

factsheet

February 2008

Olympic Peninsula Transmission Line Reinforcement Project

The Bonneville Power Administration, a federal agency, owns and operates more than 15,000 circuit miles of electric transmission lines in the Pacific Northwest. The lines carry most of the Northwest's high-voltage (115 kilovolt and above) capacity from the resources of the Federal Columbia River Power System and other interconnected private and federal power generating facilities. BPA's customers on the Olympic Peninsula include Mason County Public Utility Districts Nos. 1 and 3, and Puget Sound Energy.

BPA's need for action

As the Olympic Peninsula's population grows, the demand for electrical energy increases and more load is put on the system. Heating in the winter creates heavy demand, so winter is the most critical time for operating the transmission system. Anticipated peak use could now exceed existing system capacity if weather-related or other outages occurred. When system capacity is exceeded, the voltage on transmission lines can drop and become unstable, causing brownouts, or blackouts. Voltage collapse could affect the entire Olympic Peninsula and other parts of Thurston County.

BPA needs to take action on the Olympic Peninsula to increase voltage stability during winter peak electric loads.

Project description

BPA is proposing to remove most of its existing Olympia-Shelton No. 1 115-kV transmission line (structures and conductor) from Olympia to Shelton substations (see map on the back of this page). The first mile of the line starting from Olympia Substation and the last 0.5 mile into Shelton Substation would not be removed. BPA is proposing to replace the last 14.5 miles of this line into Shelton Substation with a double-circuit 230-kV line on

lattice steel towers (average height 120 feet). The double-circuit 230-kV line will connect with an existing line about six miles from Olympia Substation. Most work would be completed on existing right-of-way. Other changes would occur at the substations, inside the substation yards.

Environmental analysis

BPA has prepared a preliminary environmental assessment for the proposed project. The EA describes the project, the No Action Alternative, the potential environmental impacts if the project is implemented, and lists proposed mitigation measures that would lessen or eliminate those impacts. The EA is available by calling BPA toll free at (800) 622-4519, online at www.efw.bpa.gov/environmental_services/Document_Library/Olympic/.

Questions or comments

BPA is accepting comments on the EA until March 6, 2008. Submit comments to:

Bonneville Power Administration
Public Affairs - DKE-7
P.O. Box 14428
Portland, OR 97293-4428
E-mail: www.bpa.gov/comment
Fax: (503) 230-3285
Telephone: (800) 622-4519

For questions about this project, you may call the Project Manager, Gary Beck, toll free at (800) 622-4519, e-mail at gobeck@bpa.gov, or direct at (360) 619-6596.



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Project location and vicinity

