The proposed project is needed to increase the transfer capability of the BPA transmission system so we can respond to requests for transmission service in the region. The project includes a new transmission line, substation facilities and a fiber optic cable (see map on page 3). BPA has proposed three transmission line routes: the West Alternative, Middle Alternative and East Alternative, as well as an option to not build the line (the No Action Alternative).

All transmission line routes would begin at BPA’s existing Big Eddy Substation. Additional equipment would be installed within the fenced substation yard. All route alternatives would be approximately 28 miles long and would use some existing BPA transmission line right-of-way and some new 150-foot wide right-of-way. Each alternative would cross the Columbia River and the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area and would end at one of two proposed Knight Substation sites.

Where the proposed alternatives would parallel existing lines, there are options to either build the proposed line next to existing lines using single-circuit towers or remove existing lines and build double-circuit towers that could carry both lines.
Two sites are considered for Knight Substation, which would be a fenced, 22-acre facility. The sites are next to each other along BPA's existing Wautoma-Ostrander transmission line (see map on page 3).

There are two options for a fiber optic cable that would be required for electrical system communications. A Loop Back Option would string fiber optic cable on the proposed transmission line towers from Big Eddy Substation to Knight Substation and then loop back to Big Eddy Substation on the same towers. A Wautoma Option would follow the same route to Knight Substation but then continue an additional 72 miles on an existing BPA line through Yakima County, Wash., to BPA's Wautoma Substation in northwest Benton County (see map on last page).

Under any of the construction alternatives for the Big-Eddy Knight Project, BPA's Wautoma Substation would be expanded by about 0.5 acre on BPA property to contain equipment that would support and enhance the electrical system.

BPA's Preferred Alternative

BPA's Preferred Alternative has not changed. The East Alternative, along with a minor route adjustment at line mile 7, is BPA's Preferred Alternative (see map on page 3). The Preferred Alternative also includes: 1) removal of an existing line and rebuilding both the existing and proposed lines on double-circuit towers for the first 14 miles, 2) Knight Substation Site 1 and 3) the Wautoma Option for the fiber optic cable. Although these project components are preferred, we have not made a final decision.

Public comment helped refine BPA's proposal

Last December, we released the draft EIS and asked for your comments. We also held two public meetings, one Jan. 11, 2011, in The Dalles, Ore., and another Jan. 12, 2011, in Goldendale, Wash. About 370 people commented on the draft EIS, which helped BPA make adjustments to the project and refine the environmental analysis and mitigation measures.

Next steps

With the final EIS completed, BPA will prepare a Record of Decision that documents whether BPA has decided to proceed with the proposed project and, if so, which alternative has been selected. BPA expects to issue its ROD in late summer 2011. If BPA decides to build the project, substation and transmission line construction could begin in fall 2011 after all necessary permits and approvals have been obtained. If this occurs, BPA expects that construction would be complete in 2013.

Copies available

If you would like to receive a copy or additional copies of the final EIS on paper or compact disc, please call our toll-free document request line at 800-622-4520. If you receive the final EIS, you will also receive the ROD when it is completed unless you request otherwise. Please leave a message with your request, the project name and your complete mailing address.

You may also contact us via mail at Bonneville Power Administration, Public Affairs Office – DKE-7, P.O. Box 14428, Portland, OR, 97293-4428. You can fax us at 503-230-4019 or call our toll-free public involvement line at 800-622-4519.

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### Environmental Impact Statement Schedule

**July 2011**
BPA issues final EIS.

**September 2011**
BPA issues Record of Decision announcing agency decision.

**Fall 2011**
If BPA decides to build the project, then substation and transmission line construction activities could begin.
Big Eddy-Knight Fiber Optic Cable and Wautoma Substation
Wasco County, Ore., and Klickitat County, Wash.

Proposed Facilities
- West Alternative
- Middle Alternative
- East Alternative
- Fiber Optic Cable
- Knight Substation Sites

BPA Transmission Lines
BPA Substations
Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area Boundary
Indian Reservation
County Boundary

Map Area
OREGON
IDAHO
WASHINGTON