



## Department of Energy

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

TRANSMISSION BUSINESS LINE

In reply refer to: T-DITT-2

July 22, 2003

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

Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) has prepared the enclosed Record of Decision (ROD) on the Kangley-Echo Lake Transmission Line Project. The ROD describes BPA's decision and includes mitigation measures that are designed to avoid or at least minimize potential environmental impacts of the project. This letter briefly describes BPA's decision, mitigation measures, and construction activities, and provides project contact information.

#### **Background**

BPA analyzed several transmission line alternatives and a no-action alternative in its draft and supplemental draft environmental impact statements (EIS) for this project. The supplemental draft EIS also analyzed a non-transmission alternative. The final EIS included comments received on the documents, agency responses to the comments, and changes made to the supplemental draft EIS.

BPA has selected Alternative 1, a new nine-mile transmission line parallel to an existing BPA transmission line in central King County, Washington. Five miles of the line will cross the Cedar River Municipal Watershed (CRW), which is the source for much of the City of Seattle's drinking water. The new line will accommodate electrical growth and ensure electrical reliability in the Puget Sound area. It has fewer environmental impacts than other alternatives, is one of the least expensive alternatives, and best satisfies the need. BPA is committed to extraordinary mitigation measures to reduce potential impacts from this project (see the enclosed ROD for a complete list of mitigation measures).

BPA and the Seattle City Council have reached agreement on constructing this line through the CRW. As part of the agreement, BPA will purchase nearly 600 acres of land as compensatory mitigation to protect water quality, enhance security, and benefit fish and wildlife. In addition, BPA will help finance and negotiate conservation easements outside of the CRW along the Raging River.

The agreement also provides revenue from the sale of timber following clearing of the right-of-way, as well as \$6 million to fund restoration activities in the CRW. Mitigation includes a three-year insurance policy that protects the city from any environmental harm that might arise as a result of project construction. BPA has also agreed not to expand its rights-of-way in the future within the CRW, beyond what is needed for this project.

Construction management practices include on-site environmental monitoring, special construction techniques to reduce ground disturbance, the use of double-circuit towers on the existing right-of-way at the Cedar River crossing to reduce tree removal, and the use of helicopters for logging and construction in the CRW. BPA and the city will continue to work in partnership throughout construction and on future maintenance activities to ensure CRW protection.

**Construction Activities**

BPA's construction goals for this project are to minimize disturbance to the natural environment during construction, have no impact to drinking water quality, enhance overall fish and wildlife habitat, and improve electrical reliability in the Puget Sound region. Construction will start immediately and should be completed by late December 2003.

**For More Information**

If you need more information about the project or would like to request copies of any of the documents referenced on the previous page, please call toll-free 1-888-276-7790. You can also access project documents on line at [www.transmission.bpa.gov/projects](http://www.transmission.bpa.gov/projects). Thank you for your continued interest in this project.

Sincerely,



Lou Driessen  
Project Manager

Enclosure:  
Record of Decision