



## Department of Energy

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

TRANSMISSION SERVICES

February 25, 2010

In reply refer to: TEP-TPP-3

### **To: Parties Interested in the Albany-Eugene Transmission Line Rebuild Project**

Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) is proposing to rebuild a transmission line in your area. This letter briefly explains what is being proposed, outlines our environmental review process and schedule, and invites you to a meeting where you can learn more and comment on the proposal.

**Proposal** - 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 developing staging areas for storage of materials, removing some vegetation, 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 within or near to their existing locations. The line would continue to operate at 115-kilovolts.

To understand the potential environmental impacts of this proposal, BPA will prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA). As a federal agency, we follow procedures of the National Environmental Policy Act. Two alternatives will be studied: rebuild the line, or do not rebuild it and continue with current operation and maintenance practices. The EA will describe anticipated impacts to natural and human resources and include mitigation measures that would enable BPA to avoid or minimize impacts. During this process, BPA will be working with federal, state and local agencies, landowners, interest groups, and tribes.

**Public Meetings** - We will soon start to assess the potential environmental impacts of the proposed alternatives and would like to hear from you. What questions do you have? What resources should we analyze? Do you have information or concerns about specific areas? BPA is seeking public input and comments through March 27, 2010. We have scheduled an open house scoping meeting in Junction City, OR.

Thursday, March 11, 2010  
4 p.m. to 7 p.m.  
Junction City Community Services Center  
175 West Seventh Avenue  
Junction City, OR 97448

We do not plan to give a formal presentation, so you may come any time during the meeting. Several members of the project team will be available to answer your questions and listen to your ideas.

**Other Ways to Comment** - If you cannot attend the meeting, you can still comment. You may submit comments to BPA online at: [www.bpa.gov/comment](http://www.bpa.gov/comment), return the enclosed comment form or other written correspondence in the postage-paid envelope provided, or fax your comments to (503) 230-3285. You also may call us with your comments toll free at (800) 622-4519. Please submit comments to us by **March 27, 2010** and reference "Albany-Eugene Transmission Line Rebuild Project" with your comments. We will post all comments we receive on our Web site at [www.bpa.gov/comment](http://www.bpa.gov/comment).

**Process and Schedule** - Starting this spring and summer 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 will produce a Preliminary EA that will be available for review and comment in the fall of 2010. If you would like to receive a copy of the Preliminary EA, please indicate on the enclosed postcard whether you would like to receive it by regular or electronic mail. If you would like to be taken off the project mailing list, please mark the box on the form. If you do not return the form, you will still receive notice when the Preliminary EA is available.

BPA will produce a Final EA in the spring of 2011. Based on the analysis in the Final EA, BPA will either prepare a Finding of No Significant Impact and decide whether to proceed with the project, or will prepare an Environmental Impact Statement if there is the potential for significant environmental impacts.

**For More Information** - To find out more about the project please go to BPA's project Web site at: [http://www.efw.bpa.gov/environmental\\_services/Document\\_Library/Albany-Eugene\\_Transmission\\_Line\\_Rebuild\\_Project](http://www.efw.bpa.gov/environmental_services/Document_Library/Albany-Eugene_Transmission_Line_Rebuild_Project).

If you have questions regarding the environmental process, please contact the environmental project lead, Douglas F. Corkran, toll-free at (800) 282-3713, directly at (503) 230-7646 or e-mail [dfcorkran@bpa.gov](mailto:dfcorkran@bpa.gov). If you have other questions or would like more project information, please contact me at the toll-free number, directly at (360) 619-6559 or e-mail [etorth@bpa.gov](mailto:etorth@bpa.gov).

Thank you for your interest in this project.

Sincerely,

*/s/ Erich Orth*

Erich Orth  
Project Manager

Enclosures:  
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