



Photo 3.9-10. View of Vantage-Hanford transmission line from Vantage Substation looking south towards the Saddle Mountains

3.9.5.2 North Face of Saddle Mountains

The north face of the Saddle Mountains consists of foreground and middleground views of the steep, rocky, dry, slopes of the Saddle Mountains, Crab Creek and adjacent Columbia River, with background views of the sky and distant views through the pass. Viewers would be motorists on Route 243, the few residents of Beverly and Schwana, some dispersed recreationalists who use the Columbia River, Crab Creek Wildlife Area, Milwaukee Road Corridor and the Saddle Mountains, and tourists at the Wanapum Dam.



Photo 3.9-11. Aerial view of agricultural areas and existing transmission line east of Mattawa looking north to Saddle Mountains

3.9.5.3 Wahluke Slope

This area consists of foreground and middleground views of agricultural lands and transmission lines, and background views of the surrounding mountain ranges and sky. Viewers would be agricultural workers, a few residents, dispersed recreationalists, and local motorists.

3.9.5.4 Bluff Above Highway 243 to Midway Substation

This area consists of foreground views of the Columbia River and sagebrush areas, middleground views of sagebrush, the adjacent bluff and the Hanford Site facilities, and background views of the sky. Viewers would be motorists on Route 243 and some dispersed recreationalists, such as boaters on the Columbia River.

3.9.5.5 Midway Substation to the New Wautoma Substation

Typical views in this area consist of foreground and middleground views of sagebrush, grasslands, and agriculture; and background views of mountains and sky. The Big Eddy-Midway transmission line is generally not the dominant view. It crosses open sagebrush and agricultural areas, and is only visible from a short section of Route 24. Viewers would be motorists on Route 24 and local agricultural workers.



Photo 3.9-12. Aerial view of valley between Umtanum and Yakima Ridge Big Eddy-Midway transmission line



Photo 3.9-13. View looking southeast from Route 24 towards the Saddle Mountains Unit at Vantage-Hanford transmission line crossing

3.9.6 Segment E

Segment E would parallel the existing Vantage-Hanford 500-kV transmission south from the Vantage Substation, near the Wanapum Dam, cross over the Saddle Mountains, down rolling range land, across heavily used agricultural areas on the Wahluke Slope, through the middle of the Saddle Mountains Unit of the Hanford Reach National Monument, and over the Columbia River to the Hanford Substation.



Photo 3.9-14. Existing view of No Wake Lake near Crab Creek looking south toward Vantage-Hanford

3.9.6.1 Wanapum Dam/Vantage Substation to Crab Creek

Segment E would travel south for 4 miles across gently sloping terrain of sagebrush and grasslands, several orchards and open water areas with associated wetlands. A few residences occur near Beverly and Schwana to the west. Highway 243 runs parallel and west of the proposed route.

Typical views in this area consist of foreground views of sagebrush and grasslands, middleground views of sagebrush, grasslands, orchards and the Columbia River, and background views of the surrounding mountains. Viewers would be the few residents of the area, motorists on Highway 243, and dispersed recreationalists. One residence occurs within 500 feet of the proposed route.

3.9.6.2 North Face of Saddle Mountains

Segment E would cross a very steep, rocky, dry, north-facing slope at the western edge of a naturally formed cut in the Saddle Mountains Ridge that runs east/west. The existing Vantage-Hanford 500-kV line scales this rocky slope. The cut in the Saddle Mountains Ridge is formed by the Columbia River and possesses good scenic qualities. Typical views in this area generally are foreground and middleground views of the steep, rocky, dry slopes and adjacent Columbia River,

and background views of the sky and distant views through the pass. Viewers would be the few residents, motorists on Route 243, dispersed recreationalists, and dedicated recreationalists at the Wanapum Dam.

3.9.6.3 Wahluke Slope

At the top of the Saddle Mountains, Segment E would travel south across the rugged terrain of big sagebrush and grassland areas into heavily agricultural areas, orchards, vineyards and local roads that stretch across the Wahluke Slope to the southeast, and ends at Highway 24 at the edge of the Saddle Mountains Unit of the Hanford Reach National Monument. Typical views in this area generally are foreground and middleground views of agricultural uses, and background views of the surrounding mountain ranges and sky. Viewers would be agricultural workers, a few residents, dispersed recreationalists, and local motorists.



