



## Department of Energy

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

December 12, 2000

In reply refer to: KEC-4

### To: People Interested in the Schultz - Hanford Area Transmission Line Project

Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) is proposing to build a new transmission line that could affect you. This letter briefly explains what is being proposed, outlines our process and schedule, and invites you to meetings where you can learn more.

**Proposal** - BPA is proposing to construct a transmission line through central Washington. The new 500-kilovolt (kV) line would relieve constraints on several transmission lines across the state. It would also provide more operational flexibility so that BPA can meet its obligations to endangered salmon and maintain transmission capacity to import and export energy.

**Alternatives** - Possible transmission routes are in Kittitas, Yakima, Grant, and Benton Counties. (See attached map.) The proposed line would be constructed from Schultz Substation (near Ellensburg) to either a substation on the Hanford Reach National Monument within the Hanford Nuclear Reservation or a new substation just southwest of the Hanford Nuclear Reservation. Four alternative routes are being considered. All would require the purchase of new right-of-way.

- **Alternative 1** would parallel the existing 500-kV line that runs from Schultz Substation to Vantage Substation and on to Hanford Substation (called the Schultz-Vantage-Hanford line). The new line would be 200 to 2000 feet from the existing line. An option would be to end the new line at Ashe Substation. In that case, the new line would continue parallel to the existing Hanford-Ashe 500-kV line at a distance of 200 to 2000 feet.
- **Alternative 2** would parallel the existing Schultz-Vantage 500-kV line at a distance of 200 to 2000 feet. It would then parallel next to the existing Midway-Vantage 230-kV line to a new Blackrock Substation near Benton Rural Electric Association's existing Blackrock Substation.
- **Alternative 3** would parallel (at a distance of 200-2000 feet) the existing Schultz-Vantage 500-kV line to the west side of the Columbia River. The line would then turn south on new right-of-way to the new Blackrock Substation. In the area requiring new right-of-way, we have included a broad study area.
- **Alternative 4** would parallel the existing Columbia-Ellensburg-Moxee-Midway 115-kV lines that pass through Ellensburg and Yakima before ending at the new Blackrock Substation.

We are also considering not building a new line.

**Public Meetings** - We will soon start to assess the environmental impacts of the proposed alternatives. But before we do, we would like to hear from you. What questions do you have? What resources should we analyze? Are there other routes we should consider? We have scheduled open house public meetings to hear your ideas.

**Tuesday, January 9, 2001**  
**4 to 8 p.m.**

Sage Brush Senior Center  
442 Desert Aire Drive  
Desert Aire, Washington

**Wednesday, January 1, 2001**  
**4 to 8 p.m.**

Yakima County Courthouse  
Room 420  
Yakima, Washington

**Thursday, Jan. 11, 2001**  
**4 to 8 p.m.**

Hal Holmes Community Center  
201 North Ruby Street  
Ellensburg, Washington

We do not plan to give a formal presentation at the meetings, so come anytime between 4 and 8 p.m. Several members of the project team will be available to answer your questions and listen to your ideas.

**Other Ways to Comment** - If you cannot come to one of the meetings, you can still comment. If you comment by January 25, 2001, we'll be able to incorporate your ideas into our environmental studies. Call BPA's toll-free comment line at 1-800-622-4519, and leave a message (please include the name of this project); send an e-mail to: [comment@bpa.gov](mailto:comment@bpa.gov); or mail comments to Bonneville Power Administration, Public Affairs Officer - KC-7, P.O. Box 12999, Portland, Oregon 97212. You can use the enclosed form to submit comments if you like.

**Process/Schedule** - The information we gather in our environmental analysis will be published in a Draft Environmental Impact Statement that will be available for review and comment late next year. If you would like to receive a copy, please return the enclosed postcard and check whether you would like to receive it by regular or electronic mail. If you do not return the postcard, you will still receive notice when the study is available.

Once we have completed the environmental review, BPA will decide whether and how to proceed with the project. If BPA decides to proceed, construction would likely begin in 2004.

**For More Information** - If you have any questions about this proposal, please call me toll-free at 1-800-282-3713, at my direct number, (503) 230-5525; or send an e-mail to [lcdriessen@bpa.gov](mailto:lcdriessen@bpa.gov).

Thank you for your interest in our work.

