
Chapter 4

Responses to Comments

This chapter presents comments received on the draft EIS, as well as Bonneville's responses to these comments.

Bonneville catalogued a total of about 350 comments. Most were submitted in writing by letter and at three public meetings. Telephone calls and e-mail messages to Bonneville also generated a few comments. Comments were received from Federal, state, and local agencies, as well as Tribes, private utilities, and private citizens living along the proposed line route.

Comments were made on Chapters 1 through 4 and on Appendix F. Comments on Chapter 1, Purpose of and Need for Action, focused largely on capacity issues and power need projections. Chapter 2, Proposed Action and Alternatives, attracted comments primarily on specific project alternatives and cost/budget issues. Two-hundred four (204) comments were made in the following areas of Chapter 3, Affected Environment, Environmental Consequences, and Mitigation: cultural resources (22%); land use (22%); streams, rivers, and fish (13%); vegetation (12%); wildlife (10%); public health and safety (6%); socioeconomics, public services, and utilities (6%); wetlands and groundwater (4%); geology, soils, and seismicity (3%); visual resources (1%); cumulative impacts (1%); and noise (less than 1%). Chapter 4, Consultation, Review and Permit Requirements, received comments related mainly to access and shoreline permit requirements, and Appendix F, Living and Working Safely Around High-Voltage Power Lines received one comment.

Comments are organized by chapter/section in accordance with the outline from the draft EIS. The following abbreviations have been used to identify the source of each comment:

HCC	Comments made at the April 8, 2002 public meeting at Hermiston Community Center, Hermiston, Oregon
PS	Comments made at the April 9, 2002 public meeting at Paterson School, Paterson, Washington
RS	Comments made at the April 10, 2002 public meeting at Roosevelt School, Roosevelt, Washington
E-M	Comments sent via e-mail

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PH Comments made via telephone

LTR Comments made via letters to Bonneville

Comments were designated with an identifying number based on the order in which the letter, e-mail, or other item of correspondence, etc. was received. The letters, e-mails, phone call logs, and meeting summaries that contain comments are copied in whole in Chapter 5 of this abbreviated final EIS.

A number of letters and e-mails regarding the Furman Ranch were received after the comment period. Bonneville was not able to provide written responses to the comments in these letters due to the public comment period timing, but many of the letters are copied in Chapter 5 and the comments will be taken into consideration in the decision-making process.

Purpose & Need (Chapter 1)

Need for Action

Comment: *What will the capacity of the line be? [HCC]*

Response: The proposed new transmission line conductor would be a triple bundle Deschutes; at 100 degrees C, it would be rated at 4,560 amps. Depending on the operational variables, the line would have a capacity between 1,400 and 2,300 MW.

Comment: *How much will Newport use? [HCC]*

Response: A long-term, point-to-point Transmission Service Agreement would be negotiated between Bonneville and Newport Northwest, LLC for the Wallula Power Project. Wallula's proposed reserve capacity would be for about 50% of the capacity of the line.

Comment: *Last guy on the system is the first one off if generation exceeds capacity of line. [HCC]*

Response: Each Transmission Service Agreement is different. If generation exceeds capacity, the generation that would be taken off the line would depend on the written agreement (firm, non-firm, etc.).

Comment: *Is the construction of this line contingent on signing up enough customers? [PS]*