



## Department of Energy

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

TRANSMISSION SERVICES

December 8, 2014

In reply refer to: TEP-TPP-1

### **To: People Interested in the Salem-Albany Transmission Line Rebuild**

The Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) has finalized the environmental assessment (EA) for the Salem-Albany Transmission Line Rebuild. Based on the final EA, BPA is issuing a finding of no significant impact (FONSI) and has made a decision to proceed with the project. This letter describes BPA's decision, the construction schedule, and how to obtain additional information.

**Background:** BPA will completely rebuild the 24-mile Salem-Albany No. 1 and the 28-mile Salem-Albany No. 2 wood-pole transmission lines. The lines run from Salem to Albany, Oregon, through Polk, Benton, Marion, and Linn counties. The proposed project will include replacing all components of the two transmission lines, including the wood poles and conductors (existing fiber on both lines would remain). Associated activities will include improving, acquiring, and building access roads and removing danger trees. The proposed project is needed due to the age and deterioration of the two lines.

BPA prepared an EA to help the agency determine if the Proposed Action would cause significant impacts that would warrant preparing an environmental impact statement. BPA released the draft EA for public review and comment in July 2014 and received a number of comments. The final EA provides responses to those comments and minor revisions to the EA. Based on the EA analysis and mitigation measures to help lessen impacts, BPA has found that the Proposed Action will not cause any significant impacts and, therefore, an environmental impact statement will not be prepared.

**Decision:** BPA has decided to proceed with the Proposed Action and will conduct line rebuild and access road improvements as described in the final EA. Project construction on the Salem-Albany No. 2 line is expected to begin in July 2015 and continue through November 2015. Construction on the Salem-Albany No. 1 line is expected to begin in July 2016 and continue through November 2016.

**For More Information:** The final EA, FONSI, and mitigation action plan are enclosed if you previously requested them. If you did not receive a copy of any of these documents and would like one, please call our toll-free document request line at 1-800-622-4520. Leave a request naming this project and giving your name and complete mailing address. It is also available on BPA's website at [www.bpa.gov/goto/SalemAlbanyRebuild](http://www.bpa.gov/goto/SalemAlbanyRebuild).

Sincerely,

*/s/ Amanda Williams*

Amanda Williams  
Transmission Project Manager

**Enclosures (if requested):**  
Revision Sheet  
FONSI and Mitigation Action Plan