



## Department of Energy

Bonneville Power Administration  
P.O. Box 491  
Vancouver, Washington 98666-0491

TRANSMISSION BUSINESS LINE

March 26, 2003

In reply refer to: T-DITT-2

### **To: People Interested in the Schultz-Hanford Area Transmission Line Project**

Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) has decided to construct a new 63.7-mile 500-kV transmission line, connecting the Schultz Substation (north of Ellensburg) with a new substation (Wautoma Substation), which will be built two miles south of Highway 24 in Benton County. The new line was analyzed in the draft and final Environmental Impact Statements (EIS) prepared for the project. The decision, signed by BPA Administrator Steve Wright, helps the agency meet its infrastructure program goal to relieve congestion on overloaded lines in the region. BPA has enclosed the Record of Decision. This letter briefly describes the decision, construction schedule, and explains where to call if you have questions.

This project will improve reliability and ensure that BPA can continue to meet its statutory and contractual obligations to deliver power to where it is needed in Washington State and the Pacific Northwest. The new line will primarily use 500-kV, single-circuit steel lattice structures on new 150 to 180-foot wide right-of-way. Through an agricultural area near Mattawa, for approximately nine miles the new line will replace the existing Midway-Vantage 230-kV line to reduce impacts to agriculture and residences. In this agricultural segment the 230-kV structures will be replaced with 500-kV double-circuit lattice structures, which will hold the new 500-kV line and the existing 230-kV line. In addition to the new transmission line, BPA will:

- Construct new and upgrade existing access roads;
- Construct a new substation bay within the existing fenced yard of the Schultz Substation and new substation called Wautoma Substation, in Benton County;
- Re-route the existing Sickler-Schultz 500-kV transmission line into the Schultz Substation and loop the existing Hanford-Ostrander 500-kV and Hanford-John Day 500-kV transmission lines through the Wautoma Substation; and
- Install fiber optic cable between Columbia Substation and the new Wautoma Substation.

Construction is scheduled to start this April on Wautoma Substation. Work on the new 500-kV line will begin in May of this year. All construction work should be completed by Spring 2005 and the line energized soon after.

BPA will continue to work one-on-one with property owners along the corridor to minimize impacts during construction. In addition, BPA has hired Energy Delivery Services to manage line construction activities and they will provide a dedicated staff person to work with property owners before and during construction. Within the next few months Energy Delivery Services will be contacting you with the name, phone number and e-mail address of their land liaison.

If you have questions about this project or would like a copy of the draft EIS, final EIS, or additional copies of the Record of Decision, you may call our toll-free line at 1-888-276-7790, or write to BPA'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 planning, design, environmental, and decision-making phases of this project.

Sincerely,

Lou Driessen  
Project Manager

Enclosure: Record of Decision