



Department of Energy

Bonneville Power Administration
P.O. Box 3621
Portland, Oregon 97208-3621

ENVIRONMENT, FISH AND WILDLIFE

August 29, 2000

In reply refer to: KECN

To: People Interested in the Kangley – Echo Lake Transmission Project

Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) is proposing to build a new transmission line that could affect you. This letter briefly explains what is being proposed, outlines our process and schedule, and invites you to a meeting where you can learn more.

Proposal – BPA is proposing to construct a transmission line in central King County, Washington. The new 500-kilovolt (kV) line would connect an existing transmission line (near the community of Kangley) with our existing Echo Lake Substation, a distance of about nine miles. (Please see attached map.)

Purpose – The major reason for this proposal is to improve system reliability in the King County area. Within two to three years, an outage on the existing line between Raver and Echo Lake Substations could overload transformers in the Covington area during times of heavy use, such as during a winter cold snap like the Arctic Express of 1989. An outage could then cause voltage instability and a loss of power in the King County area. Under normal growth in demand, system instability could develop as early as the winter of 2002-03.

Besides meeting this need for system reliability, this project would enhance the United States' delivery of power to Canada as required under the Columbia River Treaty of 1961.

Alternatives – Several alternative locations for a new transmission line are being considered. Four are east of BPA's existing 500-kV line that runs between the Raver and Echo Lake Substations. All four cross the Cedar River Municipal Watershed. At a public meeting we held in April, we were asked to identify and study alternatives that would avoid the Watershed. In response, we have developed three possible routes west of the Watershed that would connect the Raver and Echo Lake Substations. We also developed Option 4, which parallels the existing line across the Cedar River and avoids a separate river crossing in the Watershed. Under all seven options we would need to acquire easements for new right-of-way and access roads.

We also are considering not building a new line.

Public Meeting – We will soon start to assess the environmental impacts of proposed options. But before we do, we would like to hear from you. What questions do you have? What resources should we analyze? Are there other options you think we should consider? We have scheduled an open house public meeting to hear your ideas.

**Wednesday, September 20, 2000
4 to 8 p.m.
Maple Valley Community Center
22010 SE 248th Street
Maple Valley, Washington**

We do not plan to give a formal presentation at the meeting. Several members of the project team will be available to answer your questions and listen to your ideas, so come anytime between 4 and 8 p.m.

Other Ways to Comment – If you cannot come to the meeting, you can still comment. If you comment by October 2, 2000, we'll be able to incorporate your ideas into our environmental studies. Call BPA's toll-free comment line at 1-800-622-4519, and leave a message (please include the name of this project); send an e-mail to: comment@bpa.gov; or mail comments to Bonneville Power Administration, Public Affairs Officer – KC-7, P.O. Box 12999, Portland, Oregon 97212. You can use the enclosed form to submit comments if you like.

Process/Schedule – We will be contacting landowners soon to ask for permission to enter their property to conduct the environmental analysis.

The information we gather in our environmental analysis will be published in a Draft Environmental Impact Statement that will be available for review and comment next year. If you would like to receive a copy, please return the enclosed postcard and check whether you would like to receive it by regular or electronic mail. If you do not return the postcard, you will still receive notice when the study is available.

Once we have completed the environmental review, BPA will decide whether and how to proceed with the project. If BPA decides to proceed, construction would likely begin in 2002.

For More Information – If you have any questions about this proposal, please call me toll-free at 1-800-282-3713, at my direct number, (503) 230-5525; or send an e-mail to lcdriessen@bpa.gov.

Thank you for your interest in our work.

Sincerely,

/s/Lou Driessen

Lou Driessen
Project Manager

3 Enclosures:
Map
Post card
Comment Form