



Department of Energy

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

TRANSMISSION SERVICES

May 28, 2008

In reply refer to: TEP-TPP-3

To Parties interested in the Palisades-Goshen Transmission Line Reconstruction Project: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) has finalized the environmental assessment (EA) for the Palisades-Goshen Transmission Line Reconstruction Project in Bingham and Bonneville counties, Idaho. Based on the Final EA, BPA is issuing a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) and Floodplain Statement of Findings, and has made a decision on how to proceed with the project. This letter describes BPA's decision, construction schedule, and how to find more information about this project.

Background

The Palisades-Goshen transmission line extends from Palisades Dam in eastern Idaho about 52 miles west to BPA's Goshen Substation south of Idaho Falls, Idaho. The line's condition has gradually deteriorated due to exposure to the elements and normal wear and tear. BPA proposed to rebuild the Palisades-Goshen line to ensure continued safe and reliable transmission service.

BPA prepared the EA to help the agency determine if the Proposed Action would cause significant impacts that would warrant preparing an environmental impact statement. In April, BPA made the preliminary EA available for public review and comment. Four landowners and one tribe commented. Minor revisions were made to the EA. The EA Revision Sheet combined with the Preliminary EA constitutes the Final EA. Based on the analysis in the EA and the measures that will mitigate adverse effects, BPA has found that the Proposed Action will not cause any significant impacts.

Decision

BPA has decided to proceed with the Proposed Action. BPA will replace existing transmission line structures with new structures, acquire additional right-of-way in some areas, and improve access roads. Existing conductor will be reused along most of the line. Although the line will be rebuilt with 230-kilovolt (kV) structures for future load growth planning purposes, the line will continue to be operated at 115-kV.

Construction schedule

Access road work will begin in June and line work is scheduled to begin in July. Construction will continue into the fall for as long as weather permits. Line construction will continue in summer 2009 and 2010.

For more information

The EA Revision Sheet, FONSI, and Mitigation Action Plan are enclosed if you previously requested a Preliminary EA. If you did not receive a copy of any of these documents and would like copies, please call our toll-free document request line (800) 622-4520. These documents are available online at www.efw.bpa.gov/environmental_services/Document_Library/Palisades/.

If you have any questions about the project, you may call me toll free at (800) 622-4519 or send me an e-mail at makorsness@bpa.gov. Thank you for your interest in the project.

Sincerely,



Mark Korsness
Project Manager

Enclosure: (if Preliminary EA was received)
EA Revision Sheet
FONSI
Mitigation Action Plan