



Grand Coulee-Bell 500-kV Transmission Line Project

(Eastern Washington Reinforcement)

Bonneville Power Administration is committed to providing reliable power to the Pacific Northwest. BPA is proposing to build new infrastructure projects to improve the reliability of the transmission system and to meet future power needs.

Project Description

The Grand Coulee-Bell 500-kilovolt (kV) transmission line project proposes to replace approximately 84 miles of existing 115-kV wood pole transmission line with a new, higher capacity 500-kV steel lattice line. The transmission line corridor between the Grand Coulee and Bell substations currently contains two 115-kV transmission lines on two wood pole structures and three 230-kV transmission lines on two steel lattice structures. Together, the existing transmission lines can no longer reliably move power from generation sources east of Spokane to areas west of Spokane. BPA plans to replace the northern-most wood pole line.

The proposed 500-kV transmission line would connect from BPA's existing Bell substation in Spokane, Wash., to the Bureau of Reclamation's existing Grand Coulee Switchyard at Grand Coulee Dam. The new line would be located primarily on BPA's existing right of way. The project also would involve expanding Bell substation and developing Grand Coulee Switchyard within the fenced area.

The proposed lines would:

- A) Allow BPA to continue to deliver power to where it is needed;
- B) Relieve current congestion on the transmission line corridor, maintain electrical system reliability, and provide for future needs; and
- C) Provide system flexibility and minimize costs to customers.

Working with the Community

In January and February 2002, BPA introduced the Grand Coulee-Bell project to the community and obtained public comments on the project. Public meetings were held in Grand Coulee, Davenport and Spokane, Wash.

BPA also received comments in briefings with key constituents, by telephone, mail and e-mail. The comments focused on:

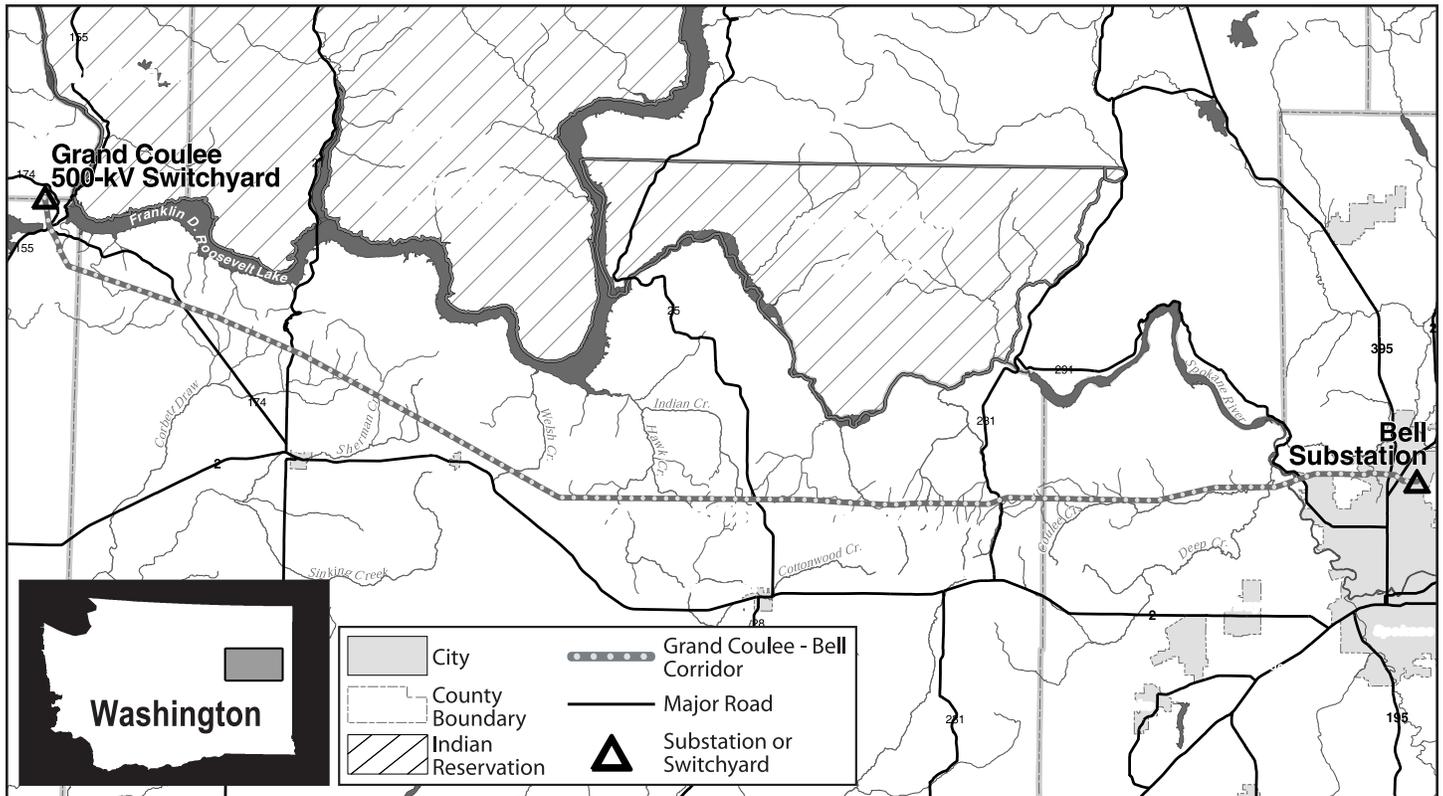
- Visual impact of new towers;
- Electric and magnetic fields (EMF);
- Potential impacts to farming practices;
- Double-circuit versus single-circuit structures; and
- Land use (crossing Riverside State Park, Whitworth College and residential areas).

