



## Department of Energy

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

TRANSMISSION SERVICES

May 14, 2007

In reply refer to: TEP-TPP-3

### **To parties interested in the Palisades-Goshen 115-kV Transmission Line Rebuild Project:**

Bonneville Power Administration's Palisades-Goshen 115-kilovolt transmission line is in need of pole replacements and other upgrades in order to improve its reliability and accommodate future load growth in the area. The line extends from Palisades Dam in eastern Idaho about 52 miles west to the Goshen Substation south of Idaho Falls, Idaho. (See enclosed map.) This letter describes the proposal, outlines our schedule, provides information about public meetings and explains how you can contact BPA with additional comments, questions or concerns.

#### **Background**

BPA proposes to rebuild the Palisades-Goshen line to ensure continued safe and reliable transmission service to your area. The line's condition has gradually deteriorated due to exposure to the elements and normal wear and tear. BPA has performed routine maintenance on the line as required, but the majority of the wood poles and cross arms are part of the original structure built in 1949. If nothing is done, the existing poles will continue to deteriorate until they fail and collapse.

In addition, there is a need to address load growth in the area served by the Palisades-Goshen line. Due to expected future growth, BPA needs to rebuild the line using a 230-kV structure so that the line could be operated at a voltage higher than 115-kV in the future. Although BPA studies have indicated that loads requiring a higher voltage may not materialize until 2027, BPA believes that it is more cost-effective to rebuild now using a 230-kV structure to accommodate these future loads.

#### **Proposal**

The proposal includes replacing all existing 115-kV structures with 230-kV structures. The conductor (wires) may also be replaced. The new structures would be about five feet taller and eight feet wider than the existing structures, and for the most part, would be located in the same place as the existing structures. The first two miles of line out of Palisades Dam would be relocated off very steep terrain closer to the highway. In one location, a structure would be relocated slightly to move the line away from a residence. About 25 miles of access roads would be improved and about a half mile of new access road would be built. Some ground vegetation would be cleared for access roads.

#### **Public meetings**

As part of the environmental analysis process, we would like your comments on the proposal. Several members of the project team will be available to take comments, discuss concerns, and answer any questions you may have about the proposal at one of two public meetings.

**Wednesday, May 30, 2007**

5 – 7 p.m.

Shelley High School

570 W. Fir Street, Shelley, Idaho

**Thursday, May 31, 2007**

5 – 7 p.m.

Swan Valley Elementary

3389 Highway 26, Irwin, Idaho

**Schedule**

BPA will analyze the potential environmental impacts of the proposal beginning in June. The information we gather in our environmental analysis will be published in a preliminary environmental assessment that will be available for review and comment later this year. Once we have completed the environmental review, BPA will decide whether and how to proceed with the project. If BPA decides to proceed, construction would likely begin in 2008.

**Other ways to comment**

If you cannot attend one of the meetings, you can still comment in several ways. Comments may be submitted online at [www.bpa.gov/comment](http://www.bpa.gov/comment), via e-mail to [comment@bpa.gov](mailto: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 toll free at (800) 622-4519. All comments will be posted in their entirety on BPA's Web site at [www.bpa.gov/corporate/public\\_affairs/Comment\\_Listings/](http://www.bpa.gov/corporate/public_affairs/Comment_Listings/). Please reference the Palisades-Goshen project with your comment. Comments received by June 15, 2007, will be incorporated into our environmental studies.

**For more information**

Additional information is available at [www.transmission.bpa.gov/PlanProj/Transmission\\_Projects/](http://www.transmission.bpa.gov/PlanProj/Transmission_Projects/). If you have further questions about this proposal, please call me toll free at (800) 622-4519, directly at (360) 619-6326; or send an e-mail to [makorsness@bpa.gov](mailto:makorsness@bpa.gov).

Thank you for your interest in our work and we hope to see you at one of the meetings.

Sincerely,

*/s/ Mark Korsness, 5/14/ 2007*

Mark Korsness  
Project Manager

Enclosures:

Map

Comment form