



Department of Energy

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

TRANSMISSION BUSINESS LINE

January 31, 2005

In reply refer to: Interconnection of the Leaning Juniper Wind Project to BPA

To: People interested in the Leaning Juniper Wind Project Interconnection

Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) has been asked by PPM Energy, Inc. to interconnect 200 megawatts (MW) of electricity generated from the Leaning Juniper Wind Project (formerly known as the Arlington PPM Wind Project) to the Federal Columbia River Transmission System (FCRTS). As a Federal agency, BPA must consider the environmental impacts of its interconnection decision under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The purpose of this letter is to describe the proposed project, BPA's role in the project, the environmental analysis process, how to comment on the project, and how to contact BPA.

Proposal

BPA proposes to interconnect up to 200 MW of power into the FCRTS by looping the 230-kilovolt McNary-Santiam #2 transmission line through the Jones Canyon substation. The substation is located approximately two miles south of the town of Arlington, Ore. The power will be delivered from a substation constructed and owned by PPM Energy adjacent to a new substation (Jones Canyon Substation) that would be constructed and owned by BPA. The Jones Canyon Substation was previously analyzed and approved in a tiered Record of Decision (ROD) for the interconnection of the Columbia Energy Partners Arlington Wind Project, which is directly adjacent to the Leaning Juniper Wind Project.

BPA would also need to increase the operating temperature of the line from 50 degrees to 80 degrees centigrade in order to handle increased temperatures resulting from the new transmission load. This upgrade would require increasing ground clearance of four spans of the transmission line. Three locations (near structures 31/4, 46/3, and 143/5 of the line) would require installation of intermediate wood pole structures. The fourth span would have four insulators removed (from structures 66/3 and 66/4) to create additional ground clearance (see enclosed map). BPA will complete any necessary consultation and coordination on this proposed action with other state and federal regulatory agencies.

Environmental

BPA's interconnection of the wind project is subject to NEPA review, which is currently underway. A tiered ROD would be prepared if the decision to interconnect this project is consistent with BPA's Business Plan ROD, August 1995 and Business Plan Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), June 1995. The Business Plan EIS examined six alternatives as they relate to meeting the West Coast electric energy need. The analysis focused on the relationships between BPA, the utility market and the affected environment. The evaluation, which included transmission as well as generation, compared BPA actions and those of other energy suppliers in the region in meeting that need (BP EIS, section 1.7).

How to Comment

BPA invites the public to provide comments on the proposal. The deadline for comment is **February 20, 2005**. There are a number of ways to comment. You can fax the enclosed comment form to 503-230-3285, contact BPA's toll-free comment line at 1-888-276-7790 or mail comments to:

BPA Communications – DM-7
P.O. Box 14428
Portland, OR 97293-4428

In addition, you may provide comments via the BPA web site at www.bpa.gov/comment/. Please include the name of this project with your comments. BPA will respond to substantive comments on this project.

Schedule

The tiered ROD is projected for release at the end of February 2005 after the close of the comment period and prior to enacting a Construction, Operation and Maintenance Agreement with PPM Energy.

Background

PPM Energy has obtained a Conditional Use Permit from Gilliam County, Ore. to construct a wind generation project of up to 103.5 MW on the Leaning Juniper site. The project's output will be marketed to the wholesale power market and various organizations interested in procuring wind-generated power. BPA will not purchase any power generated from the project at this time.

BPA operates consistently with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's *pro forma* open access tariff. Under the tariff, BPA offers transmission services, including interconnection of generation, to all eligible customers on a first-come, first-serve basis. Consistent with the tariff, BPA's practice is to grant interconnection to any eligible customer that complies with BPA's financial and technical requirements, complies with all permits received and undertakes appropriate mitigation activities.

For More Information

If you have questions or would like more information about the project, please call us toll-free at 1-888-276-7790. If you have environmental questions or concerns, please contact our Environmental Protection Specialist, Don Rose, at 503-230-3796. Additional information is posted on our web site at <http://www.transmission.bpa.gov/PlanProj/Wind/>.

Sincerely,

/s/ Johny Luiz, January 31, 2005

Johny Luiz
Project Manager

Enclosures:
Comment Form
Map of proposed activity

cc: Andy Linehan, PPM Energy