



Department of Energy

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

TRANSMISSION BUSINESS LINE

October 30, 2003

In reply refer to: T-DITT-2

Dear Landowner:

Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) would like to update you on our progress in the construction of the new Grand Coulee-Bell 500-kV transmission line project, an 84-mile line from Spokane to Grand Coulee, Washington. This project is needed to allow BPA to continue to transmit reliable, low cost power to ratepayers throughout the Pacific Northwest. The planning and study phase of this project was completed in January and we began construction in April of this year.

BPA contracted with Duke Energy Corporation, Energy Delivery Services (EDS), who subcontracted with Henkels and McCoy (H&M) to remove the existing 115-kV wood pole line and construct a new steel lattice 500-kV line in its place.

Construction Activities

Most of the construction activity to date has occurred between Grand Coulee and Davenport. Of the 411 towers being constructed, the foundations for 173 have been installed, the steel lattice tower sections for 120 have been assembled on the ground, and 33 towers have been fully erected by crane.

Construction will continue through this winter and next summer, with energization scheduled for December 2004. In the Spokane area, removing the old line and building the new one will begin after the first of the year. Other related work includes substation expansion and equipment installation at the Bureau of Reclamation switching station in Grand Coulee, and at BPA's Bell substation in Spokane. The project is currently on schedule and within budget.

Construction activities will increase noise short-term along the right of way. Construction crews, periodically along the transmission line corridor, will use an implosive wire fitting to connect the lengths of wire to one another. This type of fitting is preferred because it produces a far superior connection than other methods. The process involves a number of loud explosions (or implosions), and a small amount of smoke. Please do not be alarmed if you hear these explosions for several days within the construction zone. Before this type of work begins the contractor is required to notify you and local law enforcement officials. If you have farm animals that may be disturbed by the noise, and will need to be moved please call the contractor's land liaison (listed on the contact page) and he will make every effort to coordinate the scheduling of work in your area with you.

After construction is complete, operation of the line will create a hissing or crackling sound due to corona (partial electrical breakdown of the air around the line). This will be more noticeable during foul weather or smoky conditions. During fair-weather conditions, which occur about 85 percent of the time, corona noise levels would be low and may be masked by existing ambient noise from other sources. More information regarding noise levels is available in the previously published environmental documents available on our website, or by contacting us directly as shown on the next page.

Landowner Notifications

The contractor is taking precautions to avoid or minimize damage to crops, trees, irrigation lines, soils, etc. However, if you have made any improvements (such as wells or pipelines) on BPA right of way that we do not have records for, please contact us as soon as possible. Contacting BPA is essential because we must provide the contractor with locations of unrecorded improvements to avoid damage to your property.

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 subsoiling. 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 reseedling.

The decisions on final site restoration will consider the type of field, crop, and landowner's preference. The options of spreading sterilized, weed-free mulch, or of re-seeding with seed provided by the contractor or the landowner will be considered. In non-cultivated areas, the contractor will reseed the disturbed ground with a native grass seed mixture.

For More Information

BPA, Duke Energy Corporation, EDS, and Henkels and McCoy (H&M) staff are available to answer questions and provide you with project information. If you have questions or want more information about construction activities, please call Charlie Williams (509) 528-3512, EDS Land Liaison. For property questions call BPA Realty Specialist Paula Campbell (509) 358-7437.

If you want general information about the project or have renters or lessees that may be affected by this project and want them added to the project mailing list call us toll free at 1-888-276-7790 or contact me directly at (360) 619-6326. Project information is also available on our website at: www.transmission.bpa.gov/projects. We look forward to hearing from you throughout the project. Thank you for your continued cooperation.

Sincerely,

/s/ Mark Korsness 10/27/03

Mark Korsness
Project Manager