Sincerely,



Lou Driessen  
Project Manager

3 Enclosures:  
Map  
Post Card  
Comment Form



### Schultz-Hanford Transmission Line Project

## "I'd Like to Tell You . . . "

1. When you develop alternative routes please consider \_\_\_\_\_

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2. Please avoid areas like \_\_\_\_\_

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3. Please be sure your environmental studies look at \_\_\_\_\_

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4. I need more information about \_\_\_\_\_

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5. I have these other comments \_\_\_\_\_

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Please put me on your project mailing list. (You are already on the mail list if you have received mailed notice.)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail your comments by January 25, 2001 to:

Bonneville Power Administration  
Public Affairs Office - KC  
P.O. Box 12999  
Portland, OR 97212





## Department of Energy

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

March 26, 2001

In reply refer to: KEC-4

### To: People Interested in the Schultz - Hanford Area Transmission Line Project

Last December, Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) wrote to tell you about a proposed project that could affect you. We had proposed building a new transmission line in central Washington and were looking at four possible routes. We asked for your comments to help us refine the proposal. Response was great; we received over 1000 comments.

After reviewing your comments, we have made some changes to our proposal. We are no longer considering the option (formerly called Alternative 4) that went south and east from Schultz Substation, by Ellensburg, and around Yakima and Moxee. We estimated that the expenses associated with the needed right-of-way through developed land would be very high and this alternative became too expensive to be considered. We have also added an alternative to try to avoid some of the irrigated farmlands.

This letter briefly describes the alternatives we are still considering, outlines our next steps, and tells where to call if you have questions.

**Proposal** – BPA is still proposing to construct a transmission line through central Washington. The new 500-kilovolt (kV) line is needed to relieve constraints on several transmission paths (lines) across the state. It would add more transmission capability to move power from generation facilities in the northern Columbia River basin through central Washington. It would also provide more operational flexibility so BPA can meet its obligations to endangered salmon and maintain power transfer capabilities.

**Alternatives** – Possible transmission routes are in Kittitas, Yakima, Grant, and Benton Counties (See attached map). The proposed line would be constructed from Schultz Substation (near Ellensburg) to either a substation on the Hanford Reach National Monument within the Hanford Nuclear Reservation or a new substation just southwest of the Hanford Nuclear Reservation. Four alternative routes are being considered. All would require the purchase of new right-of-way.

- **Alternative 1** would parallel the existing 500-kV line that runs from Schultz Substation to Vantage Substation and on to Hanford Substation (called the Schultz-Vantage-Hanford line). The new line would be up to 1200 feet from the existing line. (BPA must separate major lines by as much as 1200 feet to meet electric reliability standards.) We have not yet decided which side of the existing right-of-way would be better, north or south.
- **Alternative 1A**, (just like Alternative 1), would parallel the existing 500-kV line from Schultz Substation to Vantage Substation. But a different route would be studied between Vantage and Hanford to avoid irrigated agricultural land. Instead, it would follow the southern edge of the Saddle Mountains and then parallel, at a distance of up to 1200 feet, the existing 500-kV Grand Coulee-Hanford line into Hanford.
- **Alternative 2** would also parallel the existing Schultz-Vantage 500-kV line at a distance of up to 1200 feet. It would turn south, parallel next to the existing 230-kV line to Midway Substation, then following another 230-kV line to a new Blackrock Substation near Benton Rural Electric Association's existing Blackrock Substation. We

are looking at the possibility of tearing down the existing 230-kV line in places, and rebuilding it with a double-circuit line that would hold both the 230-kV line and the new 500-kV line.

- **Alternative 3** would parallel, at a distance of up to 1200 feet, the existing Schultz-Vantage 500-kV line to the west side of the Columbia River. Before crossing the River, the line would head south on new right-of-way mainly across the Yakima Training Center to a new Blackrock Substation.

We are also considering not building a new line.

**Public Comment Summary** – In December and January, BPA received 1031 comments on this proposed project. Most (63 percent) were given at public meetings we had in January. We also received comments by mail, phone, and e-mail.

Most comments (71 percent) focused on the alternatives (316) or expected environmental impacts (415). Most people commented on impacts of a new transmission line to agricultural land and developed areas.

The project team reviewed all the comments and used them in refining the proposal. The comments will also be used in preparing the environmental impact statement.

**Next Steps** – We are starting work on the environmental analysis. The information we gather will be published in a Draft Environmental Impact Statement that will be available for review and comment late this year. To complete the environmental work, BPA needs to conduct on-the-ground environmental surveys. BPA also needs to begin preliminary mapping and design work to refine the possible routes.

To conduct the analysis we may need to access property along the proposed routes. If so, we will contact those property owners for permission.

