



Department of Energy

Bonneville Power Administration
P.O. Box 61409
Vancouver, WA 98666-1409

TRANSMISSION BUSINESS LINE

June 23, 2004

In reply refer to: T-DITT-2

To: Landowners interested in the Big Eddy-Midway Transmission Line Rebuild Project

Bonneville Power Administration proposes to rebuild four miles and upgrade the remainder of the Big Eddy-Midway 230-kilovolt transmission line in Benton, Klickitat and Yakima Counties, Wash. This letter briefly describes the project, construction schedule and explains how to contact BPA if you have questions.

Background

The proposed project would replace approximately 20 of the steel lattice towers and all wood pole structures between mile 51 and 56 (about three miles North of Bickleton, Wash.) In the last ten years, there have been 13 power outages due to ice buildup on the transmission line. Stronger steel lattice structures will replace the current structures and will be approximately the same height. Soil disturbance at each of the new lattice tower sites will be about one-quarter acre.

In addition, BPA has determined this transmission line needs to be upgraded to a higher operating temperature. A higher operating temperature results in the conductor (wire) sagging closer to the ground. To correct any ground to conductor clearance issues, intermediate wood pole structures averaging approximately 80 feet in height will be installed in five locations to provide mid-span support to the line. BPA also plans to modify the conductor attachments at 16 existing towers to raise the conductor support by a few feet. In one location, the existing ground elevation will be leveled and lowered about four feet to correct the clearance problem. BPA has an established access road parallel to the existing line. Some of the new structures will require a new short spur road.

Landowner Issues

BPA's contractor will take reasonable precautions to avoid or minimize damage to crops, trees, irrigation lines, soils, etc. BPA will reimburse landowners for crop damage. Landowners will be contacted to help determine the amount of crop damage that may have occurred and reimbursement amounts. In disturbed cultivated areas, the contractor will perform sub-soiling. Near the end of construction, the contractor will contact the landowner and, whenever possible, appropriate farm operators, before performing sub-soiling. Coordination with landowners will help to determine the most appropriate methods and depths. The contractor may also make arrangements to reimburse landowners who wish to perform their own sub-soiling. In addition, topsoil at tower sites will be saved for site restoration. Large stones, deleterious material and debris will be set aside or removed prior to reseeded.

Schedule

Construction is scheduled to begin in mid-July and be completed by December 2004. Over the next several weeks you may see BPA staff or contractors hired by BPA working near the existing line to prepare for construction activities. Traffic delays may increase while large equipment is brought in during construction. BPA will continue to work one-on-one with property owners to minimize construction impacts.

For More Information

For property questions, including crop damage, call BPA Realty Specialist Paula Campbell 509-358-7437 or toll free at 1-877-417-9454. If you have questions about this project or would like additional project information, please call our toll-free line 1-888-276-7790. Project information is also on our Web site at: http://www.transmission.bpa.gov/PlanProj/Transmission_Projects/.

Sincerely,

//s/6/23/04Gary Beck

Gary Beck
Project Manager