



## Department of Energy

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

TRANSMISSION SERVICES

December 16, 2013

In reply refer to: TEP-TPP-3

### **To: Parties Interested in the Grand Coulee-Creston Transmission Line Rebuild**

Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) has prepared a draft environmental assessment (EA) for our proposed Grand Coulee-Creston Transmission Line Rebuild. This letter requests your comments on the EA, invites you to public meetings, and outlines the project's next steps.

As you may know, BPA is proposing to rebuild nearly 28 miles of the Grand Coulee-Creston No. 1 115-kilovolt (kV) transmission line between the cities of Coulee Dam in Grant County and Creston in Lincoln County, Washington. The proposed project would include replacing all wood-pole structures (including poles, cross arms, cross braces, guys, anchors and insulator assemblies) and conductor (including groundwire), improving existing access roads, developing temporary access roads, and removing tall growing vegetation in the right-of-way. The rebuilt line will continue to operate at 115-kV. The intention is that the rebuilt line will maintain the same structure locations and similar pole heights as the existing line. The existing line was built in 1941 and is in need of replacement due to age and deterioration. Rebuilding the line would help maintain reliable electrical service and avoid risks to the safety of the public and maintenance crews.

#### **Draft EA**

The draft EA further describes the project and why it is needed, discusses the environmental impacts the project would create, and lists the mitigation measures that would lessen or eliminate those impacts. The EA is available for your review and comment; you may access it online at [www.bpa.gov/goto/CouleeCrestonRebuild](http://www.bpa.gov/goto/CouleeCrestonRebuild) or if you requested a copy of the document, it is enclosed. If you would like a hard copy (about 200 pages), please call our toll-free document request line 1-800-622-4520. Please leave a message with the project name, your name, and complete mailing address.

#### **Public Meetings**

We have scheduled two open-house meetings to answer questions and accept comments about the draft EA:

**Tuesday, January 7, 2014**  
4:00 to 7:00 p.m.  
Coulee Dam Town Hall  
300 Lincoln Avenue  
Coulee Dam, WA 99116

**Wednesday, January 8, 2014**  
4:00 to 7:00 p.m.  
Wilbur Community Center  
5 SW Railroad Avenue  
Wilbur, WA 99185

We do not plan to give a formal presentation, so you may come any time during the meeting.

**How to Comment**

Please send comments you have on the draft EA by **February 3, 2014**. All comments will be posted in their entirety on the project website. There are several ways that you can comment:

<b>Mail:</b> Bonneville Power Administration Public Affairs – DKE-7 P.O. Box 14428 Portland, OR 97291-4428	<b>Toll-free:</b> 800-622-4519 <b>FAX:</b> 503-230-4019 <b>E-mail:</b> <a href="http://www.bpa.gov/comment">www.bpa.gov/comment</a>
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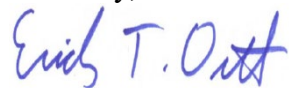
**Next Steps**

BPA will consider all comments submitted during the comment period and provide responses to substantial comments in the final EA. If we decide to implement the proposed project, the final EA and a Finding of No Significant Impacts would likely be available in May 2014.

**For More Information**

You may visit the project website at [www.bpa.gov/goto/CouleeCrestonRebuild](http://www.bpa.gov/goto/CouleeCrestonRebuild). If you have questions regarding the environmental review process, please contact the environmental project lead, Andrew Montano, at 503-230-4145, or by e-mail at [ammontano@bpa.gov](mailto:ammontano@bpa.gov). If you would like more project information, please call me, Erich Orth, at 360-619-6559, or [etorth@bpa.gov](mailto:etorth@bpa.gov). You can also reach us toll free at 1-800-282-3713. Thank you for your interest in our work.

Sincerely,



Erich T. Orth  
BPA Project Manager

**Enclosures:**

Draft EA (if requested)  
Comment Form  
Return Envelope