



## Department of Energy

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

ENVIRONMENT, FISH AND WILDLIFE

In reply refer to: KEC-4

November 15, 2002

### **To: People Interested in the McNary-John Day Transmission Line Project**

Bonneville Power Administration (Bonneville) has prepared the enclosed Record of Decision on the McNary-John Day Transmission Line Project. This letter briefly describes that decision and the potential construction schedule, and tells where to call if you have questions.

Bonneville has decided to construct the McNary-John Day line as analyzed in the draft and final Environmental Impact Statements (EIS) on the project. We made this decision to increase transmission line capacity on our system for new power that is expected to be generated in southeast Washington and northeast Oregon. The Record of Decision describes the project, including the short-line routing alternatives that have been selected, and lists all the mitigation measures that we have adopted to help lessen potential impacts.

Because many of the proposed generation facilities in the area are on hold due to market conditions, Bonneville will only initiate some preliminary line construction activities at this time. Construction of the entire line will occur when the generation facilities proceed with development, requiring the increase in transmission capacity, and when Bonneville receives necessary funding from the parties who will use the additional line capacity. Bonneville anticipates new generation development within the next one to five years.

This winter we plan to construct two rock tower pads near our McNary Substation and continue to work with some landowners on purchasing new easements. When Bonneville pursues construction of the entire line, we will notify everyone on the mailing list, work one-on-one with landowners regarding schedules and crops, and determine if there are any new environmental issues that need to be considered before proceeding.

If you have questions about this project or would like more copies of the draft EIS, final EIS, or the Record of Decision, you may call our toll-free line: 1-888-276-7790, or write to Bonneville's Public Information Center, P.O. Box 12999, Portland, Oregon, 97212. You may also get project information and access documents on our website at [www.transmission.bpa.gov/projects](http://www.transmission.bpa.gov/projects).

Thank you for your time and efforts during the early planning, design, environmental and decision-making phases of this project.

Sincerely,

*/s/ Gary O. Beck 11/14/02*

Gary O. Beck  
Project Manager

Enclosure:  
Record of Decision