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**BONNEVILLE POWER ADMINISTRATION  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**BPA extends I-5 Corridor Reinforcement Project comment period 24 days**  
*Parties now have until noon, March 25 to provide feedback on draft EIS*

**Portland, Ore.** – Parties interested in commenting on the I-5 Corridor Reinforcement Project draft environmental impact statement will have 24 additional days to provide feedback to BPA. After several requests for additional time and other requests to keep the project on schedule and deliver a decision as quickly as possible, BPA decided a 24 day extension considers the needs of all parties.

“We use our environmental review process to listen, learn and adjust,” said BPA project manager Mark Korsness. “We feel this decision reflects the many perspectives impacted parties have expressed since we released the draft EIS in November. This strikes a balance that should meet the needs of those requesting an extension, and those eager for us to reach our decision on the proposed project.”

The National Environmental Policy Act requires a comment period of at least 45 days. Given the project’s complexity and the size of the draft EIS, BPA scheduled the initial comment period for 108 days. This extends the period to noon, March 25, 2013, a total of 132 days.

BPA expects to complete and release the final EIS in 2014. Following the release of the final EIS, BPA will issue a record of decision, which will announce its final decision on whether to build the project. If a decision is made to build, the ROD also will explain BPA’s final decision about which alternative route it will build.

A decision to build would result in construction beginning in 2015 and energization in 2018.

*BPA 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](http://www.bpa.gov).*