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**BONNEVILLE POWER ADMINISTRATION
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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BPA selects final path for its Hooper Springs Transmission project

Portland, Ore. – The Bonneville Power Administration has decided to build a 24-mile, 115-kilovolt transmission line and substation in southeastern Idaho so it can continue to provide stable and reliable transmission service in southeastern Idaho and northwestern Wyoming.

For the past nine years, BPA has worked with elected officials, local landowners, interest groups, cooperating agencies and other interested stakeholders to reach this decision.

“We thank everyone who has provided input that led to this decision,” said Richard Shaheen, senior vice president of BPA Transmission Services. “On balance, we believe the selected option achieves the objective of minimizing impacts to the environment while maintaining electric reliability in the area.”

BPA has selected the South Alternative’s Option 3A, as it is referred to in the project’s [final environmental impact statement](#). This option, selected over the North and South alternatives and their options, will have fewer transmission structures and less miles of new access road construction. Option 3A has an estimated cost of \$65 million, which is \$9 million less than the North Alternative and about the same cost as the other build options.

BPA will spend the balance of 2015 acquiring land rights to construct the new transmission line and substation. It expects to start substation, transmission line and access road construction in spring 2016.

“We look forward to working with individual landowners as we begin to plan construction activities,” said BPA project manager Erich Orth. “Our goal of having the least amount of impact to landowners and property still remains the same.”

Additional information about the decision is available on the BPA [website](#).

The Bonneville Power Administration, headquartered in Portland, Ore., is a nonprofit federal power marketing agency under the U.S. Department of Energy that sells wholesale renewable hydropower from federal dams in the Columbia Basin and one nuclear plant to more than 140 Northwest utilities. BPA operates a high-voltage transmission grid comprising more than 15,000 circuit miles of lines and associated substations in Washington, Oregon, Idaho and Montana with more than 480 customers. It funds one of the largest wildlife protection and restoration programs in the world, and, with its partners, pursues cost-effective energy savings in all sectors of the economy. BPA also pursues breakthroughs that can increase efficiencies, solve operational challenges and reduce costs — all of which help maintain affordable, reliable electric power for the Northwest and lessen impacts to the environment. For more information, contact us at 503-230-5131 or visit www.bpa.gov.

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