



Department of Energy

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

TRANSMISSION BUSINESS LINE

August 4, 2006

In reply refer to: TNP-TPP-3

To: People interested in BPA's Proposed Summer Falls and Main Canal Hydropower Interconnection Transmission Line and Pinto Ridge Substation project

The Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) is proposing to build two transmission lines and two new substations near Coulee City, in Grant County, Wash. BPA also proposes to build a new communications site in Douglas County, Wash. The entire project is being requested by Seattle City Light and Tacoma Power (customers) to interconnect 124 megawatts of generation into the Federal Columbia River Transmission System (FCRTS). The purpose of this letter is to provide a description of the project, invite you to a public meeting, inform you on how to comment on the proposal, and provide contact information if you have questions or comments.

Project Description

BPA proposes to construct, own and operate a new 230-kV Pinto Ridge substation that would interconnect to BPA's existing Rocky Ford-Grand Coulee 230-kV transmission line in Grant County. BPA would also construct, at the request of the customers, a new 115/230-kV substation for Seattle City Light and Tacoma Power to interconnect into BPA's Pinto Ridge Substation. This substation would be owned by the customers, maintained and operated by BPA per their request.

BPA also proposes to construct, own, and operate a new communications facility near the existing Columbia-Grand Coulee transmission line on the west side of Banks Lake to facilitate operation of the Pinto Ridge substation. The communications site would consist of a 12 x 15-foot building and a 75-foot tall microwave tower. The facility would be enclosed by a fence.

BPA proposes to construct a new Main Canal-Pinto Ridge single circuit 115-kV wood pole transmission line from the Main Canal hydropower project for eight miles and connect to the new Pinto Ridge Substation. BPA also proposes to construct a new Summer Falls – Pinto Ridge single circuit 115-kV wood pole transmission line from the Summer Falls hydropower project for two miles and connect into Pinto Ridge Substation. The proposed transmission lines and 100 foot wide easements would be purchased and owned by Seattle City Light and Tacoma Power. Much of the proposed route would follow an abandoned transmission line right of way.

All of these construction projects together would support the interconnection of the hydropower generated at Main Canal and Summer Falls generation facilities to the FCRTS. BPA and the customers would sign a Large Generation Interconnection Agreement specifying the conditions of the interconnection.

Public Meeting

You are invited to attend a public scoping meeting (open house). BPA, Seattle City Light, and Tacoma Power representatives will be available to discuss and answer any questions you may have about the proposed project. Comments will be accepted during the open house, and comments can also be made after the meeting as described below. The open house style meeting will be on:

Thursday, Aug. 24, 2006

6 to 8 p.m.

Coulee City Elementary School

410 W. Locust

Coulee City, Wash.

Environmental Process and Schedule

BPA considers potential environmental impacts of the proposed transmission lines and substations in its decision making process. In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), BPA plans to prepare a Tiered Record of Decision (ROD) to its Business Plan Environmental Impact Statement (DOE/EIS-0183) to describe the potential impacts of the construction, operation and maintenance of the proposed lines and substations. Seattle City Light and Tacoma Power are responsible for meeting the requirements of the Washington State Environmental Protection Act (SEPA). The agencies will use information collected at the public meeting, comments received during the comment period, and their own assessments to help identify potential environmental impacts. The agencies will work together to comply with both NEPA and SEPA.

After the August 24 public meeting, environmental and engineering surveys will occur along the proposed transmission line routes to gather information. BPA will consider landowner concerns, present resources and potential impacts in its decision making process. All issues raised during scoping will be covered in the environmental analysis and documented in the Tiered ROD. If no significant environmental issues arise during scoping and field analysis, the Tiered ROD would be expected to be completed and posted in the Federal Register by November 2006. The customers would complete an environmental checklist under SEPA.

In the final Tiered ROD, a decision will be made whether to build the lines and substations and interconnect the hydropower projects to the FCRTS. If BPA, Seattle City Light, and Tacoma Power decide to build the substations and line, construction could begin as early as summer 2007 and be complete by February or March 2008.

How to Comment

Scoping comments, including what BPA should be studying or considering during its environmental assessment on BPA's Proposed Summer Falls and Main Canal

Interconnections and Pinto Ridge Substation, will be accepted through Sept. 24, 2006. There are a number of ways you can comment. You can provide comments at the public meeting on Aug. 24, 2006. If you prefer to submit your comments in writing, you can mail the enclosed comment form to: Bonneville Power Administration, Public Affairs Office - DKC-7, P.O. Box 14428, Portland, OR, 97293-4428, send an e-mail to comment@bpa.gov, submit your comments on-line at: <http://www.bpa.gov/comment>, or fax them to (503) 230-3285. You can also call us with your comment; toll free at (800) 622-4519. Please note all comments will be posted in their entirety on BPA's external Web. Please include the name of this project with your comments.

For More Information

BPA is committed to providing reliable, low-cost transmission products and services to the region while minimizing environmental impacts. If you have questions or would like more information about the project, please call us toll-free at (800) 622-4519, e-mail me at makorsness@bpa.gov, or call me at 360-619-6326. Additional project information is available on our Web site at:

http://www.transmission.bpa.gov/PlanProj/Transmission_Protects/default.cfm?page=SUM

Sincerely,



Mark Korsness
Project Manager

Cc.

Paul Munz, Seattle City Light
Travis Metcalfe, Tacoma Power
Denise Krownbell, Seattle City Light

Enclosures:
Project Map
Comment Form
Reply Card