

FACT SHEET

BP Cherry Point Cogeneration Project, Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)
(DOE/EIS-0349)

Responsible Agencies: U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), Bonneville Power Administration (Bonneville), and Washington State Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council (EFSEC)

Cooperating Agency: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

States Involved: Washington

Abstract: BP West Coast Products, LLC proposes to construct and operate a 720-megawatt, natural-gas-fired, combined-cycle cogeneration facility on land adjacent to its BP Cherry Point Refinery. Approximately 195 acres of undeveloped land would be converted for the cogeneration facility; gas, water, wastewater, and steam pipelines; construction laydown areas; access roads; and wetland mitigation areas.

The proposed project would be located in Whatcom County, Washington, approximately 15 miles northwest of Bellingham and 7 miles south of Blaine. The purpose of the proposed power project is to provide stable and reliable electricity and steam to meet the needs of the refinery and provide electricity to the Bonneville Federal Columbia River Transmission System.

Electrical energy from the proposed project would require construction of a new transmission line from the switchyard in the cogeneration facility to an interconnection point on Bonneville's Custer/Intalco Transmission Line No. 2. The length of the new line would be 0.8 mile.

From the interconnection point, a 230-kilovolt (kV) circuit may be constructed to the existing Custer substation. The most reliable method of adding the new line appears to be replacing approximately 5 miles of the existing 230-kV single-circuit Custer/Intalco Transmission Line No. 2 with a double-circuit line. Alternatively, preliminary studies of the transmission system indicate that the circuit might not be needed if an agreement can be reached between the Applicant and the Intalco Aluminum Corporation to interrupt electrical service at the Alcoa Intalco Works under potential transmission system overload conditions. The formal agreement would be known as a Remedial Action Scheme.

This Draft EIS assesses the existing natural and built environment, evaluates the potential environmental impacts and economic benefits of the proposed action, and identifies mitigation measures to compensate for the unavoidable impacts. Alternative project sites, power-generating and pollution-control technologies, and the No Action Alternative also are described.

Proposal's Sponsor: BP West Coast Products, LLC (BP or Applicant)

Date of Implementation: Construction activities are expected to start during the first quarter of 2004 and last approximately 25 months. The start of construction depends on the date the governor of Washington approves and signs the Site Certification Agreement for this project.

List of Possible Permits, Approvals, and Licenses: Table 2-3 of the Draft EIS lists federal and state requirements, permits, and approvals required for the proposed project, the agencies that administer the permits, and either the statute or regulation requiring the permit and approval. The EFSEC Site Certification Agreement would provide construction and operation requirements and all other relevant Washington State permits and approvals for the project. No other state or local permit is required for the proposed project.

As a federal agency, Bonneville must comply with federal permits and is precluded from participating in procedural requirements associated with state and local land use approvals or permits. The agency strives to meet or exceed the substantive standards and policies of the environmental regulations referenced above.

Authors and Principal Contributors to EIS: An independent consultant of EFSEC, Shapiro and Associates, Inc., is the principal author of the Draft EIS. The primary source of information used to prepare the Draft EIS is the Application for Site Certification, which was prepared by BP and its primary consultants Anvil Corporation, Golder and Associates, URS Corporation, and Duke Energy/Fluor Daniel. A list of contributors is included in the Draft EIS.

Subsequent Environmental Review:

- Adjudicative Hearings
- Land Use Hearing
- Prevention of Significant Deterioration/
- Notice of Construction Permit Review
- 404 Individual Permit Review
- 401 Water Quality Certification Review
- State Waste Discharge Permit Review
- Final EIS
- Bonneville Record of Decision

Date of Final Lead Agency Action: After EFSEC deliberates on the facts, testimony, and EIS contents, it will send a recommendation to the governor of the state of Washington to approve or deny the project (expected in spring 2004). The governor has 60 days to accept or reject the recommendation or to remand the recommendation to EFSEC for further investigation.

Contact for Additional Information:

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Location of Background Information: You may access this Draft EIS and find more information about the project and the responsible agencies on the Bonneville Web site at www.efw.bpa.gov and the EFSEC Web site at www.efsec.wa.gov. Copies of the BP Cogeneration Project Application for Site Certification, EFSEC No. 2002-01, and this Draft EIS also are available for public review at the following locations:

Washington State Library
Joel M. Pritchard Library
Point Plaza East
6880 Capitol Blvd
Tumwater, WA, 98504-2460
360-704-5200

Ferndale, WA 98248
Bellingham Library
Attn: Gayle Helgoe
210 Central Avenue
Bellingham, WA 98225-4421

Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council
925 Plum Street SE, Building 4
Olympia, WA, 98504-3172
360-956-2121

Ocean Park Library
City of Surrey
Attn: Isabelle Hay
12854 17th Avenue
Surrey, BC V4A 1T5
Canada

Whatcom County Library
Attn: Kathy Richardson
610 Third Street
Blaine, WA 98230

White Rock Public Library
Attn: Barb Hynek
15342 Buena Vista Avenue
White Rock, BC V4B 1Y6
Canada

Whatcom County Library
Attn: Dave Menard
P.O. Box 1209

Cost of EIS Copy to the Public: There will be no cost for the Draft EIS.

For information on Department of Energy (DOE) NEPA activities, please contact Carol M. Borgstrom, Director, Office of NEPA Policy and Compliance, EH-25, U.S. Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Avenue SW, Washington, DC 20585; by telephone at 1-800-472-2756; or visit the DOE website at www.eh.de.gov/nepa.