



Department of Energy

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

ENVIRONMENT, FISH AND WILDLIFE

March 15, 2002

Reply to: KEC-4

To: People Interested in the Plymouth Generation Facility Interconnection

Plymouth Energy Generation, L.L.C. has requested the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) to provide transmission services integrating the proposed Plymouth Energy Generation Project into the Federal Columbia River Transmission System (FCRTS). Before extending this service, BPA is inviting public comment. This letter describes the project, outlines our process, and invites you to a public meeting.

Background

The proposed Plymouth Generation Facility (PGF) project involves construction and operation of a 306-megawatt (MW) natural gas-fired combined-cycle electrical generation facility. The PGF would be located approximately two miles west of the town of Plymouth, Washington on a 44-acre site in unincorporated Benton County. Major project components include:

- A gas-fired turbine and a steam turbine, each driving separate electrical generators. The exhaust heat from the combustion gas-fired turbine flows to a heat recovery steam generator (HRSG) where steam is produced to drive the steam turbine.
- Two cooling systems will be constructed to minimize cooling water use: (1) an air-cooled condenser (ACC), and (2) a conventional mechanical draft wet cooling tower. Both cooling systems will always be in operation but one system will be more heavily used based on the outside air temperature. The ACC is expected to be used more heavily in the winter, while the wet tower would receive greater summer usage.
- A new 800-foot natural gas supply pipeline.
- A small substation with transformers to convert the electric power generated by the facility to 230-kilovolts (kV) or 500-kV.
- A transmission line to deliver the power generated at the PGF to the Federal transmission grid. The transmission options being considered include: (Option 1) A new 0.4-mile long 230-kV or 500-kV transmission line connecting the substation with the BPA's transmission lines north of the PGF or (Option 2) rebuilding the existing PUD 115-kV line located along Christie Road, extending to the Columbia River crossing, and interconnecting to the BPA's McNary Substation.

Environmental Review Process

As a Federal agency, BPA must consider the environmental impacts of its decisions under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). BPA must consider not only the impacts of the interconnecting transmission line and related facilities, but also any connected actions such as the generating facility, the gas pipeline and water supply lines. BPA has teamed up with Benton County to assess the potential environmental effects of the project. While Benton County will carry out the environmental review requirements of the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA), BPA will implement the NEPA requirements. Both BPA and Benton County will share the work, resource information, analysis, results, and public contacts. The information gathered in the environmental study will be published in a combined

state and federal environmental impact statement (EIS). Upon completion of the EIS, BPA will make its decision regarding the interconnection and integration of the project.

Public Input

Benton County sponsored a public scoping meeting on the PFG on January 24, 2002 to determine the issues that should be covered in the EIS. BPA also will offer several opportunities for public comment on the scope of the EIS, including holding a public open house meeting. If you were unable to attend the January 24 meeting or if you believe BPA should consider additional information related to its decision to interconnect the proposed project, please either:

- Call toll-free at 1-800-282-3713, ask for extension 3294, or call direct at 503-230-3294;
- Send an e-mail to: comment@bpa.gov;
- Send regular mail to: Bonneville Power Administration,
Communications - KC-7,
P.O. Box 12999,
Portland, Oregon 97212
- Send a FAX to 503-230-5699; or
- Attend an open house:

April 9, 2002
4:00 to 7:00 p.m.
Paterson School
51409 West Prior Road
Paterson, Washington

We do not plan to give a formal presentation at the meeting, so please stop by anytime between 4:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. Several members of the project team will be available to answer questions and take your comments. This open house will share the facility with BPA's open-house meeting for comments on the McNary-John Day 500-kV Transmission Line Project Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

BPA will be accepting comments through April 17, 2002. Please remember to include both your name and the project name with your comments.

Sincerely,

Philip W. Smith
Environmental Project Manager

Enclosure:
Map of Project Area