



Department of Energy

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

TRANSMISSION BUSINESS LINE

May 15, 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. This letter describes the alternatives that are being considered, outlines our process and schedule, and invites you to meetings where you can learn more.

Proposal

BPA is proposing to build a new transmission line in central King County, Washington to accommodate electrical growth and reliability concerns in the Puget Sound area. BPA described and analyzed 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 analysis because they did not meet the project need to be cost effective. 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 scheduled public meetings to hear your ideas.

Public Meetings

The weekday meetings will have an open house format from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., with opportunities for you to provide more formal comments from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. The Saturday meeting will have the same format, with an open house from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and a more formal comment period from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. The meetings are on:

Wednesday, June 5

4 p.m. – 8 p.m.
Seattle Center
305 Harrison St.
Rainier Room, North of the Key Arena
Seattle, WA

Thursday, June 6

4 p.m. – 8 p.m.
Mt. Si Senior Center
411 Main Avenue South
Multi Purpose Room
North Bend, WA

Saturday, June 8

11 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Black Diamond Community Center
31605 3rd Avenue NE (State Route 169)
Main Hall
Black Diamond, WA

Wednesday, June 12

4 p.m. – 8 p.m.
Tahoma Senior High School
18200 SE 240th Street
The Commons (Gymnasium)
Kent, WA

Thursday, June 13

4 p.m. – 8 p.m.
Maple Valley Community Center
22010 SE 248th St.
Main Hall
Maple Valley, WA

BPA encourages interested citizens to attend one of these scoping meetings, and/or submit comments during the scoping period, which ends June 19. BPA will use these comments to focus the analysis of the SDEIS, which will be available for a 45-day public review and comment period beginning in December 2002. 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.

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.

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/KanglelyEchoLake. Thank you for your interest in this project.

Sincerely,

Lou Driessen,
Project Manager

Enclosures:
Project fact sheet
Map of all alternatives
Map of Alternatives A & C
Map of Alternatives 1-4B
Postcard
Comment Form