the proposed transmission line rebuild project as required by the National Environmental Policy Act. We held public meetings, contacted interested parties and accepted comments on the proposed project. Since that time, BPA conducted an environmental review of the proposal and prepared a preliminary Environmental Assessment (EA) that is informed by the comments and opinions that were received. The preliminary EA describes the proposed project; evaluates the no action alternative, potential environmental impacts, and describes proposed mitigation measures that could be used to avoid or minimize those impacts.

We invite you to review and comment on the preliminary EA for the proposed project and have included information on how to submit your comments. A copy of the EA is enclosed with this letter if you requested it during the scoping period. You can request a copy by calling 800-622-4520. The EA is also available online at www.bpa.gov/go/CrestonBellRebuild.

How to Comment - BPA is accepting comments on the preliminary EA through **April 25, 2012**. You may submit comments online; via mail to Bonneville Power Administration, Public Affairs Office - DKE-7, P.O. Box 14428, Portland, Oregon, 97293-4428; or by fax to 503-230-4019. You also may call us with your comment toll free at 800-622-4519. Please reference “Creston-Bell Transmission Line Rebuild Project” in your comments. BPA will post all comments in their entirety on the project’s website.

BPA will produce a final EA in late spring 2012. Based on the analysis in the final EA, BPA will either prepare a Finding of No Significant Impact or prepare an Environmental Impact Statement if there is the potential for significant environmental impacts.

For More Information - If you have questions regarding the environmental process, please contact the environmental project lead, Stephanie Breeden, toll free at 800-282-3713; directly at 503-230-5192; or by e-mail sfbreeden@bpa.gov. If you have other questions or would like more

project information, you may call BPA toll free at 800-622-4519, e-mail me at etorth@bpa.gov, or call me at 360-619-6559.

Thank you for your interest in this project.

Sincerely,

/s/ Erich Orth

Erich Orth
Project Manager

Enclosures:

Comment Form

Creston-Bell Transmission Line Preliminary EA (if you requested a copy)

Postage-paid Envelope