



Department of Energy

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

TRANSMISSION SERVICES

December 4, 2012

In reply refer to: TEP-TPP-1

To: Parties interested in the Salem-Albany Transmission Line Rebuild Project

Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) is proposing to rebuild a transmission line in your area. This letter briefly explains what is being proposed, outlines our environmental review process and schedule, and invites you to comment on the proposal.

Proposed project. BPA is proposing to completely rebuild the 23.90-mile Salem-Albany No. 1 and the 27.85-mile Salem-Albany No. 2 wood-pole transmission lines. The lines run from Salem to Albany, Ore., through Polk, Benton, Marion and Linn counties ([see vicinity map](#)).

The rebuild is necessary due to the overall age, condition and performance of the lines, which were built over 60 years ago. Many of the poles have deteriorated, along with the hardware, conductor and other components. The rebuild would involve replacing wood pole structures, associated structural components, the conductor and the ground wire. The lines would continue to operate at 115-kV, and our intent would be to rebuild both lines using the same wood pole locations and designs. Associated activities would include establishing temporary access during construction, setting up temporary staging areas, removing some vegetation, improving existing access roads and potentially building new access roads. Upon completion, this project would help assure safe and reliable electric service to customers in the Salem and Albany area.

BPA will prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA) under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) to assess the potential environmental impacts of the proposed action and identify ways to reduce those impacts. Two alternatives will be studied: to rebuild the lines or to not rebuild them and continue with current operation and maintenance practices. During this process, BPA will be working with federal, state and local agencies; landowners; interest groups; and Tribes.

Public involvement. As we start to assess the potential environmental impacts of the rebuild, we'd like to hear from you. What questions do you have? What resources should we analyze? Do you have information or concerns about specific areas? BPA is seeking public input and comments through **January 31, 2013**. Feedback we receive will be used to help develop the EA. In addition, we will have two public meetings to provide information on the project and take questions and comments. The meetings will be held in Salem and Albany in mid- to late January 2013. You will receive a notice of the exact dates and locations prior to the meetings.

Besides the public scoping meetings, you can submit comments or questions on-line at www.bpa.gov/comment, return the enclosed comment form or other written correspondence in the

postage-paid envelope provided, fax your comments to 503-230-4019, or call us toll free at 1-800-622-4519. When submitting comments or questions, please include your name, phone number, and/or e-mail address; and reference "Salem-Albany Transmission Line Rebuild Project." We will post all comments we receive by January 31, 2013, on our website at www.bpa.gov/comment.

Process and schedule. Over the next two years, BPA employees or contractors will be conducting field activities related to the planning process and environmental review. You might see various specialists driving, parking or working on local roads or in the transmission line rights-of-way at various times. If we need to access your property, and do not already have an access agreement, a BPA realty specialist will contact you.

A Preliminary EA will be available for review and comment near the end of 2013. Please indicate on the enclosed postcard if you would like to receive a copy of the Preliminary EA, and 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 appropriate box on the postcard. If you do not return the postcard, you will receive a notice when the Preliminary EA is available.

BPA will produce a Final EA in the spring or summer of 2014. Based on the analysis in the Final EA, BPA will either prepare a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) and decide whether to proceed with the project, or will prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) if there is the potential for significant environmental impacts.

For more information. Please visit the project website at www.bpa.gov/goto/SalemAlbanyRebuild or contact a team member if you have questions or would like to learn more about the project. If you have questions regarding the environmental process, please contact Kara Hempy-Mayer at 1-800-282-3713; 503-230-4982; or klhempymayer@bpa.gov. If you have questions about easements or property access, contact Michelle Doiron at 1-800-836-6619; 360-563-3641; or medoiron@bpa.gov. If you would like more project information, please call me, Amanda Williams, at 1-800-282-3713; 360-619-6634; or amloran@bpa.gov.

Sincerely,

/s/ Amanda Williams

Amanda Williams
Project Manager

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