



Department of Energy

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

TRANSMISSION SERVICES

July 17, 2007

In reply refer to: TEP-TPP-3

To: Parties interested in Bonneville Power Administration's Rebuild of the Libby (FEC)-to-Troy Section of BPA's Libby-to-Bonnors Ferry 115-kilovolt Transmission Line

Your review and comments are requested on the draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Libby-Bonnors Ferry transmission line rebuild in Lincoln County, Montana. The draft EIS describes the proposed project and the environmental effects expected from construction, operation, and maintenance of the transmission line. The project is needed to continue to provide safe and reliable service to the local communities and to anticipate for the future growth of the area. Public comments on the draft EIS will help project partners refine the environmental analysis and decide whether to implement the project.

Project background

The proposed project would replace an existing 115-kV wood pole transmission line that runs west from Flathead Electric Cooperative's (FEC) Libby Substation just north of the town of Libby, to BPA's Troy Substation, east of Troy, Mont. The proposed 17-mile rebuild would be located primarily within BPA's existing right-of-way corridor with three potential realignments - one to avoid immediately adjacent residences along Kootenai River Road near Pipe Creek, a second to bypass landowners in the Bighorn Terrace subdivision and the third to avoid the Kootenai Falls area by moving the river crossing approximately 3/4 mile east of the present crossing of the Kootenai River.

In April 2006, we sent you a letter explaining that after a thorough analysis, BPA recommends rebuilding the line at its current voltage: 115-kV single circuit. This 115-kV single-circuit alternative is expected to meet load service requirements for the next 40-plus years.

In September 2005, BPA began to study the environmental impacts of rebuilding the transmission line and to further evaluate voltage needs. Over the past several months we have been preparing the draft EIS for the proposed rebuild. Unfortunately, it has taken longer to prepare the draft EIS than expected.

How to comment

BPA and others involved in this project will be available to discuss the project, the draft EIS and receive any written comments during an open house meeting:

August 15, 2007
6 p.m. to 8 p.m.
Kootenai National Forest Supervisor's Office
1101 Highway 2 West
Libby, Mont. 59923

Comments will be accepted through September 4, 2007

All comments are encouraged. Of particular interest are specific suggestions related to the quality of the environmental analysis in the draft EIS, or any recommendations for making the project more environmentally friendly while still fulfilling its intended purposes. The final EIS is scheduled for completion in early 2008. BPA expects to issue a record of decision in the late winter of 2008 on whether to implement the project.

Comments may be submitted online at: <http://www.bpa.gov/comment>, via e-mail to comment@bpa.gov, via mail to: Bonneville Power Administration, Public Affairs Office - DKC-7, P.O. Box 14428, Portland, OR, 97293-4428, or faxed to (503) 230-3285. You also may call us with your comment toll free at (800) 622-4519. All comments will be posted in their entirety on BPA's Web site at http://www.bpa.gov/corporate/public_affairs/Comment_Listings/. Comments and responses to them will be made part of the final EIS.

Copies available

If you previously requested the draft EIS, a copy is enclosed for your review. If you would like additional copies of the draft EIS, please call BPA's toll-free document request line at (800) 622-4520. Please leave a message naming this project, giving your complete mailing address and requesting the format of documentation (hard copy or cd) you would prefer.

The draft EIS can also be viewed at the project web site:

http://www.transmission.bpa.gov/PlanProj/Transmission_Projects/.

For More Information

BPA is committed to providing reliable, low-cost transmission products and services to the region while minimizing environmental impacts. If you have questions or would like more information about the project, please call us toll-free at (800) 622-4519 or e-mail me at kmrobinson@bpa.gov.

Sincerely,

/s/ Kirk Robinson July 17, 2007
Kirk Robinson
Project Manager