



Department of Energy

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

TRANSMISSION SERVICES

August 1, 2014

In reply refer to: TEP-TPP-1

To: Parties interested in the Montana-to-Washington Transmission System Upgrade Project

As you may know, Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) is preparing an environmental impact statement (EIS) on its proposed Montana-to-Washington Transmission System Upgrade Project. Public comment was sought on this proposal in May 2012 and August 2013. Since that time, BPA has been evaluating the transmission system and confirming the system requirements. This letter provides an update on the status of the EIS process and explains what you can expect to occur in coming months.

Project Description – The project proposes to upgrade some portions of BPA’s transmission system in Montana, Idaho, and Washington. These upgrades would enable BPA to respond to customer requests for transmission service. The project would involve upgrades at five existing BPA substations (Garrison and Hot Springs Substations in Montana, Dworshak and Hatwai Substations in Idaho, and Bell Substation in Washington), replacement of about 11.4 miles of electrical wire (conductor) along portions of BPA’s existing Dworshak-Taft transmission line, improvements to about 25 miles of existing access roads, and the construction of a new substation in Montana (see enclosed Project Map).

The proposed new substation would be constructed along the BPA’s existing Garrison-Taft transmission line. BPA is evaluating three different locations for the substation—near St. Regis, Mineral County; near Miller Creek, Missoula County; and near Alberton, Missoula County (see enclosed Project Map).

Next steps – This summer and fall you may see workers along the transmission line or at substation sites collecting environmental data and conducting engineering surveys for the project. If we need to enter property where we do not have existing access rights, we will contact property owners directly to obtain permission.

The data collected will be used to prepare the draft EIS. The EIS will describe the potential environmental impacts of the project and evaluate the alternatives, including the proposed substation locations and the No Action alternative in which BPA would not upgrade its system. The US Forest Service and the Idaho Office of Energy Resources are cooperating with BPA in the preparation of the EIS. The project schedule is as follows:

Draft EIS available for public comment	Late Fall 2014
Final EIS	Fall 2015
Record of Decision	Spring 2016
If decision to build, construction would begin	2016

For More Information - To find out more about the project please go to BPA’s project website at: www.bpa.gov/goto/M2W. If you have not already indicated your preference on receiving mailings for this project, please fill out and return the enclosed reply card.

If you have questions regarding the environmental process, please contact the environmental project lead, Kimberly St.Hilaire, at 503-230-5361 or by e-mail at krsthilaire@bpa.gov. If you have other questions or would like more project information, please call me, Amit Sinha, at 360-619-6178 or e-mail me at axsinha@bpa.gov. You can also reach us toll free at 1-800-282-3713.

We appreciate your interest in this project.

Sincerely,

/s/ Amit Sinha

Amit Sinha
BPA Project Manager

Enclosures:
Project Map
Reply Card

becc: (w/o enclosures)

J. Tyler – DKE-7

K. Lynam – DKT-7

C. Ikakoula – DKT-7

N. Dexter – DKT-7

M Reller – DKR-MSGL

K. Perkins – KEC-4

M. Hutson – KEP-4

K. St.Hilaire – KEC-4

H. Adams – LN-7

A. Sinha – TEP-TPP-1

R. Kroonen – TEP-TPP-1

J. Murray – TER-3

B. Burn - TERP-3

C. DeShazer - TERR-3

L. Black – TERR-KALISPELL

B. Altman – TSE-TPP-2

Official File – KEC (EQ-14)

KimberlySt.Hilaire:krs:5361:07/16/2014/http://portal.bpa.gov/orgs/efw/KEC/tsrvcs/Projects/M2W_2C_P
OST-SCOPING_PUBLIC_LETTER.docx