



Department of Energy

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

TRANSMISSION BUSINESS LINE

August 2, 2002

In reply refer to: KEC-4

To: **People Interested in the Grand Coulee-Bell 500-kV Transmission Line Project
(Eastern Washington Reinforcement)**

Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) is proposing to replace approximately 84 miles of an existing 115-kilovolt (kV) transmission line with a new 500-kV transmission line between Grand Coulee and Spokane, Washington. We received your comments on the project during the scoping process, and we are now seeking your valuable feedback on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). If you requested either the complete Draft EIS or the Summary of the Draft EIS, you will find that enclosed. This letter invites you to open house meetings, describes how to comment on the Draft EIS, and outlines the project schedule. We have also included a comment form for your use.

The Draft EIS describes the proposed project, tells why we need it, discusses the environmental and social impacts the project would create, and lists the mitigation measures that would lessen or eliminate those impacts. We greatly appreciate your time in reviewing the document and giving us your comments. Did we analyze all the resources important to you? Are there other ways to lessen impacts? We have scheduled four meetings to receive community input. The meetings are on:

September 4, 2002

4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Coulee Dam City Hall
300 Lincoln Avenue
Coulee Dam, Washington

September 5, 2002

4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Lincoln County Public Works Dept.
27234 SR 25 North
Davenport, Washington

September 6, 2002

1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Quality Inn
7919 North Division Street
Spokane, Washington

September 9, 2002

4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Quality Inn
7919 North Division Street
Spokane, Washington

We do not plan to give a formal presentation at the meetings, so please stop by anytime between the scheduled times. Project team members will be available to answer your questions and take your comments on the Draft EIS.

How to Comment

There are a number of ways you may comment. You can attend one of the open-house public meetings listed above, write a letter or send the comment form to BPA, Communications - KC-7, P.O. Box 12999, Portland, Oregon 97212. If you comment by September 23, 2002, we will be able to consider your comments in our proposal. In addition, you may also contact BPA's toll-free comment line at 1-800-622-4519 or email us at comment@bpa.gov. Please include the name of this project in your message.

We will read and consider all the comments submitted during the comment period, which ends on **September 23, 2002**. All the comments we receive, including letters, e-mails, and verbal comments recorded at the open house meetings, will be published in the Final EIS. BPA's responses to the comments will also appear in the Final EIS. As appropriate, the Final EIS will be updated with any changes to the proposal or analysis in response to comments.

Schedule

Close of comments for the Draft EIS is September 23, 2002. A Final EIS should be available in December 2002. If you received the Draft EIS, you will receive a Final EIS unless you tell us you do not want a copy.

Once we have completed the Final EIS, Bonneville will issue a Record of Decision early in 2003, outlining whether or not we would proceed with the project, which alternatives would be selected, and the mitigation measures that would be adopted.

For More Information

Additional copies of the Draft EIS are available by contacting 1-800-622-4520. The Summary of the Draft EIS is also posted on Bonneville's website at www.efiv.gov, look for environmental planning/analysis, Active Projects. If you have any questions, please call me toll-free at 1-888-276-7790; at my direct number, (360) 619-6326; or send an e-mail to makorsness@bpa.gov. Thank you for your interest in this project.

Sincerely,

/s/ Mark Korsness 08/02/02

Mark Korsness
Project Manager

2 Enclosures:
Draft EIS or the Summary
Comment form