



Department of Energy

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

TRANSMISSION SERVICES

July 6, 2009

In reply refer to: TEP-TPP-3

To the People Interested in the Grand Coulee Transmission Line Replacement Project:

Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) has been asked by the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) to design and construct six new 500-kV transmission lines at Grand Coulee Dam. This letter briefly explains what is being proposed, describes the environmental process and schedule, and also invites you to a meeting where you can learn more about the proposed project and provide your input.

Proposal

These proposed new overhead lines would replace six existing underground lines. The existing lines consist of eighteen aging, oil-filled cables between Grand Coulee's third powerhouse and the 500-kV spreading yard, both of which are operated and maintained by Reclamation. The new lines would transfer power that is generated at the third powerhouse, across the Columbia River to the visitor center area, and then proceed uphill where they will connect to existing lines that transfer power from this area into the Regional power grid (Please see the enclosed map). The project would help ensure safe and reliable transmission of power from Grand Coulee Dam.

The project consists of two phases. Phase I includes environmental clearance, public involvement and design work. Upon completion of Phase I, Reclamation and BPA will decide whether to proceed with Phase II and the actual construction of the project.

To understand the potential environmental impacts of this proposal, BPA and Reclamation will prepare an environmental assessment (EA). In the EA, we will study potential impacts on the natural and built environment caused by the proposed project and any alternatives, including the no-action alternative. The EA will also describe any mitigation measures that we can incorporate into the proposed project to minimize impacts. During this process BPA and Reclamation will seek public input and comment.

Public Open House

BPA and Reclamation will hold a joint open house so that you learn more about the project and provide comments on the scope of the EA and the potential impacts of the proposed project. Scoping will also help identify issues and alternatives that should be considered in the preliminary EA. You are invited to stop in any time. The open house will be held on:

**Thursday July 16th, 2009
4:00 to 7:00 p.m.
Coulee Dam Town Hall
300 Lincoln Avenue
Coulee Dam, WA 99116**

An additional public open house will be held at the same location in August 2009 for those that can not make the July open house. BPA will be sending out a separate notification with all the specific information related to that meeting within the next few weeks.

Other Ways to Comment

If you cannot attend the public meeting, you can still submit comments. Please submit comments by **September 14th, 2009**. You may submit comments to BPA online at: www.bpa.gov/comment, or return the enclosed comment form via mail to: Bonneville Power Administration, Public Affairs Office - DKE-7, P.O. Box 14428, Portland, OR, 97293-4428, or by fax to (503) 230-3285. You also may call us with your comment toll free at (800) 622-4519. Please reference “*Grand Coulee Line Replacement*” with your comments. BPA will post all comments it receives in their entirety on its website at www.bpa.gov/comment.

Process and Schedule

Starting this summer, BPA and Reclamation will begin analysis of the project. You may see survey crews and environmental specialists in the area as they begin preliminary design and environmental surveys. A preliminary EA is scheduled to be available for review and comment by mid-2010. BPA will publish a final EA by late-2010 and respond to all comments and answer all questions and share the expected impacts of the proposed project. BPA and Reclamation will then decide whether or how to proceed with the project. If the decision is made to proceed, construction could begin either in late-2010 or early-2011.

For more information

To find out more about the project, please go to BPA’s Web site website http://www.efw.bpa.gov/environmental_services/nepadocs.aspx, and click on “Project Reviews – Active,” Grand Coulee Line Replacement Project.” If you have questions about this project, you may call BPA toll free at (800) 622-4519 or me directly at (360) 619-6326.

Thank you for your interest in this project.

Sincerely,

/s/ Mark Korsness

Mark Korsness
BPA Project Manager

Enclosures:
Vicinity Map
Comment Form