



Department of Energy

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

TRANSMISSION SERVICES

September 27, 2013

In reply refer to: TEP-TPP-3

To: Parties interested in the Midway-Moxee Rebuild and Midway-Grandview Upgrade Transmission Line Project

Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) is proposing to rebuild two existing transmission lines in your area. This letter briefly describes the proposal, explains why we are combining the review of two transmission lines, outlines the environmental review process and schedule, and invites you to a meeting where you can comment on the proposal.

Proposal - BPA is proposing to rebuild its 34-mile long Midway-Moxee transmission line and its 26-mile long Midway-Grandview transmission line. Both lines are 115-kilovolt (kV) wood-pole lines located in Benton and Yakima counties, Washington (see the enclosed map). The lines were built in the 1940s and are deteriorating due to age and need to be rebuilt to ensure reliable electric service. In addition, the Midway-Grandview line would be upgraded to increase the electrical capacity to allow local utilities to meet increased demand for power.

For both lines, the project would include replacing all wood-pole structures and conductor (wires), improving existing access roads, and creating new access if needed. Most structures would be replaced with similar size poles next to the existing location unless changes are needed for safety or to minimize potential environmental impacts. Both lines would continue to operate at 115-kV. The Midway-Grandview upgrade line would also include replacing some electrical equipment within three existing substations.

To understand the potential environmental impacts of this proposal, BPA will prepare an environmental assessment (EA). BPA started the environmental review for the Midway-Moxee rebuild in early 2013, but has now combined the review of the two lines because they run adjacent to one another for about five miles. Concurrent review and construction (if a decision is made to rebuild) of the adjacent line section will save time, money, and result in less environmental impacts.

Public Meeting - We have scheduled an open-house scoping meeting to answer questions and accept comments about the scope of the EA that will be prepared:

Wednesday, October 16, 2013
4 p.m. to 7 p.m.
Grandview School District – Learning Center
313 Division Street,
Grandview, WA

We do not plan to give a formal presentation, so please come at any time during the meeting.

How to Comment - Please submit comments to us by **October 31, 2013** and reference the Midway-Moxee/Midway-Grandview Project. All comments we receive will be available on our project website at www.bpa.gov/goto/MidMoxGrand. Choose the way you would like to comment:

Mail: Bonneville Power Administration
Public Affairs – DKE
P.O. Box 14428
Portland, OR 97291-4428

FAX: 503-230-4019
On-Line: www.bpa.gov/comment
E-Mail: comment@bpa.gov
Toll-free: 800-622-4519

Process and Schedule - You may see BPA staff or contractors in the area as they conduct engineering and environmental surveys. If we need to enter property where we do not have existing access rights, we will contact property owners for permission through a separate mailing. BPA's proposed schedule for the EA process is as follows:

Draft EA available for public comment	Early 2015
Final EA and Finding of No Significant Impact (if warranted)	Summer 2015
If decision to rebuild, construction begins	Late Summer/Fall 2015

Please indicate on the enclosed postcard whether/how you would like to receive the EA.

For More Information - 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 at krsthilaire@bpa.gov. If you have other questions or would like more project information, please call me at the toll-free number listed above, directly at 360-619-6557, or by e-mail at cjhamel@bpa.gov.

Thank you for your interest in this project.

Sincerely,

/s/ Chad Hamel

Chad Hamel
Project Manager

Enclosures:
Project map
Comment form
Reply card
Return envelope