



Department of Energy

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

TRANSMISSION BUSINESS LINE

December 24, 2003

In reply refer to: T-DITT-2

To: **People Interested in the Transmission Business Policy Environmental Impact Statement**

Bonneville Power Administration's Transmission Business Line (TBL) is the leading provider of high-voltage electric transmission in the region, owning and operating over 15,000 miles of electric grid in the Pacific Northwest. BPA transmission lines carry power from dams and other power plants to public and private utility customers and direct service industries.

In addition to this regional transmission network, BPA operates large inter-regional transmission lines that connect to Canada, California, the southwest and eastern Montana. New challenges to transmission activities continue to emerge, contributing to the difficulty of working with and solving policy issues. To help review and address these challenges, TBL is developing a Transmission Business Policy Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). This letter briefly explains what is being proposed, outlines the environmental process, provides information about upcoming public meetings, and tells you how you can comment on the project.

Public Meetings

As part of the environmental analysis process, BPA would like to hear your ideas on information and/or alternatives that you think we should consider. Your comments will help us make sure that we have considered a wide range of information before making an informed decision. Listed below are the first series of public scoping meetings. BPA is planning to hold additional meetings in Montana and Idaho and will post meeting dates and times to the web site address listed on the second page of this letter.

Tuesday, Jan. 13, 2004

4:00 pm - 7:00 pm
State Office Building
Room 120 C
800 NE Oregon Street
Portland, Ore.

Wednesday, Jan. 14, 2004

4:00 pm - 7:00 pm
Comfort Suites (Downtown Seattle)
601 Roy Street
Seattle, Wash.

Thursday, Jan. 15, 2004

4:00 pm - 7:00 pm
Quality Inn Oakwood
7919 N. Division Street
Spokane, Wash.

Environmental Analysis

The Transmission Business Policy EIS will look at a broad range of policy options for supporting decisions on issues related to the planning, construction, operation and maintenance of the transmission infrastructure. In addition, it will support decisions on other issues; for example, those associated with non-wire alternatives to transmission, improvements in reliability, the development of a Regional Transmission Organization (RTO), marketing, sales, and rate making obligations.

TBL is taking this opportunity to further its understanding of the environmental impacts of managing the Federal Columbia River Transmission System. This EIS can also help enhance and inform BPA's decision making by providing a comprehensive and cumulative analysis of the many issues facing TBL. The development of the Transmission Business Policy EIS started in December 2003 and the final EIS is scheduled to be complete by June 30, 2005.

How to Comment

Comments for this phase of the project will be accepted through March 31, 2004. There will be additional opportunities to comment once the draft EIS is developed. There are a number of ways for you to comment on the project. You can mail the enclosed comment form to BPA, Communications – DM-7, P.O. Box 14428, Portland, OR 97293-4428, fax them to 503-230-3285 or email us at comment@bpa.gov. Please include the name of this project, the Transmission Business Policy EIS with your comments.

For More Information

If you have questions or would like more information about the Transmission Business Policy EIS, please call our toll-free number 1-888-276-7790. Additional project information is available on our Web site at: http://www2.transmission.bpa.gov/PlanProj/Policy_EIS/. Thank you for your interest in our work.

Sincerely,

[/s/ Carolyn Whitney 12/24/03](#)

Carolyn Whitney
Vice President of Public Affairs

2 Enclosures:
Comment Form
Reply Card