



Albany-Eugene

115-kV Transmission Line Rebuild Project

Bonneville Power Administration is committed to providing reliable power to the Northwest region. BPA is proposing to build new infrastructure projects to improve the distribution of power to meet existing and future power needs. The Albany-Eugene project is needed to accommodate a new load at the Halsey Mill and to eliminate sagging voltages in the immediate area. This is one of several critical rebuild projects BPA has planned to solve power reliability problems in the Northwest.

Project Description

The Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) will rebuild the Albany-Eugene 115-kilovolt (kV) transmission line, located between the towns of Albany and Eugene in Lane County, Ore. The rebuild section is approximately nine-miles long and is parallel to Highway 99.

There are two reasons this transmission line needs to be rebuilt. First, the projected load for this service area increased in 2003 with new service to the Halsey Mills. Second, due to increasing loads along the line, some customers are experiencing unacceptable sagging voltages to their commercial customers during certain conditions. Some of their customers' machinery requires correct voltage levels to operate. In addition this transmission line has not been upgraded since it was built in 1939.

The portion of line to be rebuilt runs north from BPA's Eugene Substation for approximately nine miles to an existing three-pole tap structure, at Alderwood Tap near State Highway 36. BPA's centerline for the rebuild will be located 34 feet from the centerline of the Burlington Northern Santa Fe railroad track right-of-way, and 16 feet east from the edge of Oregon's Department of Transportation eastern Highway 99 right-of-way boundary. The line would remain a 115-kV transmission line.

The new steel poles will be approximately 10 to 20 feet taller than the existing wood pole construction. Fiber optic cable currently serving BPA and other customers will be exchanged for new, better-suited fiber for the entire distance of the project.

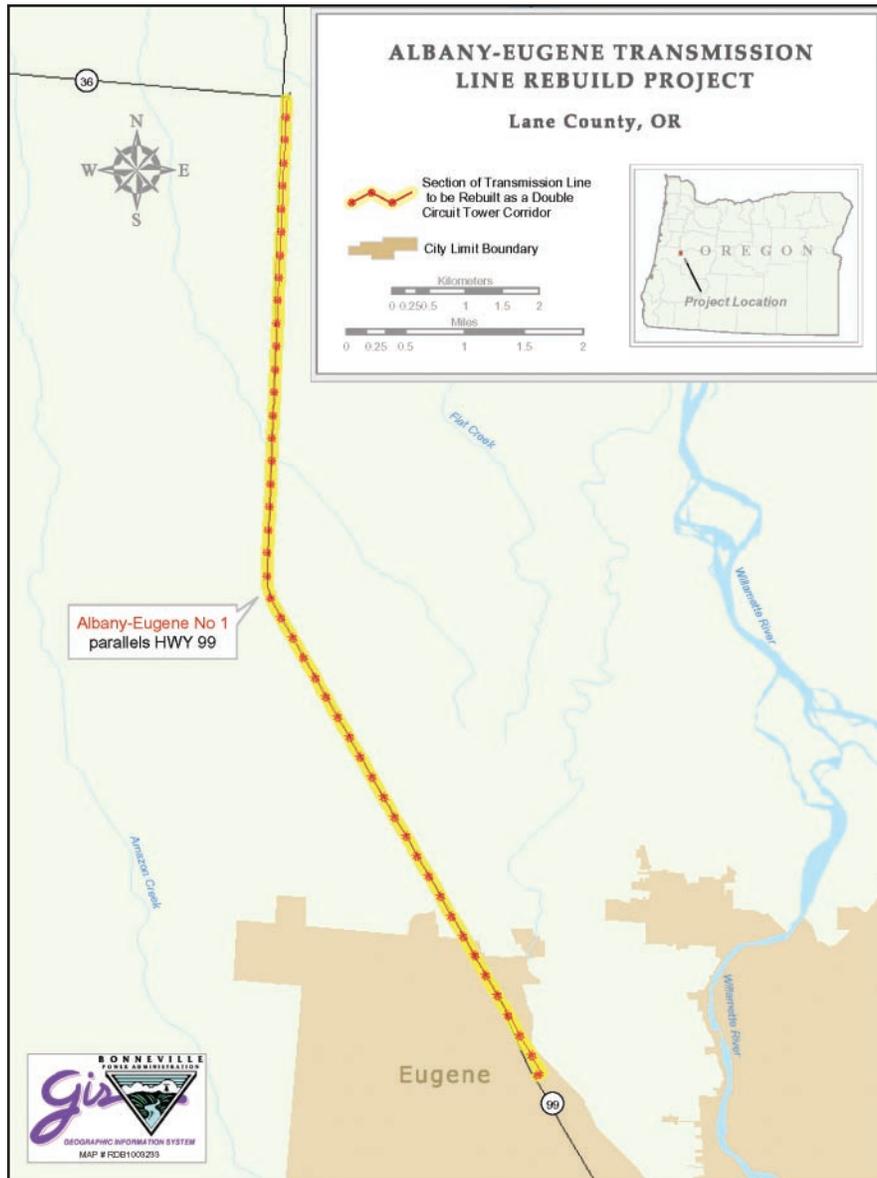
The existing line serves two substations with taps between Eugene Substation and Alderwood Tap: Parker Substation and Junction City Substation, both owned by Blatchly Lane Electric. When the line is rebuilt, the new Eugene-Alderwood line will serve Parker Substation and the Albany-Eugene line will serve Junction City Substation.

Working with the Community

BPA outreach activities have focused on early involvement from elected officials, government agencies, Tribes, property owners, environmental interest groups and community organizations. BPA is committed to working with public agencies, interest groups, Tribes and private property owners to minimize design and construction impacts.

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Environmental Planning

As BPA designed this project, special attention was focused on minimizing disruption to people, habitat, farm production and business operations. A Categorical Exclusion (CX) was developed for this project February 18, 1998, to look at alignment alternatives and potential impacts. The CX determined that the project has no potential to significantly affect environmental quality in the area.

Decision

On the basis of the CX, BPA will proceed on the project.

Funding and Schedule

BPA is funding this project, which is estimated to cost \$6.2 million. Construction of the new 115-kV line is scheduled to begin in August 2003 with a final energization in September 2004.

Questions or Comments

If you have questions or would like more information about the project, please contact BPA Project Manager Kirk Robinson toll free at 1-888-276-7790 or visit BPA's Web site at www.transmission.bpa.gov/projects.

