



Department of Energy

Bonneville Power Administration
P.O. Box 61409
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TRANSMISSION BUSINESS LINE

October 29, 2003

In reply refer to: T-DITT-2

To: People interested in the SnoKing Tap to Monroe-Echo Lake Transmission Line

Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) is continuing inspection activities on the SnoKing Tap to Monroe-Sammamish Transmission Line, now called the SnoKing Tap to Monroe-Echo Lake Transmission Line. On Oct. 17, BPA helicopters started flying the line and will continue over the next several weeks as part of ongoing efforts to inspect the transmission line conductors/wires. This letter provides you with an update on helicopter activities and BPA contact information.

Background

The line has operated at 230-kilovolt (kV) since 1970, even though this line was constructed to operate at 500-kV. As many of you are aware, on Sept. 29, 2003, voltage on the SnoKing Tap to Monroe-Echo Lake transmission line was increased to 500-kV to improve transmission system reliability during the winter and to serve the load in the north Puget Sound area. Following the increase in voltage, BPA began receiving emails and phone calls about the transmission line noise, and inspections began immediately.

Inspection Activities Continue

As a continuation of the Oct. 17 helicopter inspections, BPA has scheduled a detailed helicopter inspection on Oct. 30, 2003, of the SnoKing Tap to Monroe-Echo Lake and the entire Monroe-Echo Lake 500-kV transmission lines. The actual dates of the inspections may be delayed if weather conditions are poor or if there are equipment problems. This helicopter inspection should be complete in two or three days. This inspection is more comprehensive than the normal BPA helicopter inspections.

Landowners and others along the right of way will see a black, Haverfield helicopter flying slow, low and close to the line, spending time hovering along both sides of the line and near each transmission line structure. Please do not be alarmed, this close up view allows the crew to take detailed photographs of the line. The goal of this detailed helicopter inspection is to provide a comprehensive, close-up look at the transmission line structures, conductors and hardware. The results of the inspections will be evaluated for abnormal conditions that may affect transmission line operations, including potential causes of audible fair weather noise. Once this inspection is complete, landowners can expect BPA helicopter patrols to return to normal. The results of the inspection will be posted on the Transmission Business Line Web site listed on the next page.

For More Information

If you have questions about actions being taken on the project, please call toll-free at 1-888-276-7790. Additional project information is available on our Web site at www.transmission.bpa.gov/projects.

Sincerely,

/s/ Doug Riehl 10/27/03

Doug Riehl
Project Manager