



Department of Energy

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

TRANSMISSION SERVICES

April 1, 2008

In reply refer to: TEP-TPP-3

To: People Interested in the Olympic Peninsula Transmission Line Reinforcement Project

Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) has finalized the environmental assessment (EA) for the Olympic Peninsula Transmission Line Reinforcement Project. 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 project. This letter describes the findings, BPA's decision and how to find more information about this project.

Background

BPA prepared an EA on rebuilding the existing Olympia-Shelton No. 1 Transmission Line. The EA was prepared to help BPA determine if the Proposed Action would cause significant impacts that would warrant preparing an environmental impact statement. In February, BPA made the preliminary EA available for public review and comment. Twelve people, two tribes and two agencies commented, and minor revisions were made to the EA. Based on the analysis in the EA and the mitigation measures that will be used to lessen adverse impacts, BPA has found that the Proposed Action will not cause any significant impacts.

Decision

BPA has decided to proceed with the Proposed Action that includes removing most of its existing Olympia-Shelton No. 1 115-kV transmission line located in the City of Shelton and in unincorporated Thurston and Mason counties, Washington. The first mile of the line starting from Olympia Substation and the last half-mile into Shelton Substation will not be removed. BPA will replace the last 14.5 miles of this line into Shelton with a 230-kV transmission line on lattice steel towers (average height 120 feet). The steel towers will replace shorter, wood poles that are currently holding the 115-kV line. The double-circuit 230-kV transmission line will connect with an existing transmission line right-of-way. Other changes would occur at four substations, inside the substation yards.

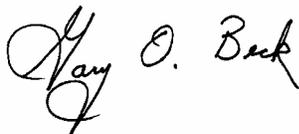
Construction schedule

Some construction work or line removal will begin this summer. Most of the transmission line would be constructed in 2009.

For more information

The Final EA/FONSI is enclosed if you previously requested it. If you did not receive a copy and would like one, please call our toll-free document request line (800) 622-4520. It is also available online at www.efw.bpa.gov/environmental_services/Document_Library/Olympic/. You may also call toll free at (800) 622-4519 or send me an e-mail gobeck@bpa.gov. Thank you for your interest in the project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gary O. Beck". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "G" and "B".

Gary O. Beck
Project Manager

Enclosure:
EA/FONSI (if requested)