



## Department of Energy

Bonneville Power Administration  
P.O. Box 3621  
Portland, Oregon 97208-3621

ENVIRONMENT, FISH AND WILDLIFE

May 25, 2012

In reply refer to: KEC-4

**To: Parties Interested in the Montana-to-Washington Transmission System Upgrade Project\*  
Project Update for Montana**

You recently received a letter from the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) which informed you that BPA is proposing to upgrade parts of its existing transmission system in Montana, Idaho, and Washington as a result of recent requests for transmission service. This letter briefly explains what activities BPA would perform within the state of Montana if this Project were approved. (*These proposed activities are explained below and correspond to the St. Regis and Miller Creek figures that are enclosed.*) This letter also outlines our upcoming public meetings in your area and the announcement of an extended comment period regarding this proposed Project. Also enclosed is a Project Fact Sheet that outlines the entire Project proposal and includes an overall Project map.

**BPA activities within the state of Montana.** Within the state of Montana, BPA is planning on constructing a new series compensation substation along existing BPA transmission lines in either Mineral or Missoula County, Montana. BPA is analyzing four potential location options for this proposed new series compensation substation. This new series compensation substation would increase the transmission capacity along the existing transmission lines.

**Public Meetings.** BPA will soon start to assess the potential environmental impacts of the proposed alternatives, and we would like to hear from you. What questions do you have? What resources should we analyze? Do you have information or concerns about specific areas? BPA is seeking public input, and we have extended our comment period through July 2, 2012. We have scheduled the following open-house scoping meetings in your area to hear your input and accept comments related to the scope of the environmental impact statement that will be prepared:

**June 12, 2012**

5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.  
Missoula Fire Department, Station 4  
3011 Latimor Street  
Missoula, MT 59808

**June 13, 2012**

5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.  
St. Regis School  
6 Tiger Street  
St. Regis, MT 59866

We do not plan to give a formal presentation, so you may come any time during any of the meetings. Several members of the project team will be available to answer your questions and listen to your ideas.

\* Please note that this proposed Project was formerly known as the Colstrip Upgrade Project or "CUP West."

**How to Comment.** If you are unable to attend the upcoming meetings, you can still comment. Comments may be submitted online at [www.bpa.gov/comment](http://www.bpa.gov/comment), or you may call us with your comments toll free at (800) 622-4519, or you may also fax your comments to (503) 230-4019. Please submit comments to us by **July 2, 2012**, and reference the “Montana-to-Washington Transmission System Upgrade Project” with your comments. We will post all comments we receive on our website at [www.bpa.gov/comment](http://www.bpa.gov/comment).

**For More Information.** To find out more about the proposed Project, other public meetings, or general information, please go to BPA’s project website at [www.bpa.gov/go/M2W](http://www.bpa.gov/go/M2W).

If you have questions regarding the environmental process, please contact me directly toll-free at (800) 282-3713, directly at (503) 230-4145 or by e-mail at [ammontano@bpa.gov](mailto:ammontano@bpa.gov). If you have other questions or would like more Project-specific information, please contact Amit Sinha at the toll-free number listed above, directly at (360) 619-6178 or e-mail at [axsinha@bpa.gov](mailto:axsinha@bpa.gov).

Thank you for your interest in this project.

Sincerely,

*/s/ Andrew M. Montañó*

Andrew M. Montañó  
Environmental Project Manager

Enclosures:

Figure of St. Regis Area  
Figure of Miller Creek Area  
Project Fact Sheet