



Department of Energy

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

TRANSMISSION SERVICES

March 20, 2009

In reply refer to: TEP-TPP-3

To: Neighbors and people interested in the Albany – Burnt Woods and Santiam – Toledo Pole Replacement Project

Bonneville Power Administration's (BPA) Albany-Burnt Woods 115-kilovolt and Santiam-Toledo 230-kilovolt transmission lines have gradually deteriorated due to exposure to the elements and normal wear and tear. BPA is proposing pole replacements and other upgrades to improve the line's reliability. Both the Albany-Burnt Woods and Santiam-Toledo transmission lines are important parts of BPA's transmission system in the mid-Willamette Valley. This letter invites you to comment on the preliminary environmental assessment (EA) and includes information on how to submit your comments.

Background

The transmission lines extend from Albany, Oregon about 26 miles west to Burnt Woods Substation located on the east slope of the Oregon Coast Range. BPA has performed routine maintenance on the line as needed, but most of the wood poles and some cross arms are part of the original structures built in 1946 (Albany-Burnt Woods line) and 1959 (Santiam-Toledo line). If BPA does not install new poles, the existing poles will continue to deteriorate until they fail and collapse.

The EA describes the proposed project, the no action alternative, and potential environmental impacts. The EA also gives an assessment of the floodplains and wetlands potentially affected by the project in Linn, Benton, and Lincoln counties, and lists proposed mitigation measures that could lessen or eliminate those impacts.

The EA is enclosed if you requested it during the scoping period. You can request a copy by calling our toll-free document request line: (800) 622-4520. The EA is also available online at www.efw.bpa.gov/environmental_services/Document_Library/Albany/.

How to comment

BPA is accepting comments on the preliminary EA through **April 13, 2009**. You may submit comments online at: www.bpa.gov/comment, via mail to: Bonneville Power Administration, Public Affairs Office - DKE-7, P.O. Box 14428, Portland, OR, 97293-4428, or by fax to (503) 230-3285. You also may call us with your comment toll free at (800) 622-4519. Please reference "Albany-Burnt Woods/Santiam-Toledo Pole Replacement Project" with your comments. BPA will post all comment letters in their entirety on BPA's Web site at www.bpa.gov/comment.

For more information

If you have questions or would like more information about this project, you may call BPA toll free at (800) 622-4519, e-mail me at etorth@bpa.gov, or call me at (360) 619-6559. You may also visit the project Web site at www.transmission.bpa.gov/PlanProj/Transmission_Projects/. Thank you for your interest.

Sincerely,



Erich T. Orth
Project Manager

Enclosure:
Preliminary Environmental Assessment (if requested)
Comment form