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**BONNEVILLE POWER ADMINISTRATION
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**BPA to hold public meeting on proposed rebuild of
aging transmission line near Yakima, Wash.**

Portland, Ore. – The Bonneville Power Administration invites members of the public to attend a public meeting in Moxee, Wash., to review and comment on BPA’s proposal to rebuild its 70-year-old wood pole transmission line near Yakima. The proposed rebuild of the 34-mile Midway to Moxee 115-kilovolt line would allow BPA to continue to provide reliable electric power to local utilities.

The public meeting is:

**Wednesday, Feb. 20, 2013
4 p.m. to 7 p.m.
Moxee City Hall
255 W. Seattle Ave.
Moxee, WA 98936**

Because there will not be a formal presentation, attendees can come at any time between 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. At the public meeting, community members can ask questions, voice concerns, share local knowledge about the project area and submit comments on the proposal. Those who cannot attend the meeting can learn about the proposal at:

www.bpa.gov/goto/MidwayMoxee.

The transmission line begins at the BPA Midway Substation and ends at the BPA substation in Moxee, about five miles east of Yakima. The rebuild is needed because the line, which was built in the early 1940s, is old. The average expected service life of wood poles is about 60 years. The existing wood-pole structures and electrical wires (conductors) show normal deterioration due to age. The rebuilt transmission line would continue to operate at its current rating of 115 kV.

The project would include:

- Removing existing structures and replacing them with structures of similar design at or close to their existing locations.
- Replacing associated components of the line, and electrical conductors.
- Improving some existing access roads to provide construction access.
- Building some new access roads, where needed, to reach structures where BPA currently does not have adequate access.

BPA has recently started a process to assess the potential environmental impacts of the proposed project.

“Information from the public helps us to make well-informed decisions,” said project manager Chad Hamel. “We look forward to talking with local residents. Their input helps our project team identify potential impacts to natural and human resources such as native plants and wildlife, land use, cultural resources and transportation.”

Feedback from members of the public; local, state and federal governments and agencies; and tribes will help BPA determine the scope of an Environmental Assessment for the project, which BPA expects to release for public comment by early 2014.

Please submit comments by March 8, 2013, either online, by phone at (toll free) 1-800-622-4519, or by fax at 503-230-4019. Or, send comments to BPA at www.bpa.gov/comment. Please refer to “Midway-Moxee Rebuild Project” in your comments. BPA will post for public review all comments that we receive.

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.

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