

Department of Energy

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

March 13, 2000

In reply refer to: KECN-4

To: People Interested in the Shelton – Kitsap Transmission Line Rebuild Project

Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) is proposing to rebuild a transmission line that could affect you. This letter briefly explains what is being proposed, outlines our process and schedule, and tells whom to call if you have any questions.

Proposal

BPA is proposing to rebuild an existing transmission line that runs between our Shelton and Kitsap Substations, a distance of about 31 miles. (See attached map.) The existing line, a 115-kilovolt (kV) line, would be rebuilt to a 230-kV double-circuit line. One of the new circuits would be operated at 115-kV, and the other at 230-kV. The 230-kV circuit would be routed around the Kitsap Substation and tie into a Puget Sound Energy line that runs between our Kitsap Substation and Puget's South Bremerton Substation. The Puget line while already constructed for 230-kV is currently operating at 115-kV. The Puget line would be disconnected from the Kitsap Substation and re-energized at 230-kV. Puget will install a new transformer at the South Bremerton Substation.

On the BPA portion of the project, the wood poles would be replaced with either taller wood poles or steel towers. New conductors (wires) would be strung. We do not expect that any new right-of-way will be needed except possibly on the south side of Kitsap Substation. We plan to use existing access roads and improve them, if necessary. If we would need to acquire any additional access road easements on your property, we will contact you to discuss purchasing these rights.

Environmental Process

We are starting to assess environmental impacts of the proposal, as required by the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969. Please give us your ideas on what alternatives, resources, and impacts we should include in our analysis. Mail your comments to: BPA, P.O. Box 12999, Portland, OR 97212, or e-mail them to comment@bpa.gov

Schedule

The preliminary Environmental Assessment will be available for your review and comment this summer. If you would like to receive a copy, please return the enclosed postcard and check whether you would like a copy by regular or electronic mail. If you do not return the postcard,

you will still receive notice when the study is available. We will also post the study on our web site: www.efw.bpa.gov

We plan to finalize the Environmental Assessment this fall. BPA will then decide whether and how to proceed with the project. If BPA decides to proceed, work at the substations could begin later this fall. Work on the line would begin next year.

What You May See

You may see environmental specialists and survey crews on the existing right-of-way and driving on or parking alongside a local road. Members of the environmental team may use binoculars, small shovels and augers, small red flags and other field equipment as they investigate and record nesting activity in trees, take soil samples, mark special sites, or look for special plants or artifacts.

Survey crews will be in the area starting this week. You may see them use tripods and bright yellow Global Positioning System equipment for their work. They will set orange-colored wood stakes in the right-of-way to mark the centerline. If you see a white plastic X about 20 feet across on the ground, it is being used to identify a site for aerial photography, and the X will be removed soon after the photography is done.

BPA is also working with local residents to replace a washed-out bridge across Cranberry Creek because the bridge is on an access road to the transmission right-of-way. Design of the bridge is underway. Construction is expected by this summer. BPA will also be upgrading the access road as part of the bridge project.

For More Information

If you have any questions about this proposal, please call me toll-free at 1-800-282-3713, or to my direct number, (503) 230-5525; or send an e-mail to: lcdriessen@bpa.gov

Thank you for your interest in our work.

Sincerely,

/s/

Lou Driessen
Project Manager

2 Enclosures:

Map
Postcard