



Southwest Washington/Northwest Oregon Reinforcement 500-kV Transmission Line Project

Bonneville Power Administration is committed to providing reliable power to the Northwest region and is proposing to build new infrastructure projects to improve the reliability of the transmission system and meet future power needs.

Project Description

The Southwest Washington/Northwest Oregon Reinforcement 500-kilovolt (kV) Transmission Line Project will eliminate a transmission constraint by reinforcing the bulk transmission grid along portions of western Washington and northwestern Oregon. This project will create a transmission system that will be flexible enough to meet the growing demand for reliable and affordable electrical energy in Oregon and Washington.

The I-5 corridor between Seattle and Portland is showing unprecedented development of new gas-fired generation as a direct response to the energy shortages on the West Coast. New generation is being added in the Satsop, Centralia, Chehalis and Longview, Wash. areas. The addition of these generating facilities will overload the existing transmission grid. Eliminating transmission constraints is essential to ensure reliable and affordable electricity now and into the future.

Proposed Alternatives

There are five proposed transmission route alternatives under consideration. All alternative routing locations start at a new substation site that will be located north of Longview and about five miles west of Castle Rock. An exact substation site has yet to be determined but several locations are currently under consideration. All alternative transmission line options will require a new 150-foot wide right-of-way except where otherwise noted. See table on next page for the descriptions of the proposed alternatives.

Working with the Community

This project covers broad geographic areas in Oregon and Washington, which increases the diversity of the stakeholders and the level of interest in the project. BPA outreach activities will focus on early involvement from elected officials, government agencies, Tribes, property owners, environmental interest groups and community organizations. These key groups will be involved in project decisions, including: location and routing, assessment of environmental impacts and needed mitigation, and operating regimes.

BPA is committed to working with public agencies, interest groups, Tribes and private property owners to minimize design and construction impacts.

Environmental Planning

As BPA designs this project, special attention will be paid to minimizing disruption to people, habitat, farm production and business operations. An environmental impact statement (EIS) is being developed for this project to look at alignment alternatives and mitigation issues. The EIS focuses on protecting, restoring and enhancing the natural environment and requesting public input on project alternatives. Some of the key project milestones are listed below:

- **Scoping.** BPA will identify possible issues and concerns on the project by meeting with state and federal agencies, Tribes, property owners and community groups. BPA will schedule public meetings to explain the project need, proposed alternatives, help refine the focus of the environmental review process and describe the comment process.

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- **Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).** A draft EIS describes the existing environment and how it may be affected by this project. It analyzes cultural resources, fish and wildlife, land use and visual resources. The draft EIS also recommends ways to reduce any adverse effects from this project.
- **Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).** The final EIS will respond to public comments on the draft EIS and will be modified as necessary.
- **Decision.** Based on the environmental studies, additional technical analysis and public feedback, BPA's administrator will decide how to proceed on the project.

Funding and Schedule

BPA expects this project to be fully funded by generation developers. BPA is in the process of working with developers to determine which developers want firm transmission and will contribute to the funding of this project.

Questions or Comments

If you have questions or would like more information about the project, please contact BPA Project Manager Lou Driessen toll free at 1-888-276-7790 or visit BPA's Web site at www.transmission.bpa.gov/projects, select Infrastructure and scroll down to the Southwest Washington/Northwest Oregon Reinforcement Project. If you have real estate or easement questions or would like BPA to meet with you on site, please call Neal Mesiner, (360) 619-6456 or Sue Kinish, (360) 619-6459.

OREGON ALTERNATIVE ROUTES
<p>Alternative A: This route proceeds south and is west of Longview, goes across the Columbia River then continues past Mist, Oregon. It will go near Timber, Gales Creek, Forest Grove, Hagg Lake and Yamhill; then proceed east towards Sherwood heading to BPA's existing Pearl Substation, which is north of Wilsonville. Portions of this line could parallel existing lower voltage lines.</p>
<p>Alternative A2: This alternative is similar to Alternative A except it follows more of BPA's existing lines and comes close to Carlton, Oregon.</p>
<p>Alternative B: This route proceeds south similar to Alternative A. It crosses the Columbia River, then it goes south following BPA's Allston - Keeler 500-kV line near Hillsboro and then towards St. Johns. It then proceeds east, north of Vancouver, Washington while crossing the Willamette and Columbia rivers to BPA's Ross Substation. It then goes east on either Alternative B1 or C (as described below).</p>
<p>Alternative B1: This alternative is the same as Alt. B except it is routed through existing Keeler Substation just NW of Hillsboro.</p>
<p>Alternative C: This alternative is the same as Alternative B except it would parallel Portland General Electric's 230-kV lines towards Hillsboro, Oregon and then follow the same route as Alternative B through Vancouver and Camas, Washington to BPA's Troutdale Substation.</p>
WASHINGTON ALTERNATIVE ROUTES
<p>Alternative D: This alternative proceeds southeast on vacant right-of-way adjacent to an existing BPA 230-kV line to the Ross Substation. It would then proceed east (same as Alternative B) on either a north route with vacant right-of-way or a south route that would require rebuilding existing lines. North of Camas, Washington Alternative B would turn south either paralleling existing lines or requiring the rebuilding of existing lines through Camas area, across the Columbia River to BPA's Troutdale Substation.</p>
<p>Alternative E: This alternative proceeds southeast on vacant right-of-way that is adjacent to a 230-kV line (same as Alternative D.) It would run near Merwin Lake and then proceed south on new right-of-way to just north of Camas, Washington. It would then proceed through the Camas area either paralleling an existing corridor or replacing existing lines, reaching the Troutdale substation while crossing the Columbia River.</p>
<p>No Action Alternative: BPA would not build a line.</p>

SW WASHINGTON / NW OREGON REINFORCEMENT PROJECT

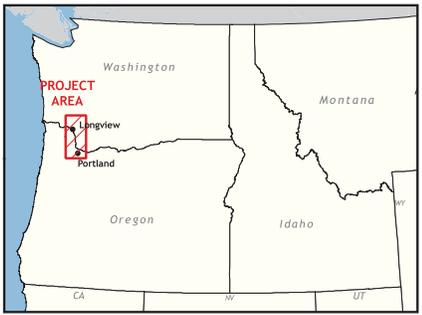
I-5 Corridor Generation Additions



- LEGEND**
- | | |
|----------------------------------|------------------------|
| Facilities | Proposed Routes |
| ▲ BPA Facility | Route A |
| ▲ Non-BPA Facility | Route B |
| — BPA Transmission Line | Route C |
| — PGE Transmission Line | Route D |
| ● Proposed New Switching Station | Route E |
| ● City | |
| ✈ Airport | |
| ▬ Dam | |
| ▬ Interstate Highway | |
| ▬ US Highway | |
| ▭ Urban Areas | |
| ▭ County Boundary | |
| ▭ Forest Park | |

Each proposed route shown in a different color. Route alternatives shown as dashed lines.

GIS
GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEM
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Source: BPA Regional Geographic Database, 2002. Map made from best available data and not intended to represent actual or legal boundaries. Proposed route alternatives are for general display purposes only.

This map shows the proposed route for a new 500-kV transmission line, primarily on existing right of way.

