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**BONNEVILLE POWER ADMINISTRATION
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BPA will release I-5 Corridor Reinforcement Project DEIS late fall 2012
Data collection, analysis and a preferred alternative expected by then

Portland, Ore. – The Bonneville Power Administration expects to release its draft environmental impact statement, including a preferred alternative, for its I-5 Corridor Reinforcement Project late this fall.

In the meantime, BPA is completing data collection, analyzing a multitude of factors and identifying necessary permitting processes

“We have had more public participation, issues to consider and data to collect for this project than any in recent memory and possibly ever,” said Mark Korsness, BPA Transmission Services project manager. “We thank landowners and stakeholders for their comments and patience, and expect to deliver them a comprehensive and quality product for comment later this year.”

Since announcing the proposed 70-mile, 500-kilovolt high-voltage transmission line in fall 2009, BPA has received an unprecedented number of comments from the public and stakeholders. While BPA originally expected to deliver the draft environmental impact statement in fall 2011, issue analysis and data collection has taken longer than anticipated.

“We understand the public’s desire to have updated information and learn about our project decisions as quickly as possible,” said Korsness. “We want to ensure that we provide them a complete and comprehensive environmental review for consideration and comment. That takes time.”

The additional time allows BPA to consider the comments it has received about the project and complete environmental analysis of issues identified by landowners and stakeholders. This will help BPA make a well-informed decision about a preferred alternative and ultimately whether, and where, to build a new line and substations.

Between now and the release of the draft EIS, the document will undergo rigorous internal review. Once the draft is released, BPA will provide ample time for those interested to review and comment on it.

For updated information about the project, visit the project website: www.bpa.gov/go/i5.

BPA, celebrating its 75th anniversary in 2012, is a nonprofit federal agency that markets renewable hydropower from federal Columbia River dams, operates three-quarters of high-voltage transmission lines in the Northwest and funds one of the largest wildlife protection and restoration programs in the world. BPA and its partners have also saved enough electricity through energy efficiency projects to power four large American cities. For more information, contact us at 503-230-5131 or visit our website at www.bpa.gov.