Photo 3.9-15. View looking northeast from 24 SW near L Street SW

3.9.6.4 Saddle Mountains Unit of the Hanford Reach National Monument

Segment E would cross sagebrush areas that transition to grasslands near the Columbia River. The existing Vantage-Hanford transmission line is generally not the dominant view. Typical views in this area consist of foreground and middleground views of adjacent sagebrush and agricultural lands and background views of the sky. Viewers would include motorists on Route 24.

3.9.6.5 Columbia River Crossing to Hanford Substation

From the Columbia River to the Hanford Substation, Segment E crosses grass and sedge with some small willows near the river's edge, and open water to the heavily disturbed landscape at the Hanford Substation. Typical views in this area consist of foreground and middleground views of the Columbia River, sagebrush, and Hanford Site facilities and background views of the horizon and sky. Viewers would be workers at the Hanford Site and dispersed recreationists (boaters) on the Columbia River.

3.9.7 Segment F

Segment F runs east from the Vantage Substation, south up to the top of the Saddle Mountains, and then parallels the ridgeline until it reaches the existing Grand Coulee-Hanford 500-kV transmission line, where it crosses rolling rangeland at the edge of heavily used agricultural areas on the Wahluke Slope, the Saddle Mountains Unit of the Hanford Reach National Monument, and the Columbia River to the Hanford Substation (Map 10, *Visual Analysis*).

3.9.7.1 Vantage Substation to Crab Creek

From the Vantage Substation to Crab Creek, Segment F, (a new corridor), would cross gently sloping terrain of sagebrush and grasslands, several orchards and open water areas with associated wetlands. There are a few residences near Beverly and Schwana to the west. Highway 243 runs parallel and west of the proposed route. Typical views consist of foreground views of sagebrush and grasslands, middleground views of sagebrush, grasslands, orchards and the Columbia River, and background views of the surrounding mountains. Viewers would include the few residents, motorists on Highway 243, and dispersed recreationalists.



Photo 3.9-16. View of area near Vantage Substation

3.9.7.2 North Face of Saddle Mountains

Segment F would cross a very steep, rocky, dry, north-facing slope at the western edge of a naturally formed cut in the Saddle Mountains Ridge. Although existing transmission lines scale this rocky ridge to the west, Segment F would create a new corridor on a relatively undisturbed mountain face. Typical views consist of foreground and middleground views of the steep, rocky, dry slopes, Crab Creek and adjacent Columbia River, and background views of the sky. Viewers would include the few residents, motorists on Route 243, and dispersed recreationalists.



Photo 3.9-17. The north face of the Saddle Mountains (View 3 on Map 10)

3.9.7.3 Saddle Mountains Ridge

Segment F would create a new corridor across rolling and steep big sagebrush areas on the south side of the Saddle Mountains, parallel to the ridgeline. Typical views consist of foreground and middleground views of sagebrush, and background views of the Saddle Mountains and sky. Viewers would include local motorists, the few residents, Wahluke Slope agricultural area workers, and dispersed recreational users of the Saddle Mountains.

➔ For Your Information

Photo 3.9-17 has been simulated in Chapter 4, Environmental Consequences, to show a new transmission line. See Photo 4.8-5.



Photo 3.9-18. Aerial view of the south slope of the Saddle Mountain Ridge looking southwest towards Mattawa

→ For Your Information

Photo 3.9-19 has been simulated in Chapter 4, Environmental Consequences, to show a new transmission line. See Photo 4.8-7.

3.9.7.4 Wahluke Slope

Segment F would parallel the existing Grand Coulee-Hanford transmission line and be only visible for a short distance for most viewers. Typical views consist of foreground views and middleground views of agricultural uses and sagebrush and background views of the Saddle Mountains and sky. Viewers are motorists on Highway 24 and the few local roads, and dispersed recreationalist users of the Saddle Mountains Unit of the Hanford Reach National Monument.



Photo 3.9-19. View of Grand Coulee-Hanford line looking north near Highway 24 (View 4 on Map 9)



Photo 3.9-20. View looking south from top of bluff overlooking the Saddle Mountains Unit of the Hanford Reach National Monument adjacent to Grand Coulee–Hanford line

3.9.7.5 Hanford Reach National Monument/Hanford Site

Segment F crosses big sagebrush, descends a 200 feet bluff to a flat area where the landscape transitions to grasslands/sedge/ small willows near the Columbia River, crosses over the Columbia River and ends at the Hanford Substation. Typical views consist of foreground and middleground views of the grasslands and background views of distant mountains and sky. The transmission line would only be visible for short distances. Viewers would include motorists on Route 24, workers at the Hanford Site, and dispersed recreational users (boaters) on the Columbia River.