



Department of Energy

Bonneville Power Administration
P.O. Box 491
Vancouver, Washington 98666-0491

TRANSMISSION BUSINESS LINE

January 31, 2003

In reply refer to: T-DITT-2

To: **People Interested in the Skamania Access Road Project**

Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) is proposing to build the Skamania Access Road Project, in Skamania County, Washington. This letter describes the proposed project, the preliminary environmental assessment that will be conducted and explains how you can comment.

BPA is proposing to construct and clear ½-mile of access road to a transmission line tower along our Bonneville to Alcoa 115 kilovolt (kV) No.1 transmission line. The proposed road location is about 3.5 miles west of Skamania (see enclosed map). Approximately 1/8-mile of the proposed road exists although it is overgrown and needs brush clearing. The remaining 3/8-mile of road would be constructed.

This project is being proposed to provide routine maintenance and emergency access to a tower along our transmission line. No access exists to this tower due to a landslide that occurred a few years ago. Access to this tower was originally from the south off State Route 14 although an access road has not existed for the last few years due to a landslide.

The Preliminary EA describes the proposed project, explains the need for the proposal, describes existing environmental and social conditions, and provides analysis of the environmental impacts if the project were implemented. It also lists proposed mitigation measures that would lessen or eliminate those impacts. Your comments on the Preliminary EA will enable BPA to determine if we sufficiently analyzed the resources that are important to you.

Schedule

A draft Preliminary EA will be available for review and comment early this spring. If you would like to receive a copy, please return the enclosed postcard and check whether you would like to receive it by regular or electronic mail. If you do not return the postcard, you will still receive notice when the study is available and can request a copy or access the summary document on the Transmission Business Line Web site at www2.transmission.bpa.gov/PlanProj/.

Once we have completed the environmental review, BPA will decide whether and how to proceed with the project. If BPA decides to proceed, construction would likely begin in the summer of 2003.

Comment

There will be a number of ways for you to comment on the project. You can mail them to BPA, Communications – KC-7, P.O. Box 12999, Portland, Oregon 97212, or fax them to 503-230-

3285. In addition, you may also contact BPA's toll-free comment line at 1-888-276-7790 or email us at comment@bpa.gov. Please include the name of this project with your comments.

All comments received, including letters, e-mails and verbal comments recorded at the open house meetings or over the phone, will be read and considered by the project team. Each comment and response will be published in the Final EA. As appropriate, the proposal could be modified and the Final EA will be updated with any changes to the analysis and comments that were received.

For More Information

If you need more information about the project, please call toll-free at 1-888-276-7790 or email me at dswanson@bpa.gov. You can access previous project documents on the Transmission Business Line Web site at www2.transmission.bpa.gov/PlanProj/.

Sincerely,

Don Swanson
Project Manager

Enclosure:

Postcard Requesting the Preliminary EA