



## Department of Energy

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

TRANSMISSION SERVICES

May 2, 2011

In reply refer to: TEP-TPP-3

### **To: Parties Interested in the Grand Coulee Transmission Line Replacement Project**

Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) has been asked by the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) to design and construct six new 500-kilovolt (kV) overhead transmission lines at Grand Coulee Dam. This letter provides information about the proposed project, the public meeting, the preliminary Environmental Assessment, and the public comment period.

#### **Project Information**

The proposed new overhead lines would replace six existing underground lines. The existing underground lines consist of aging, oil-filled cables between Grand Coulee's Third Powerplant and the 500-kV spreading yard, both of which are operated and maintained by Reclamation. The new overhead lines would transfer power that is generated at the Third Powerplant, across the Columbia River and over the Visitor Center area, and then proceed uphill where they will connect to existing lines that transfer power from this area into the Regional power grid. The project would help ensure safe and reliable transmission of power from Grand Coulee Dam's Third Powerplant.

#### **Public Open House**

BPA and Reclamation will hold a joint open house so that you can provide comments on the preliminary Environmental Assessment, the potential environmental impacts, and the proposed mitigation measures related to the proposed project. You are invited to stop in any time. The open house will be held on:

**Wednesday, May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2011**  
**4:00 to 7:00 p.m.**  
**Coulee Dam Town Hall**  
**300 Lincoln Avenue**  
**Coulee Dam, WA 99116**

#### **Environmental Review Process**

BPA and Reclamation conducted public meetings in July and August 2009 regarding the proposal, contacted interested parties with information on the proposed project, and accepted comments on the proposal. Since that time, BPA conducted an environmental review of the proposal and prepared a preliminary Environmental Assessment. The preliminary Environmental Assessment describes the proposed project, the no action alternative, new alternatives, potential environmental impacts, and proposed mitigation measures that could avoid or minimize those impacts.

BPA expects to release a final Environmental Assessment in summer 2011. Based on the analysis in the final Environmental Assessment, BPA will either prepare a Finding of No Significant Impact or prepare an Environmental Impact Statement if there is the potential for significant environmental impacts. If a Finding of No Significant Impact is prepared, then construction is scheduled to begin September 2011 and will be completed by the end of 2012.

The preliminary Environmental Assessment is available online at [www.bpa.gov/go/coulee](http://www.bpa.gov/go/coulee). If you would like to request a hard copy of the preliminary Environmental Assessment, you can do so by calling the BPA toll-free document request line: 800-622-4520.

### **How to Comment**

BPA is accepting comments on the preliminary Environmental Assessment through **June 10th, 2011**. You may submit comments online at [www.bpa.gov/comment](http://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 503-230-4019. Please reference "Grand Coulee Transmission Line Replacement Project" on your comments. You also may call us with your comment toll free at 800-622-4519. BPA will post all comments in their entirety on BPA's website at [www.bpa.gov/comment](http://www.bpa.gov/comment).

### **For More Information**

If you have questions regarding the environmental process, please contact the environmental project lead, Andrew M Montaño; toll free at 800-282-3713, directly at 503-230-4145 or by e-mail at [ammontano@bpa.gov](mailto:ammontano@bpa.gov). If you have other questions or would like more project information, you may call BPA toll free at 800-622-4519, e-mail me at [makorsness@bpa.gov](mailto:makorsness@bpa.gov), or call me at 360-619-6326. You may also visit the project website at [www.bpa.gov/go/coulee](http://www.bpa.gov/go/coulee).

Thank you for your interest in this project.

Sincerely,

*/s/ Mark Korsness*

Mark Korsness  
Project Manager

Enclosures:  
Comment Form  
Postage-paid Envelope