Based on these comments, BPA has added an additional alternative to consider in the draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The original proposal consisted of new single-circuit structures for the first 75 miles from Grand Coulee to Spokane, then larger double-circuit structures for the last nine miles through Spokane to Bell substation. BPA will now study the additional alternative of using single-circuit structures for most of the last nine miles to Bell substation. For the single-circuit alternative, the new 500-kV single-circuit structures would be approximately the same height as the existing 230-kV double-circuit structures.

As part of this project BPA is consulting with affected tribes, conducting environmental studies and collecting public comments. Community input is an integral part of the process, and BPA will seek comments throughout the project.

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This map shows the proposed route for a new 500-kV line transmission line, primarily on existing right of way.

Environmental Planning

A draft Environmental Impact Statement has been prepared for this project. As BPA designs the project, special attention will be paid to minimizing disruption to people, habitat and farm production. Some key milestones are described below:

- **Scoping.** BPA identified possible issues and concerns on the project by conducting three public meetings and meeting with state and local governments, business organizations, environmental organizations and the media in January and February of 2002.
- **Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).** Environmental studies analyzed cultural, biological, land use and visual resources. Potential environmental impacts have been documented in the draft EIS and the document is available for public review and comment. Bonneville will hold four meetings in September to discuss the draft EIS. These meetings will be held on Sept. 4 (Coulee Dam, Wash.), Sept. 5 (Davenport, Wash.), and Sept. 6 and 9 (Spokane, Wash.). Comments on the draft EIS will be accepted until September 23, 2002.
- **Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).** The final EIS, scheduled for December 2002, will respond to public comments on the draft EIS and will be modified as necessary.

- **Decision.** Based on the environmental studies, additional technical analysis and public input, BPA's administrator is scheduled to decide how to proceed on the project in January 2003.

Funding and Schedule

BPA is providing the funding for this project. If BPA builds the new transmission line, construction would likely start in January 2003 and the line would be energized in the fall of 2004.

Questions or Comments

If you have questions or would like more information about the project, please contact BPA Project Manager Mark Korsness toll free at 1-888-276-7790 or visit BPA's Web site at www.transmission.bpa.gov/projects, select Infrastructure and scroll down to the Grand Coulee-Bell Project. If you have real estate or easement questions or would like BPA to meet with you on site, please call Sandy Rapozo, (509) 358-7358 or Paula Campbell at (509) 358-7437.

