



## Department of Energy

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

TRANSMISSION SERVICES

August 23, 2013

In reply refer to: TEP-TPP-1

### **To: People Interested in the Hills Creek-Lookout Point Transmission Line Rebuild**

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 a meeting where you can learn more and comment on the proposal.

**Background** - BPA is proposing to rebuild its 26-mile long 115-kilovolt (kV) wood-pole Hills Creek-Lookout Point transmission line generally located between Lowell and Oakridge, in Lane County, Oregon; please refer to the enclosed map. The existing wood-pole line was constructed in 1953 and most of the structures are now physically worn. Based on its deteriorated condition, the line needs to be rebuilt in order to maintain reliable electrical service, avoid risks to the public, and ensure worker safety.

**Proposal** - The project would include replacing all wood-pole structures and conductor (wires) and improving access roads. Most structures would be replaced with similar size poles in the same locations unless changes are needed for safety or to minimize potential environmental impacts. Access roads would be improved and new access roads or trails may need to be acquired or developed. 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) following the procedures of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The EA will study the line rebuild, as well as a No-Action Alternative in which the line is not rebuilt and current maintenance practices continue. The EA will describe anticipated impacts to natural and human resources and include mitigation measures that would help avoid or minimize impacts. During this process, BPA will work with landowners, tribes, federal, state and local agencies, and interest groups.

**Public Meeting** - We are starting to assess the potential environmental impacts of the proposal 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? We have scheduled an open-house scoping meeting to hear your ideas and accept comments about the scope of the EA that will be prepared:

**Wednesday, September 11, 2013**  
**5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.**  
**Oakridge High School - Cafeteria**  
47997 W. 1st Street  
Oakridge, Oregon 97463

We do not plan to give a formal presentation, so you may come any time during the meeting. Several members of the project team will be available to answer your questions and listen to your ideas.

**How to comment** - Please send comments you may have on the proposal and potential impacts by **September 26, 2013** so they may be considered while we draft the EA. When commenting, please refer to the Hills Creek-Lookout Point Rebuild Project. Comments will be posted in their entirety on BPA's website at [www.bpa.gov/comment](http://www.bpa.gov/comment).

Choose the way you would like to comment:

**Mail: Bonneville Power Administration**  
Public Affairs – DKE-7  
P.O. Box 14428  
Portland, OR 97293-4428

**On-line:** [www.bpa.gov/comment](http://www.bpa.gov/comment)  
**Email:** [comment@bpa.gov](mailto:comment@bpa.gov)  
**FAX:** 503-230-3285  
**Toll-free:** 800-622-4519

**Process and Schedule** - Starting this fall, you may see BPA staff or contractors in the area as we 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.

The preliminary EA will be available for review and comment in the fall of 2014. Please indicate on the enclosed postcard whether you would like to receive the EA, and if so whether by regular or electronic mail, or if you would like to be taken off the project mailing list. If you do not return the form, you will still receive notice when the preliminary EA is available.

**For More Information** - To find out more about the project please go to BPA's project web site [www.bpa.gov/goto/HillsCreekLookoutPoint](http://www.bpa.gov/goto/HillsCreekLookoutPoint).

If you have questions regarding the environmental process, please contact the environmental compliance project lead, Justin Moffett, toll-free at 800-282-4519, directly at 503 -230-3233 or e-mail [jtmoffett@bpa.gov](mailto:jtmoffett@bpa.gov).

Thank you for your interest in this project.

Sincerely,

*/s/ Richard Heredia*

Richard Heredia  
Project Manager

Enclosures:  
Project Map  
Comment Form  
Return Envelope  
Reply Card