



Department of Energy

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

TRANSMISSION SERVICES

April 10, 2023

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) is in the process of rebuilding 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. In October 2021, BPA completed a Supplemental Environmental Assessment to review the potential for additional impacts due to small design changes, and in June 2022, BPA completed a Supplement Analysis to analyze certain structural modifications.

BPA previously identified the potential need for installation of temporary backup generators adjacent to Lane Electric's Oakridge Substation. The original location of the backup generators would move approximately 200 feet to the northwest and would now be located immediately adjacent to the Oakridge Substation. As such, BPA is contacting landowners adjacent to the Oakridge Substation that were not originally notified. 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, BPA proposes to install four temporary generators that would be in place from June through September in 2023 and tentatively from May through October in 2024 to provide backup electricity to the town of Oakridge. The temporary generators would only be used in the event, and for those periods of time, 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.

¹ Noise levels are measured in A-weighted decibels (dBA).

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 15, 2023**, and reference the Hills Creek-Lookout Point Transmission Line Rebuild project.

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
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The EA, Supplemental EA, and Supplement Analysis can be viewed at the project website:
<https://www.bpa.gov/learn-and-participate/public-involvement-decisions/project-reviews/hills-creek-lookout-point-transmission-line-rebuild-doe-ea-1967>

If you have questions regarding the environmental process, please contact the Environmental Protection Specialist, Beth Belanger, 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) 418-1611, or by e-mail at avkirsanova@bpa.gov.

Thank you for your interest in this project.

Sincerely,

Alla Kirsanova
Transmission Project Manager

Enclosures:
Project Map
Comment form
Return Envelope