



Department of Energy

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

TRANSMISSION SERVICES

June 16, 2009

In reply refer to: TEP-TPP-3

To: Parties Interested in the Central Ferry-Lower Monumental Transmission Line Project

Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) is proposing to build a new transmission line that could affect you. This letter briefly explains what is being proposed, outlines our environmental review process and schedule, and invites you to meetings where you can learn more and comment on the proposal.

Proposal - BPA is proposing to construct a 500-kilovolt (kV) transmission line in Garfield, Columbia, and Walla Walla counties, Washington. The proposed line would extend west from a new BPA 500-kV substation, called Central Ferry Substation, in Garfield County, to BPA's existing 500-kV Lower Monumental Substation in Walla Walla County (see enclosed map). The proposed line is needed to increase the electrical capacity of our transmission system in response to requests for transmission service in this area.

We are presently considering two routing alternatives and a no action alternative for the proposed transmission line project. One routing alternative for the transmission line is about 38 miles long, and the other is about 40 miles long. Portions of both routes parallel existing BPA lines in the area, and cross both private and state lands.

To understand the potential impacts of this proposal, BPA will prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed transmission line project. During this process, we will be working with the Washington state energy facility site evaluation council, as well as with other federal, state and local agencies, landowners, interest groups, and tribes.

Public Meeting - We will soon start to assess the potential environmental impacts of the proposed alternatives and we would like to hear from you. What questions do you have? What resources should we analyze? Are there other routes we should consider? We have scheduled a public scoping meeting to hear your ideas and accept comments related to the scope of the EIS that will be prepared:

Monday, July 13, 2009
4 - 7 p.m.
Starbuck School Gymnasium
717 Tucannon Street
Starbuck, WA 99359

We do not plan to give a formal presentation at the meeting, so come anytime between 4 and 7 p.m. Several members of the project team will be available to answer your questions and listen to your ideas. Based on input received during this meeting, we may schedule a second meeting if needed.

Other Ways to Comment - If you cannot come to the meeting, you can still comment. Please submit comments to us by **August 3, 2009**. You may submit comments to BPA online at: www.bpa.gov/comment or fax your comments to (503) 230-3285. You also may call us with your

comments toll free at (800) 622-4519. Please reference “Central Ferry-Lower Monumental Transmission Project” with your comments. We will post all comments we receive on our Web site at www.bpa.gov/comment.

Process and Schedule - Starting this summer you may see BPA staff or contractors in the area as they work to refine possible routes and conduct environmental surveys. If we need to enter property where we do not have existing access, we will contact property owners for permission through a separate mailing in the next 2 weeks.

The information we gather in our environmental studies will be published in a draft EIS that we expect will be available for review and comment in summer 2010. If you would like to receive a copy of the draft EIS, please indicate on the enclosed reply card whether you would like to receive it by regular or electronic mail. If you would like to be taken off the project mailing list, please mark the box on the card. If you do not return the reply card, you will still receive notice when the draft EIS is available.

The environmental review process will likely take about two years, with a decision on whether and how to proceed with the project expected by spring 2011.

For More Information - To find out more about the project please go to BPA’s Web site www.efw.bpa.gov/environmental_services/nepadocs.aspx, and click on “Project Reviews – Active,” “Central Ferry-Lower Monumental.”

If you have questions regarding the environmental process, please contact the environmental project lead, Tish Eaton, toll free at (800) 282-3713, or at (503) 230-3469; or by e-mail tkeaton@bpa.gov. If you have other questions or would like more project information, please call me, Theresa Berry, at the toll-free number or directly at (360) 619-6313; or e-mail tmberry@bpa.gov.

Thank you for your interest in this project.

Sincerely,

/s/ Theresa Berry

Theresa Berry
Project Manager

Enclosures:
Project Map
Reply Card