Once we have completed the environmental review, BPA will decide whether and how to proceed with the project. If BPA decides to proceed, construction would likely begin in 2004.

**For More Information** – If you have any questions about this proposal, please call me toll-free at 1-800-282-3713; at my direct number, (503) 230-5525; or send an e-mail to [lcdriessen@bpa.gov](mailto:lcdriessen@bpa.gov). Information on the project will be posted on BPA's web site at [www.efw.bpa.gov](http://www.efw.bpa.gov) under *environmental planning/analysis*.

Thank you for your interest in our work.

Sincerely,



Lou Driessen  
Project Manager

Enclosure:  
Map





## Department of Energy

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

June 6, 2001

In reply refer to: KEC-4

### To: People Interested in the Schultz - Hanford Area Transmission Line Project

Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) is proposing to build a new transmission line and one of the alternatives we are studying (Alternative 1A) could affect your property. This letter briefly explains what is being proposed, outlines our process and schedule, and tells where to call for more information.

**Proposal** - BPA is proposing to construct a transmission line through central Washington. The new 500-kilovolt (kV) line would relieve constraints on several transmission lines across the state. It would also provide more operational flexibility so that BPA can meet its obligations to endangered salmon and maintain transmission capacity to import and export energy.

**Alternatives** - Possible transmission routes are in Kittitas, Yakima, Grant, and Benton counties (See attached map). The proposed line would be constructed from Schultz Substation (near Ellensburg) to either a substation on the Hanford Reach National Monument within the Hanford Nuclear Reservation or a new substation just southwest of the Hanford Nuclear Reservation. Four alternative routes are being considered. All would require the purchase of new right-of-way.

- **Alternative 1** would parallel the existing 500-kV line that runs from Schultz Substation to Vantage Substation and on to Hanford Substation (called the Schultz-Vantage-Hanford line). The new line would be up to 1200 feet from the existing line (BPA must separate major lines by as much as 1200 feet to meet electric reliability standards).
- **Alternative 1A** would parallel the existing 500-kV line from Schultz Substation to Vantage Substation (just like Alternative 1). But a different route would be studied between Vantage and Hanford to avoid irrigated agricultural land. Instead, it would go east from Vantage for about a mile on new right-of-way before turning south for about five miles. It would then turn east and follow the southern edge of the Saddle Mountains for about 15 miles before turning south and paralleling, at a distance of up to 1200 feet, the existing 500-kV Grand Coulee-Hanford line into Hanford.
- **Alternative 2** would parallel the existing Schultz-Vantage 500-kV line at a distance of up to 1200 feet. It would turn south and parallel the existing 230-kV line to Midway Substation, then follow another 230-kV line to a new Blackrock Substation near Benton Rural Electric Association's existing Blackrock Substation. We are looking at the possibility of tearing down the existing 230-kV line in places and rebuilding it with a double-circuit line that would hold both the 230-kV line and the new 500-kV line.

- **Alternative 3** would parallel, at a distance of up to 1200 feet, the existing Schultz-Vantage 500-kV line, but before crossing the Columbia River, the line would head south on new right-of-way mainly across the Yakima Training Center to a new Blackrock Substation.

We are also considering not building a new line, an alternative we always consider.

**Next Steps** – We are working on the environmental analysis. The information we gather will be published in a Draft Environmental Impact Statement that will be available for review and comment late this year. To complete the environmental work, BPA needs to conduct on-the-ground environmental surveys. We also need to begin preliminary mapping and design work to refine the possible routes.

To do this work, we may need to access property along the proposed routes. If so, we will contact those property owners to request permission.

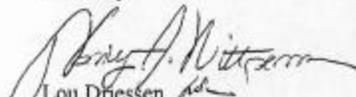
Once we have completed the environmental review, BPA will decide whether and how to proceed with the project. If BPA decides to proceed, construction would likely begin in 2004.

**For More Information** – If you have any questions about this proposal, please call me toll-free at 1-800-282-3713; at my direct number, (503) 230-5525; or send an e-mail to [lcdriessen@bpa.gov](mailto:lcdriessen@bpa.gov). Information on the project will be posted on BPA's web site at [www.efw.bpa.gov](http://www.efw.bpa.gov) under *environmental planning/analysis*.

Please return the enclosed postcard to receive a copy of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. Otherwise you will receive notice when it is available.

Thank you for your interest in our work.

