



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

TRANSMISSION SERVICES

January 18, 2012

In reply refer to: TEP-TPP-3

To: Parties interested in Bonneville Power Administration's Albany-Eugene 115-kilovolt Transmission Line Rebuild Project.

You are invited to review and comment on the draft environmental impact statement (EIS) for BPA's Albany-Eugene Transmission Line Rebuild Project in Linn and Lane counties, Oregon. The draft EIS describes the proposed project and the environmental effects expected from construction, operation, and maintenance of the transmission line. Public comments on the draft EIS will help BPA refine the environmental analysis and decide whether to build the project.

Project background

BPA proposes to rebuild a 32-mile section of the Albany-Eugene 115-kilovolt No. 1 Transmission Line. No major work has been done on the line since it was originally built in 1940. Many of the structures, the electric wire (conductor), and associated structural components (cross arms, insulators, and dampers) are physically worn and structurally unsound in places. These wood transmission poles have lasted beyond the expected 55 to 60 years, and now need to be replaced due to age, rot, and deterioration. Based on the deteriorated condition of this line, there is a need to rebuild the line to maintain reliable electrical service and to avoid risks to the safety of the public and maintenance crews.

Proposed activities would include establishing temporary access to the line, improving some access roads, removing danger trees, removing and replacing existing wood pole structures and associated structural components and conductor, and revegetating areas disturbed by construction activities. The existing structures would be replaced with structures of similar design in the same location. The line would continue to operate at 115-kilovolts. BPA is also considering a no action alternative, that is, BPA would not rebuild the transmission line but continue to maintain it as needed.

Public meeting

You are also invited to an open house public meeting on this project. Project team members will be available to take your comments on the draft EIS and answer any questions you may have. The meeting will be held:

February 22, 2012
4:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Harrisburg High School
400 South 9th Street
Harrisburg, OR

How to comment

All comments are encouraged. Comments will be accepted through March 05, 2012. Of particular interest are observations about the environmental analysis in the draft EIS, and recommendations for making the project more environmentally friendly while still meeting the need and fulfilling its intended purposes.

Comments may be submitted online at: www.bpa.gov/comment, via mail to: Bonneville Power Administration, Public Affairs Office - DKE-7, P.O. Box 14428, Portland, OR, 97293-4428; or by fax to 503-230-4019. You also may call us with your comment toll free at 800-622-4519. Please reference "Albany-Eugene Rebuild Project" with your comments. All comments will be posted in their entirety on BPA's Web site at http://efw.bpa.gov/environmental_services/Document_Library/Albany-Eugene_Rebuild/. Comments and responses to them will be made part of the final EIS.

Copies available

If you previously requested the draft EIS, a copy is enclosed for your review. If you would like additional copies of the draft EIS, please call BPA's toll-free document request line at 800-622-4519. Please leave a message naming this project, giving your complete mailing address and requesting the format of documentation (hard copy or CD) you would prefer. The draft EIS can also be viewed at the project website: www.bpa.gov/go/AlbanyEugeneRebuild.

Next Steps

BPA expects to complete and publish the final EIS in late winter 2012 and then issue a record of decision in spring 2012 that will explain BPA's decision about whether to build the project.

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 or e-mail me at etorth@bpa.gov.

Sincerely,

/s/ Erich T. Orth

Erich T. Orth
Project Manager

Enclosures:
Draft EIS
Comment Form
Public Meeting Location Map
Return Envelope