



Department of Energy

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

TRANSMISSION BUSINESS LINE

June 30, 2004

In reply refer to: T-DITT-2

To: People Interested in the Grand Coulee-Bell 500-kilovolt Transmission Line Project

Bonneville Power Administration 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, Wash. 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 2003 and construction began in April 2003. The purpose of this letter is to provide an update on the project, including construction activities in your area.

Construction Activities

BPA's construction effort, led by construction contractor Henkels and McCoy (H&M), is progressing well and the project is currently on schedule and within budget. Contract construction crews have completed removing the old wood pole line. Of the 411 steel towers being constructed for the new line, H&M has completed all 411 foundations, assembled 379 tower bodies in large sections on the ground, and fully erected 260.

Construction will continue through this summer, with line energization scheduled for December 2004. Other related work includes completion of the substation expansion and equipment installation at the Bureau of Reclamation's switching station in Grand Coulee and at BPA's Bell substation in Spokane.

Construction activities are increasing noise, temporarily, along the right of way. From now until November, construction crews will periodically use an implosive wire fitting to connect the lengths of wire to one another. This type of fitting produces a superior electrical and mechanical connection. 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 will notify landowners in the area 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 next page) and he will make every effort to coordinate the scheduling of work in your area with you. BPA advises landowners with pets to keep them indoors during this type of activity in your area.

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 will be low and may be masked by existing ambient noise from other

sources. More information regarding noise levels is available in the project's environmental documents available on our website or by contacting us directly.

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 and its contractor Energy Delivery Services Inc. (EDS) are available to answer questions and provide you with project information. If you have questions or want more information about construction activities, please call EDS Land Liaison, Charlie Williams 509-528-3512. For property questions, including crop damage, call BPA Realty Specialists Renee Dickson 509-358-7358 or Paula Campbell 509-358-7437, or toll free at 1-877-417-9454.

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. Information is also available on the Transmission Business Line's Web site at http://www.transmission.bpa.gov/PlanProj/Transmission_Projects/. We look forward to hearing from you throughout the project. Thank you for your continued cooperation.

Sincerely,

/s/ Mark Korsness, June 30, 2004

Mark Korsness
Project Manager