



Department of Energy

Official File Copy

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

TRANSMISSION BUSINESS LINE

June 20, 2002

In reply refer to: KEC-4

To: People Interested in the Kangley-Echo Lake Transmission Line Project

Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) is proposing to build a new 500-kilovolt (kV) transmission line that could affect you. You may have already received information from BPA about this project. This letter announces an extension to the deadline for scoping comments and announces an additional public meeting. It also outlines our process and schedule, and describes the alternatives that are being considered.

Since landowners in Kittitas County did not receive timely notice of the 30-day scoping period, which concluded on June 19th, we have extended the scoping comment period to **Monday, July 22**, and will hold one more scoping meeting to hear additional concerns and ideas about what should be addressed in our analysis. The meeting will be:

Thursday, July 11

4 p.m. – 8 p.m.

Best Western Summit Inn Conference Room

603 State Route 906

Snoqualmie Pass, Washington

We look forward to seeing you at the meeting. If you cannot attend, you can use the enclosed form to submit comments if you like. Mail comments to: Communications; Bonneville Power Administration - KC-7; P.O. Box 12999; Portland, Oregon 97212. You may also e-mail comments to the BPA electronically at: comment@bpa.gov, or fax your comments to 503-230-3285.

Proposal

BPA is proposing to build a new transmission line to accommodate electrical growth and reliability concerns in the Puget Sound area. BPA described and analyzed a number of transmission route alternatives in a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) released in June 2001. The DEIS identified a preferred alternative that would parallel an existing BPA transmission line through the Cedar River Municipal Watershed (see Alternative 1 on the enclosed map). BPA received over 700 comments from landowners, agencies, tribes and special interest groups on the DEIS. The comments raised issues concerning the need for the project, impacts to the Cedar River Municipal Watershed Habitat Conservation Plan, water quality, fish and wildlife, cultural resources and numerous other concerns. Many of the comments suggested we re-evaluate the range of alternatives considered and prepare a Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement (SDEIS).

After reviewing the comments and refining the cost estimates associated with BPA's preferred alternative, BPA has decided to prepare a SDEIS that will re-evaluate the four alternatives not analyzed in detail in the DEIS. The added alternatives, all located outside of the Cedar River Watershed, were initially considered, but dropped from detailed review due to cost and system operations.. They are identified as Alternatives A, B, C, and D on the enclosed map. These alternatives will now be re-evaluated and are briefly described on the enclosed fact sheet.

Next Steps

We will soon start to assess the environmental impacts of the alternatives. During this time, we would like to hear from you regarding issues you would like us to consider in the analysis and any questions you may have about the project. We have extended the scoping period and will accept comments through **Monday, July 22nd**.

BPA will use the comments received during scoping to focus the analysis of the SDEIS, which will be available for a 45-day public review and comment period. If you receive a postcard in this mailing and would like to receive a copy of the SDEIS, please return the enclosed postcard.

For More Information

If you need more information or want to submit comments, please call (360) 418-8445 or 1-800-282-3713. You can access the June 2001 DEIS and additional project information at the project web site at www.efw.bpa.gov/cgi-bin/PSA/NEPA/SUMMARIES/KangleyEchoLake. Thank you for your interest in this project.

Sincerely,

Lou Driessen
Project Manager

Enclosures:
Project fact sheet
Map of Alternatives
Comment Form