



Department of Energy

Bonneville Power Administration
P.O. Box 491
Vancouver, Washington 98666-0491

TRANSMISSION BUSINESS LINE

February 7, 2005

In reply refer to: T-DITT-2

To: **People Interested in the Nisqually Transmission Line Relocation Project**

Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) has finalized the Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Nisqually Transmission Line Relocation Project. Based on the final EA, BPA is issuing a Finding of No Significant Impact and has made a decision on how to proceed with the project. This letter describes the findings and our decision.

Background

BPA prepared an EA on the proposal to relocate two miles of transmission line off of the Nisqually Indian Reservation and onto Fort Lewis in Thurston County, Wash. The EA was prepared to help BPA and the cooperating agencies (Fort Lewis, Nisqually Indian Tribe, and the Bureau of Indian Affairs) determine if the Proposed Action could cause significant impacts that would warrant preparing an Environmental Impact Statement. In October 2004, BPA made the preliminary EA available for public comment. Five people commented and minor changes were made to the EA. Based on the analysis in the EA and the mitigation measures that will be used to lessen adverse impacts, BPA has found that the Proposed Action will not have significant impacts. Fort Lewis is submitting findings on the project and will mail them to you soon.

Decision

BPA has decided to proceed with Phase I of the Proposed Action, which includes the relocation of two transmission lines off the Nisqually Indian Reservation and onto Fort Lewis. The new lines will be constructed using steel poles, with lattice steel towers at the corners where the lines turn. In addition, Fort Lewis and the Nisqually Indian Tribe will exchange lands such that the Tribe will own a 168-acre parcel adjacent to the Reservation and Fort Lewis will obtain 400 acres of Thurston County land located within the Fort Lewis Rainier Training Area. Phase II (the relocation of the two transmission lines off the Fort Lewis owned parcel adjacent to the Nisqually Indian Reservation) will be constructed at some point in the future when funding is available.

Construction Schedule

BPA plans to begin construction of the new lines in spring 2005, with removal of the existing lines and completion of the project by winter 2005.

For More Information

If you need more information about the project or would like a copy of the documents prepared for the project, please access our Web site at http://www.transmission.bpa.gov/PlanProj/Transmission_Projects/, call toll-free at 1-888-276-7790 or send me an email gobeck@bpa.gov. Thank you for your interest in the project.

Sincerely,

/s/Gary Beck 2/7/2005

Gary Beck
Project Manager

Enclosures:
Vicinity Map
EA Revision Sheet, FONSI, and Mitigation Action Plan (if requested)