



Department of Energy

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

TRANSMISSION BUSINESS LINE

February 25, 2004

In reply refer to: T-DITT-2

To: Landowners interested in the SnoKing Tap to Monroe-Echo Lake Line Voltage Increase

Bonneville Power Administration is preparing to clean the SnoKing Tap to Monroe-Echo Lake 500-kilovolt transmission line located in Monroe, Wash. This letter provides information about the upcoming cleaning activity, the environmental process, what you can expect and how to obtain additional information.

Transmission Line Cleaning

BPA has determined that cleaning the transmission line will reduce the noise about six dbA in previously very noisy areas during fair weather. The cleaning will take two weeks and a line outage is tentatively scheduled for March 29 – April 11, 2004. Although power to the transmission line will be disabled, power supply to your home will not be affected.

BPA will be cleaning the entire 13-mile transmission line. A device was specially designed and fabricated to mechanically clean the transmission line. The mechanical brushes will trail a space cart along the transmission line. This will allow the mechanical brushes to clean the transmission line while crews are replacing the spacers with newer equipment. The devices have gone through extensive testing at a BPA laboratory and in the field. BPA is confident that the mechanical brushes will successfully clean the transmission line and reduce line noise.

Environmental

An assessment is currently underway to determine if the proposed transmission line cleaning complies with the applicable sections of the Department of Energy's National Environmental Policy Act Regulations addressing Categorical Exclusions. Initial conclusions indicate the proposed action does not present any circumstances that may create significant environmental effects; therefore the proposal may be categorically excluded from further NEPA review and documentation. The findings of this assessment, as appropriate, will be incorporated into the final cleaning proposal.

What You May See

Beginning the morning of March 29, 2004, linemen will begin the cleaning in the Snohomish area. If this cleaning impacts your property, BPA will contact you in advance to coordinate access to your property. BPA linemen will be clearly identified.

Next Steps

In preparation for the transmission line cleaning, BPA will be cleaning access roads and brush clearing around structures beginning March 1, 2004. These activities will take place within BPA rights-of-way. If you have any questions or concerns about the cleaning or brush clearing, please contact BPA Natural Resource Specialist, Don Atkinson at 360-563-0572.

After the line cleaning is complete, BPA will continue to take noise measurements and update homeowners on the measurement results.

For More Information

If you have questions or would like more information about the project, please call our toll-free number 1-888-276-7790. Additional information is posted on our Web site at: http://www.transmission.bpa.gov/PlanProj/Transmission_Projects/. BPA will continue to inform the public on any new developments.

Sincerely,

/s/ Doug Riehl. Feb. 25, 2004

Doug Riehl
Project Manager