



Department of Energy

Bonneville Power Administration
P.O. Box 3621
Portland, Oregon 97208-3621

TRANSMISSION BUSINESS LINE

October 9, 2003

In reply refer to: T-DITT-2

To: Landowners interested in the SnoKing Tap to Monroe-Sammamish Transmission Line Voltage Increase (230-kV to 500-kV)

Bonneville Power Administration's SnoKing Tap to Monroe-Sammamish Transmission line has operated at 230-kilovolt (kV) since 1970, even though this line was constructed to operate at 500-kV. On Sept. 29, 2003, voltage on the SnoKing Tap to Monroe-Sammamish Transmission Line was increased to 500-kV to improve transmission system reliability during winter, and serve the load into the north Puget Sound area. In response to noise complaints, on Oct. 2, 2003, BPA conducted preliminary audible noise measurements at 16 different locations along the SnoKing Tap transmission line, which is about 13 miles in length.

The Results

The measurements were made at the southern edge of the transmission line right of way. The highest noise levels from the 500-kV lines occur during inclement weather conditions (fog, rain, wet snow, etc.); noise levels during dry conditions are significantly lower. While taking measurements, a thick, wet fog was present throughout the day. The measured noise levels ranged from 44-48 dBA (decibel; a unit used to describe the strength or intensity of wave-propagated phenomena such as sound or transmitted signals). At these noise levels the line complies with Washington State noise regulations, and produces noise levels typical of those produced from other 500-kV lines of similar design on the BPA system.

A visual inspection (from ground level) of the transmission line (towers, hardware, conductors, etc.) was also performed. Nothing abnormal or unexpected was observed.

Spot measurements of the magnetic fields were also made at a few locations. The operation at 500-kV results in approximately half the current flow (and thus, half the magnetic field) compared to 230-kV operation while serving the same load at SnoKing substation. This is because as the voltage is increased, the current flow decreases, resulting in lower magnetic fields.

Next Steps

Increasing the voltage of the SnoKing Tap to Monroe-Sammamish Transmission line is a vital part of BPA's efforts at ensuring long-term transmission system reliability in the Puget Sound area. At the same time, we recognize that these efforts may, in certain circumstances, cause concern among residents, and we are fully committed to working with area residents to attempt to address concerns. The Echo Falls Homeowners Association has invited BPA to discuss landowner concerns with the homeowners association and area residents. BPA representatives will attend this meeting on:

**Thursday, October 23, 2003
7:00 p.m.
Echo Falls Golf Club, Lake Room
20414 121st Ave. S.E.
Snohomish, WA 98296**

In the meantime, BPA staff will climb towers to closely inspect the tower structures within the next few weeks to confirm that all equipment is functioning properly.

For More Information

If you have questions or would like us to meet with you on-site, please call our Realty Specialist Robert Thompson at (360) 568-2743. If you have other questions please call our toll-free number 1-888-276-7790.

Sincerely,

/s/ Doug Riehl, Oct. 9, 2003

Doug Riehl
Project Manager