Sincerely,



Lou Driessen  
Project Manager

2 Enclosures:  
Map  
Postcard





## Department of Energy

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

July 30, 2001

In reply refer to: KEC-4

### **To: People Interested in the Schultz - Hanford Area Transmission Line Project**

Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) has selected a preferred alternative from the project alternatives being considered for this project. The preferred alternative is highlighted on the enclosed map. This letter explains that choice and tells our next steps.

#### **Background**

BPA is proposing to construct a transmission line through central Washington. The new 500-kilovolt (kV) line would relieve constraints on several transmission lines across the state. It would also provide more operational flexibility so that BPA can meet its obligations to endangered salmon and maintain transmission capacity to import and export energy.

Last winter BPA hired a team of consultants to study the impacts of the proposed project on the environment. We are using this information to write an environmental impact statement (EIS). The information collected by the consultants contributed to our selection of the preferred alternative. All project alternatives will be analyzed in the EIS. The EIS will also identify impacts of the no action alternative.

#### **Preferred Alternative**

For the draft EIS, the preferred alternative (formerly referred to as Alternative 2) has been selected because it would:

- Increase BPA transmission system capacity
- Maintain BPA transmission system reliability
- Minimize impacts to environmental resources such as irrigated agricultural lands, cultural resources, military land uses, and plants and animals
- Provide fastest energization date
- Minimize costs while meeting BPA's long-term transmission needs

The preferred alternative would parallel the existing Schultz-Vantage 500-kV line at a distance of up to 1200 feet. Closer to Vantage, the new line would head south for a short distance and then east to meet up with the Schultz-Hanford line closer to Vantage (see enclosed map). From Vantage, the new line would turn south and parallel the existing 230-kV line to Midway Substation, then follow another 230-kV line to a new substation (several names are being considered). We are looking at the possibility of tearing down the existing 230-kV line in places and rebuilding it with a double-circuit line that would hold both the 230-kV line and the new 500-kV line.

This selection of a preferred alternative is not a final agency decision. We will make a final decision on an alternative after we issue the final EIS. We welcome your comments on the preferred and other alternatives.

#### **Current Work**

We continue to conduct location surveys. The surveys will provide engineering design data and help us identify wetland boundaries, stream crossings, and other needed environmental field information. The surveys will locate property monuments and set control points for aerial photography. Between now and March 2002, the surveys will also help us stake tower locations on the ground. Tower locations need to meet the needs of landowners and BPA. If you have concerns regarding staked tower locations, contact BPA at any time.

This month, BPA will contract with appraisers to analyze market data on property values along the preferred alternative route. Landowners along this route will be contacted to request an interview regarding this process. Interviews will be done between now and January 2002.

#### **What You May See**

You may see survey crews driving on or parking alongside local roads. The survey team may use tripods and bright yellow Global Positioning System equipment. The survey crews will be locating and surveying property and section corner monuments. If you see a white plastic X about 20 feet across on the ground, it is being used for aerial photography, and the X will be removed after the photography is done. The survey crew will mark survey and tower locations with flags and survey stakes.

#### **Next Steps**

We will have a draft EIS available for public and agency review later this year. We will notify everyone on our mail list when the draft EIS is available and invite them to comment at a public meeting, by mail, phone or e-mail. More information about commenting will be available when the draft EIS is released. All comments received will be addressed in the final EIS and will help us make a decision on the project next year.

**For More Information**

If you have any questions, please call me toll-free at 1-800-282-3713; at my direct number, (503) 230-5525; or send an e-mail to [lcdriessen@bpa.gov](mailto:lcdriessen@bpa.gov). Information on the project will be posted on BPA's web site at [www.efw.bpa.gov](http://www.efw.bpa.gov) under *environmental planning/analysis*.

Thank you for your interest in this project.

Sincerely,



Lou Driessen,  
Project Manager

Enclosure: Map





**Department of Energy**

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

TRANSMISSION BUSINESS LINE

February 8, 2002

In reply refer to: TNN-TPP-3

**To: People Interested in the Schultz - Hanford Area Transmission Line Project**

We would like to hear from you on Bonneville Power Administration's (BPA) proposal to construct a 500-kilovolt (kV) transmission line from BPA's Schultz Substation to a new or existing substation near the U.S. Department of Energy's Hanford Reservation.

During the scoping process for this project, you indicated whether you wished to receive a copy of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) or just the Summary. Based on your response to us, please find a copy of the DEIS enclosed for your review and comment, or the Summary enclosed for your information.

