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**Bonneville Power Administration
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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BPA to meet with public on proposed rebuild of 66-year-old transmission line

Portland, Ore. - The Bonneville Power Administration invites members of the public to comment on a proposed transmission line rebuilding project in Flathead and Lake counties, Mont. Public comments help identify issues that should be addressed in the project's Environmental Assessment.

The 41-mile wood-pole line between Kalispell and Polson, Mont., has aged over the decades since it was built in 1947. Although routine maintenance has been performed on the line, all the wood poles and conductor need to be replaced due to age and deterioration. The proposed project may also require developing new access roads and improving existing ones.



The proposed rebuild of the 115-kilovolt Kalispell-Kerr transmission line is part of BPA's commitment to maintain reliable electrical service and to reduce potential safety risks to the public and work crews. By rebuilding aging transmission lines when needed, BPA preserves the value of its transmission system, much of which is now nearing 70 years in age. If BPA chooses to proceed with the proposed project, construction would begin in the spring of 2016.

"Our project team looks forward to talking to local residents," said project manager Amanda Williams. "We value the details offered by the public about the surrounding area and its environment. Public comments help to guide the development of the Environmental Assessment."

At the public meetings, community members can ask questions, voice concerns and share local knowledge about the potential impacts the EA should address. EA findings will determine whether BPA will proceed with the project, or whether it is necessary

to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement. This review provides the information needed to make well-informed decisions.

Public meetings will be held at the following locations:

June 17, 2013
4 p.m. to 7 p.m.
Polson City Library
2 First Ave. E.
Polson, MT 59860

June 18, 2013
4 p.m. to 7 p.m.
Edgerton Elementary School
1400 Whitefish Stage
Kalispell, MT 59901

Residents who cannot attend the meetings can learn about the proposed transmission upgrade at: www.bpa.gov/goto/KalispellKerr. Or, send comments to www.bpa.gov/comment. Please send comments on the proposal and its impacts by June 28, 2013, so they may be considered while we draft the EA. When commenting, refer to the Kalispell-Kerr Transmission Line Rebuild Project.

About BPA

BPA is a nonprofit federal agency that markets renewable hydropower from federal dams in the Columbia River Basin, 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 www.bpa.gov.

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