



Raymond-Cosmopolis 115-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. The Raymond-Cosmopolis project is one of several critical rebuild projects BPA has planned to solve power reliability problems in the Northwest.

Project Description

The Bonneville Power Administration is proposing to rebuild the Raymond-Cosmopolis 115-kilovolt (kV) transmission line, located between the towns of Raymond and Cosmopolis in Pacific County and Grays Harbor County, Washington. The approximately 18-mile long transmission line is roughly parallel to Highway 101, crossing the highway several times. The line would remain a 115-kV transmission line.

This transmission line was built in the 1930's, acquired by BPA in the 1940's and upgraded in 1952 by adding new tower tops and replacing the conductor (wire). Construction is proposed for summer of 2003 so that the rebuilt line could be energized in fall 2003.

There are two reasons this transmission line needs to be rebuilt. First, the projected load for this service area is expected to increase outages on BPA's electrical system during the summer. This could cause BPA to send more current through this transmission line, which would increase the operating temperature of the conductor above its rated capacity. As the conductor heats up, it sags closer to the ground, possibly exceeding acceptable safety clearance requirements. A new conductor, rated at a higher temperature, is required. The existing structures need to be replaced because they are not adequate to

support the new conductor. The second reason for rebuilding the line is concern over the safety of maintenance workers given the poor condition of the existing line. In the past ten years, there have been 113 unplanned outages along this line requiring maintenance; 91 of those were the result of damage from trees.

Most activities would take place within the existing right-of-way, including upgrading the existing roads and developing a few new roads, as well as removing and replacing existing structures and installing a new conductor. Outside the existing right-of-way, BPA would acquire and/or develop a few new access roads to structures with no access. New structures would generally be placed within 10 feet of their current location. Existing lattice steel box structures would be replaced with a single steel tubular pole. The tubular steel structures would be about 30 feet taller than the existing structures. In two areas, some structures would be moved outside the existing right-of-way to avoid wetlands and minimize impacts to waterways.

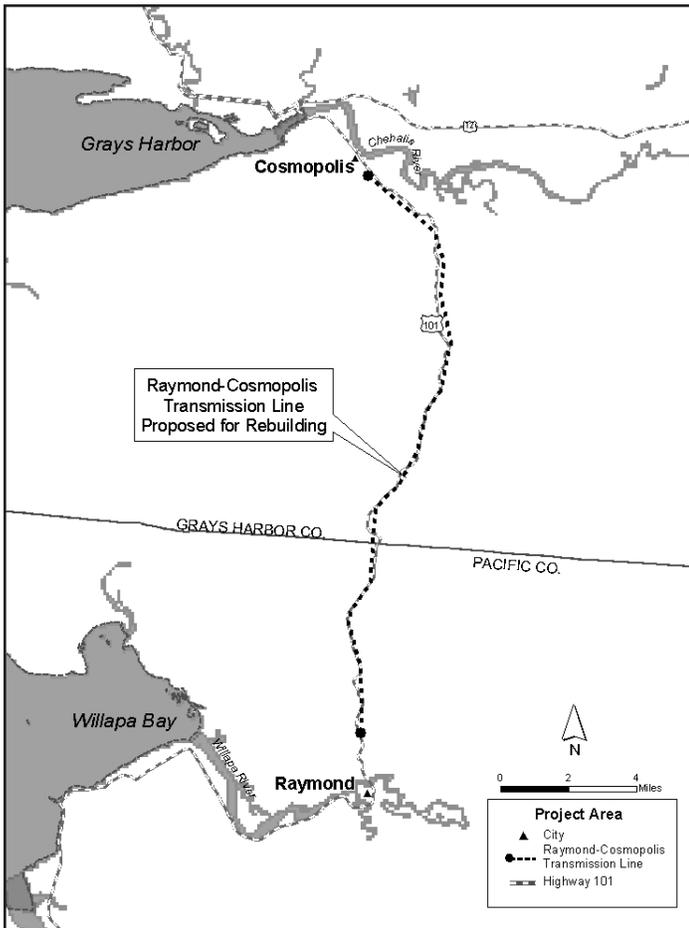
Working with the Community

BPA outreach activities have focused on early involvement from elected officials, government agencies, Tribes, property owners, environmental interest groups and community organizations. These groups will continue to 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.

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Environmental Planning

As BPA designs this project, special attention will be paid to minimizing disruption to people, habitat, timber production and harvesting activities, and business operations. An Environmental Assessment (EA) has been developed for this project to look at alignment alternatives and mitigation issues.

Environmental studies have been done to support the environmental assessment analysis. A report on noise, public health and safety issues was prepared. A cultural survey was done and no cultural resources were identified in the project area. The impacts to fish and wildlife and their habitat was also assessed, and BPA consulted with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (formerly NMFS). A wetland study was conducted to locate and describe wetlands that could be impacted by project activities and a Joint Aquatic Resources Permit was submitted to the appropriate federal and state agencies. A recently completed Slope Stability Study is incorporated into the analysis.

Some of the key project milestones to date include:

- **Scoping.** BPA identified possible issues and concerns on the project by conducting public meetings and meeting with state and federal agencies, and concerned tribes in 2002.
- **Preliminary Environmental Assessment (EA).** The preliminary EA was released for public review and comment in February 2003. BPA will hold two public meetings February 11 and 12, to receive comments on the preliminary EA and to answer questions about the project. The comment deadline is February 19, 2003.
- **Decision.** On the basis of the environmental assessment analysis, BPA will either: not proceed with the project and continue to operate the existing line, prepare a Finding of No Significant Impact and proceed with the action, or prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

Funding and Schedule

BPA will fund this project. If BPA decides to proceed, project construction could start as early as June 2003 and the line could be energized as early as November 2003.

Questions or Comments

If you have questions or would like more information about this project or would like a copy of the preliminary environmental assessment please contact BPA Project Manager, Gary Beck toll free at 1-888-276-7790. For more information about the project, visit BPA's Web site at www.transmission.bpa.gov/projects.