**How to Comment:** Choose the way you would like to comment: Write a letter to BPA, Communications - KC-7, P.O. Box 12999, Portland, Oregon 97212; call BPA's toll-free comment line at 1-800-622-4519, and leave a message; come to the public meetings identified below; or send an e-mail to [comment@bpa.gov](mailto:comment@bpa.gov). Comments will be accepted through March 25, 2002.

**Public Meetings:** BPA will hold three public meetings on the DEIS. You are invited to attend these open house meetings and comment on the DEIS. The meetings will be held:

<b>February 26, 2002</b> 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Hal Holmes Community Center -- West Room 201 Ruby Street Ellensburg	<b>February 27, 2002</b> 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Sage Brush Senior Center 441 Desert Aire Drive Desert Aire	<b>February 28, 2002</b> 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Richland Days Inn 615 Jadwin Avenue Richland
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We do not plan to give a formal presentation at the meetings, so please stop by anytime between 4:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. Several members of the project team will be available to answer questions on the DEIS and take your comments. A BPA staff person will be able to talk to people in Spanish, if necessary.

**For More Information:** If you have any questions, please call me toll-free at 1-800-282-3713; at my direct number, (360) 619-6327; or send an e-mail to [ledriessen@bpa.gov](mailto:ledriessen@bpa.gov). Thank you for your interest in this project.

Sincerely,

*/s/ Nancy Weintraub for 1-31-2002*  
Lou Driessen  
Project Manager

En Español →



## Department of Energy

Bonneville Power Administration  
P.O. Box 61409  
Vancouver, WA 98666-1409

TRANSMISSION BUSINESS LINE

April 15, 2002

In reply refer to: TNP-TPP-3; (Schultz-Hanford)

**To: People Interested in the Schultz-Hanford Area Transmission Line Project**

In February 2002, Bonneville Power Administration wrote to tell you about the availability of a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on the Schultz-Hanford Area Transmission Line Project. We asked for your comments on the Draft EIS and held three public meetings in central Washington. Thank you for taking the time to tell us your ideas.

This letter provides a project update, briefly summarizes the public comments, and describes our next steps.

### **Project Update**

BPA still proposes to build a 500-kV transmission line in central Washington. The preferred alternative would connect from BPA's Schultz Substation to a new substation called Wautoma, which is located southwest of the U.S. Department of Energy's Hanford Reservation (Hanford). This new 500-kV line would increase transmission capacity north of Hanford and allow additional power to move through this area. The preferred route would proceed mostly around the Yakima Training Center and would be on private lands from Vantage to the Wautoma Substation. The preferred route would utilize about eight miles of double-circuit structures through the irrigated areas between Vantage and the Columbia River Crossing.

### **Public Comments**

In February and March, BPA received comments on the proposed transmission line alternatives. Many of these comments were from public meetings held in Ellensburg, Desert Aire, and Richland. We also received comments by phone, mail, and e-mail.

The comments focused on:

- Concerns about a potential transmission line re-route around tribal allotment land
- A desire to use double-circuit structures for more of the preferred transmission line route
- Concerns about the preferred alternative crossing the Hanford Monument and affecting sensitive habitat
- Questions about maps in the Draft EIS and Executive Summary

**Next Steps**

BPA will continue to conduct environmental studies in the project area. Cultural, plant, and wildlife resource surveys will continue through the spring and summer. BPA is in the process of surveying and designing the preferred plan. Tower sites are being delineated and access roads to those tower sites are being sited. BPA will also be talking to land owners for purchasing of rights across their property.

We will read and respond to all comments submitted during the comment period. A Final EIS is expected to be published by winter 2002 (if you received the Draft EIS, you will receive a Final EIS unless you tell us you do not want a copy). If you did not receive the Draft EIS and would like a Final EIS, please call 1-800-622-4519 or e-mail [comment@bpa.gov](mailto:comment@bpa.gov), and you will receive the document when it is available. All your comments and our responses will be published in the Final EIS. Also, where appropriate, the Final EIS will be updated with any changes to the proposal or analysis as a result of comments or field studies.

Once we have completed the Final EIS, BPA will issue a Record of Decision outlining whether and how we will proceed with the project. If we decide to proceed, construction would likely begin in spring 2003.

**For More Information**

If you have any questions, please call me toll-free at 1-800-282-3713; at my direct number, (360) 619-6327; or send an e-mail to [lcdriessen@bpa.gov](mailto:lcdriessen@bpa.gov). Thank you for your interest in this project.

Sincerely,

/s/ Nancy Wittpenn 4-15-2002

Lou Driessen  
Project Manager

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