



## Department of Energy

Bonneville Power Administration  
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TRANSMISSION SERVICES

May 5, 2011

In reply refer to: TEP-TPP-3

### **To: Parties Interested in the Bandon-Rogue Transmission Line Rebuild Project**

Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) has finalized the environmental assessment (EA) for the Bandon-Rogue Transmission Line Rebuild Project (Rebuild Project) in Coos and Curry counties, Oregon. Based on the Final EA, BPA is issuing a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) and Floodplain Statement of Findings, and has made a decision on how to proceed with the Rebuild Project. This letter describes BPA's decision, construction schedule, and how to find more information about the Rebuild Project.

#### **Background**

The Bandon-Rogue 115-kilovolt (kV) transmission line is a 46-mile long wood pole transmission line that was constructed in the early 1950s. Most of the structures, conductor, and associated structural components (cross arms, insulators, and dampers) are physically worn and there are some places that are structurally unsound. Based on the deteriorated condition of this transmission line, the Proposed Action (Rebuild Project) is to rebuild the Bandon-Rogue transmission line to maintain reliable electrical service and to ensure public and worker safety.

The transmission line extends south from the existing BPA Bandon Substation, located within the city of Bandon, Oregon, to the existing BPA Rogue Substation, located near the town of Nesika Beach, Oregon. The rebuilt transmission line would be similar to the existing transmission line in design and appearance and would continue to operate at 115-kV. It would be within the same alignment and would not require the acquisition of any new transmission right-of-way. In addition to replacing wood-pole structures, associated hardware and conductor, work would be conducted on project access roads and danger trees would be removed.

BPA prepared an EA to help the agency determine if the Rebuild Project would cause significant impacts that would warrant preparing an environmental impact statement. In January 2011, BPA distributed the preliminary EA and information on its availability for public review and comment. BPA received seventeen comments, from landowners and state agencies. The comments received on the preliminary EA and BPA's responses are presented in Chapter 8 of the Final EA.

Changes that were made to the Preliminary EA are underlined (text additions) or struck through (deleted text) in the Final EA, except for minor editorial changes. Based on the analysis in the Final EA and the measures that will be implemented to mitigate adverse effects, BPA has determined that the Rebuild Project will not cause any significant impacts. A FONSI and Floodplain Statement of Findings were produced by BPA to document this determination.

The FONSI for the Rebuild Project is based on the information and analysis in the Final EA. The Final EA includes required mitigation, detailed in a Mitigation Action Plan (MAP in Appendix J). Mitigation includes actions that were taken during the design phase to avoid or minimize adverse impacts. It also includes mitigation measures that will be implemented during pre-construction, construction, and post-construction implementation of the Rebuild Project. Some mitigation measures result from collaborative consultation with stakeholders and others are practices BPA adopts based on past experience maintaining, building, and operating transmission lines. The MAP lists all measures, components of each measure and who is responsible, and the implementation schedule.

### **Decision**

BPA has decided to proceed with the Rebuild Project. BPA will replace existing transmission line structures, add 19 new structures, conduct access road work, including building less than one mile of new access roads, and remove danger trees.

### **Construction Schedule**

Access road work is scheduled to begin in May 2011 and work on transmission line structures would begin in June 2011. Construction would start in Bandon, and proceed to the south. Construction is expected to end in November 2011.

### **For More Information**

The FONSI and Final EA, which includes the Mitigation Action Plan, are enclosed if you previously requested a hardcopy of the Preliminary EA. If you did not receive a copy of any of these documents and would like copies, please call our toll-free document request line (800) 622-4520. These documents are available online at the project website at [www.bpa.gov/go/BRRP](http://www.bpa.gov/go/BRRP).

If you have questions regarding the environmental process, please contact the environmental project lead, Kimberly St.Hilaire, toll free at 800-282-3713, directly at 503-230-5361 or by e-mail [krsthilaire@bpa.gov](mailto:krsthilaire@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 [etorth@bpa.gov](mailto:etorth@bpa.gov), or call me at 360-619-6559. You may also visit the project website at [www.bpa.gov/go/BRRP](http://www.bpa.gov/go/BRRP).

Thank you for your interest in this project.

Sincerely,

*/s/ Eric T. Orth*

Erich T. Orth  
Project Manager

Enclosure: (if Preliminary EA was received)  
FONSI and Final EA