

## **BPA brings more wind power into Northwest grid**

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BPA began expanding and upgrading transmission lines near Milton-Freewater, Ore., this week to help carry power from a new 63-megawatt Eastern Oregon wind project to customers of Clark Public Utilities in Clark County, Wash.

The 5.8-mile upgrade includes two elements: a “tap” line tying the new Combine Hills Wind Project in Umatilla County, Ore., to the transmission system and upgrade of adjacent lines to handle the extra power. This is the seventh tap line BPA has built to a new wind project; BPA has also constructed five new substations to handle fast-growing wind energy.

BPA awarded the contract for the \$3.7 million Combine Hills line project to International Line Builders, Inc., of Tualatin, Ore. The work involves replacing wooden poles and stringing new, higher-capacity wires along a line leading to a substation in Walla Walla, Wash. It will support about 25 construction jobs.

Wind energy in BPA's power system has more than doubled since 2007, with a current capacity of more than 2,000 megawatts. BPA has absorbed a larger share of wind energy than any other utility of its size in the country and is moving ahead with major network upgrades to support continued wind power growth.

An initial Combine Hills Wind Project, developed by Eurus Energy America Corp. in 2003, has a capacity of 41 megawatts and is connected to Pacific Power transmission lines. Construction will begin shortly on a second Combine Hills project with a capacity of 63 megawatts. The upgraded line will tie this second project to the grid through BPA, while also improving local power reliability.

Clark Public Utilities, which serves customers throughout Washington's Clark County, has agreed to purchase all of the wind project's power for 20 years.

More information and a project map are available on the [Combine Hills Wind Project](#) Web page.



Crews remove wires from a BPA transmission line in Umatilla County, Ore., so it can be replaced with a higher capacity line to handle power from a new Combine Hills Wind Project. *(Photo by Erich Orth).*