



Department of Energy

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

TRANSMISSION SERVICES

April 20, 2021

In reply refer to: TFHQ-TPP-3

To: People interested in the Hills Creek-Lookout Point Transmission Line Rebuild Project

The Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) proposes to rebuild the Hills Creek-Lookout Point 115-kilovolts (kV) transmission line, which is partially located in the town of Oakridge. In 2017, BPA completed an Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact to environmental resources from the project.

Project implementation was delayed and BPA is now in the process of reviewing any additional actions related to the project that would require further environmental analysis. BPA has identified the potential need for installation of temporary backup generators adjacent to Lane Electric's Oakridge Substation. As such, BPA is contacting nearby landowners. This letter explains what is being proposed and requests your comments.

Temporary Generator Proposal:

The town of Oakridge is supplied with power generated from the Lookout Point dam to the west and Hills Creek dam to the east. Backup power is supplied from BPA's main electrical grid west of the Lookout Point dam. During construction, BPA would need to de-energize the segment of line from Oakridge to Lookout Point dam, and the town of Oakridge would then be reliant on the electricity generated from the Hills Creek dam. In the unlikely event that power could not be generated at Hills Creek dam while the Lookout Point segment is de-energized, then the town of Oakridge would be without power. To reduce the potential for power loss in Oakridge, BPA proposes to install three to four temporary generators that would be in place for the duration of the project. The temporary generators would only be used in the event that Hills Creek Dam could not generate power.

From where the generators would be located, a combined noise level of 84 dBA¹ would occur during operation of the generators. The noise levels would decrease as the distance from the generators increase. For adjacent residences, the noise levels would be approximately 69 dBA, when standing outside on their properties. This would be comparable to the noise generated by a gas lawnmower.

How to Comment:

If you have any concerns regarding the project, including the placement of temporary backup generators in the town of Oakridge, please send your comments by **May 20, 2021** and reference the Hills Creek-Lookout Point Line Rebuild project.

¹ Noise levels are measured in decibels (dBA).

There are several ways to comment:

Mail: Bonneville Power Administration
Public Affairs – DKE-7
P.O. Box 14428
Portland, OR 97291-4428

Toll-free: 800-622-4519
FAX: 503-230-4019
ONLINE: www.bpa.gov/comment

The EA can be viewed at the project website:

www.bpa.gov/efw/Analysis/NEPADocuments/Pages/HillsCreekLookoutPoint.aspx

If you have questions regarding the environmental process, please contact the Environmental Protection Specialist, Beth Belanger, Flux Resources, toll-free at 800-622-4519, directly at 503-230-7579, or by e-mail at babelanger@bpa.gov.

If you have other questions or would like more project information, please call me at the toll-free number listed above, directly at 360-619-6571, or by e-mail at jflansburg@bpa.gov.

Thank you for your interest in this project.

Sincerely,

/s/ Jeffrey Flansburg

Jeffrey Flansburg
Transmission Project Manager

Enclosures:

Project Map

Comment form

Return Envelope