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**BONNEVILLE POWER ADMINISTRATION
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Friday, April 11, 2014

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Construction of Central Ferry-Lower Monumental Transmission Line begins in May

New line will bring more renewable wind energy west

Portland, Ore. – The Bonneville Power Administration will begin construction of the Central Ferry-Lower Monumental Transmission Line Project in May. The new line is expected to carry over 800 additional megawatts of renewable wind energy, enough to power about half a million Northwest homes when the wind is blowing. BPA also will hold two “Meet the Builder” open-houses in late April.

The new 38-mile, 500-kilovolt line in Washington will connect the new Central Ferry Substation in Garfield County to the existing Lower Monumental Substation in Walla Walla County. It is expected to be energized in December 2015.

“Building the right facilities in the right place at the right time is a key principle of our long-term transmission services planning process,” said Richard Shaheen, BPA vice president for Engineering and Technical Services. “Specifically, this project will add critical transmission grid capacity, support new transmission requests from generators in the Snake River area and be a welcome boost to local and regional economies.”

For 76 years, BPA has been the major developer of energy infrastructure in the Pacific Northwest. Electric utilities and electric power consumers depend on BPA to maintain reliable transmission service at low rates and meet growing demands for electricity.

Over the past several years, numerous power generation projects, including large wind projects, have requested interconnection with the BPA system in the Snake River area. After studying the transmission system and identifying where capacity is available, BPA determined that there is not enough available transmission capacity to accommodate the requests. Building the Central Ferry-Lower Monumental project will allow BPA to meet the requests for transmission and allow additional power to flow between areas east of the Cascade Mountains to heavily populated areas in the west.

In August 2011, the Central Ferry-Lower Monumental Transmission Line Project was put on hold because of uncertainties regarding the need for the new line. However, in August 2013, BPA notified customers, landowners and stakeholders that it was moving forward with construction of the line. Existing customer need coupled with an agreement for Portland General Electric to acquire Phase 2 of Puget Sound Energy's Lower Snake River Wind Project, which PGE renamed the Tucannon River Wind Farm, required construction activities to begin this spring.

The Tucannon River Wind Farm is a key infrastructure investment that supports PGE's balanced energy portfolio. Tucannon River will help PGE satisfy Oregon's renewable energy standard, which requires the utility to supply 15 percent of the electricity its customers use from renewable resources by 2015 and 25 percent by 2025.

In early 2011, BPA completed an environmental impact statement and preliminary engineering design for the project. BPA issued a record of decision to build the line in March 2011. Since then, BPA has conducted additional environmental review of some access road modifications and a material yard.

The contractor hired to build the new line is MYR Group, a leading specialty contractor serving the electrical infrastructure market throughout the United States and has the experience and expertise to complete electrical installations of any type and size. MYR Group's comprehensive power line capabilities include transmission, overhead and underground distribution, substation projects and 24-hour emergency service.

Two "Meet the Builder" open-houses are being held so the public can learn more about the construction process and schedule, speak with representatives from the MYR Group and meet the BPA project team.

April 22, 2014

4-7 p.m.

Best Western Plus, 7 E. Oak St., Walla Walla, Wash.

April 23, 2014

4-7 p.m.

Best Western Plus, Dayton Hotel and Suites, 507 E. Main St., Dayton, Wash.

BPA is a nonprofit federal power marketing administration that markets renewable hydropower from federal dams in the Columbia Basin, operates three-quarters of high-voltage transmission lines in the Northwest and funds one of the largest wildlife protection and restoration programs in the world. BPA and its partners have also saved enough electricity through energy efficiency projects to power four large American cities. For more information, contact us at 503-230-5131 or visit our website at www.bpa.gov.