



Department of Energy

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

TRANSMISSION SERVICES

May 22, 2009

In reply refer to: TEP-TPP-3

To: Parties interested in BPA's Rebuild of the Libby-to-Troy Transmission Line

Bonneville Power Administration will begin construction activities in the next few days for this transmission line rebuild project in Lincoln County, Montana. This letter provides background on the rebuild project and describes the construction activities and how to contact us if you have questions.

Background

This project involves the rebuild of a 17-mile-long section of BPA's transmission line that runs west from Flathead Electric Cooperative's (FEC) Libby Substation near the town of Libby, to BPA's Troy Substation, east of Troy, Montana. After extensive public involvement, BPA completed an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the project under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in May 2008. On July 25, 2008, BPA issued a Record of Decision and Mitigation Action Plan announcing its decision to proceed with the proposed project.

This project will ensure BPA can continue to provide safe, low cost and reliable transmission service to the local communities. The line will be rebuilt at the same voltage (115-kV) and with the same number of circuits (one) as currently exists. The work will be located primarily in BPA's existing right-of-way corridor, except for an area where the Kootenai River crossing will be moved about three quarters of a mile east of the existing river crossing.

What you might see during construction

During construction, you may see BPA staff or contractors such as engineers, environmental specialists and construction and survey crews driving, parking or working alongside a local road or the transmission line right-of-way as they work on the line.

Construction activities will include removing and installing transmission poles, conductors and insulators, improving and constructing access roads, and removing trees or other vegetation that may compromise the operation of the transmission line by either falling or growing into the line. These activities would impact some landowners with noise, dust and traffic for a period of time during construction.

Construction activity may sometimes limit walking trail access along the historic Highway 2 trail between Troy and Libby and the trail on Sheep Range Road, which begins at the end of Kootenai River Road. Please look out for informational signs in these areas during construction activities.

As the project gets closer to completion, there will be limited helicopter assistance to deliver construction materials to inaccessible portions of the line such as portions along the historic Highway 2 and some areas along Sheep Range Road. Helicopters also will be used to add the new transmission wire to the new structures, except in the Big Horn Terrace (existing structures 19/4 to 21/5) and Pipe Creek (existing structures 17/4 to 18/11) residential areas, where BPA will instead install the conductor from the ground.

Construction schedule

Construction will begin on Tuesday May 26, 2009. The crew will begin work on both ends of the transmission lines out of Libby and Troy substations replacing structures. The crews will continue to work out of Libby Substation, heading west into the Pipe Creek area on or about July 6, 2009. A majority of the line work will begin after August 15, 2009. This includes the areas along Sheep Range Road, the river crossing and on the historic Highway 2 trail. Construction is scheduled to be complete by the end of November. Working hours will be Monday through Saturday, 7:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and eight hours on Sunday. The construction completion date is subject to change due to weather.

For more information

If there are activities or facilities located within the transmission line area that you would like BPA to know about or need to make special arrangements for, please contact Erich Orth, Project Manager, toll free at (800) 622-4519 or send me an e-mail at etorth@bpa.gov. To learn more about this project, please visit

www.efw.bpa.gov/environmental_services/Document_Library/Libby/.

Please include the name of this project with your correspondence. Thank you for your interest in the project.

Sincerely,



Erich T. Orth
Project Manager