# 2.0 PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES

A description of the action proposed by Plymouth Energy, L.L.C. (Plymouth Energy), alternatives to that action, and the No Action Alternative are described in this section. The Proposed Action (also referred to herein as the proposed project) consists of:

- The proposed Plymouth Generating Facility (PGF) power plant and appurtenant facilities (gas pipeline, water supply, and wastewater disposal)
- An interconnection to Bonneville Power Administration's (BPA's) 500-kV transmission line, located within the John Day-McNary transmission right-of-way corridor
- Construction and operation (permanent) access via extension of an existing road intersecting State Route (SR) 14

Alternatives to the Proposed Action include:

- Interconnection to BPA's 230-kV line, also located in the John Day-McNary right-of-way corridor
- Interconnection to BPA's McNary Substation via upgrade of an existing Benton Public Utility District (PUD) transmission line
- Alternate construction and operations access roads via the western portion of Christy Road

## 2.1 NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE

Under the No Action Alternative, the proposed project would not be built. The State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) require analysis of the No Action Alternative in an EIS to evaluate the consequences of the Proposed Action not occurring. In the case of the proposed PGF and BPA transmission interconnection, the No Action Alternative is defined as the following:

- The PGF would not be constructed and operated. Thus, the electrical output of the plant (up to 2.6 million megawatt hours (MWh) of energy per year) would not be available to the electrical grid for distribution to energy end users in the Pacific Northwest and elsewhere. The No Action Alternative would not remove the need for power production and could potentially transfer the impact to another site.
- The transmission interconnection to the BPA regional grid would not be completed. Without a transmission interconnection to the BPA system, the PGF would not be able to deliver energy it generates to energy end-users or would need to interconnect to a regional grid other than the BPA transmission system. One other power transmission system is within proximity to the proposed plant site. This system is owned and operated by the Benton PUD. Currently, neither of these transmission owners/operators have made transmission interconnection and capacity available to the PGF.

- The plant site would likely continue in its present agricultural use, which is orchard crops. No reduction in water use, as compared to water use under the Proposed Action, would likely occur under the No Action Alternative. Noise and traffic effects anticipated to occur during construction and operation of the PGF would not occur.

## 2.2 PROPOSED ACTION

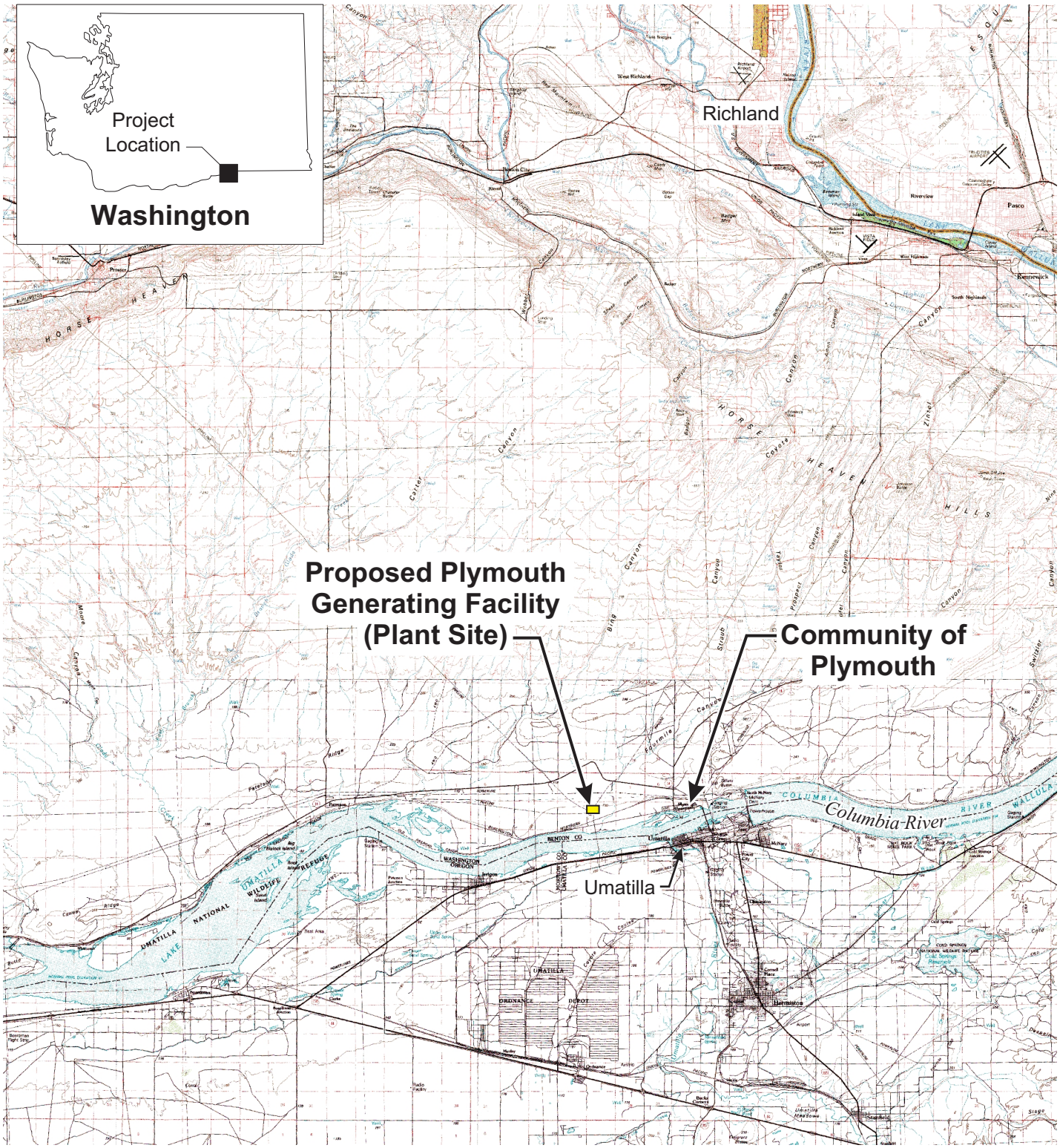
### 2.2.1 PROJECT LOCATION

The proposed PGF project would be constructed on a 44.5-acre site (plant site) located 2 miles west of the rural community of Plymouth in Benton County, Washington, which is located approximately 22 miles south of Kennewick, Washington, on the Columbia River. The plant site is approximately 5 miles west of the McNary Dam. The project location within the state of Washington is shown in Figure 2-1. Access to the plant site would be via Interstate 82 (I-82) to SR 14 and then via Plymouth Industrial Road to the plant site. The plant site is located in an area of Benton County that is characterized primarily by agricultural activity and secondarily by energy facilities. The site was selected because of its proximity to the natural gas pipeline system (Williams Northwest pipeline), high-voltage electric transmission (BPA John Day-McNary transmission corridor), local availability of sufficient water resources, highway access (SR 14), and the absence of sensitive environmental resources (e.g., wetlands and critical habitats).

Figure 2-2 shows a simulated aerial view of the completed PGF project looking to the northwest. Figure 2-3 shows an aerial photograph of the plant site and surrounding properties. The plant site is wholly within the 532.5-acre Plymouth Farm property. Plymouth Farms, L.L.C. has purchased rights to the farm property, which includes the 44.5-acre PGF site. The farm property would be subdivided into two parcels. The 44.5-acre PGF site would be transferred to Plymouth Energy, with the balance remaining as Plymouth Farm. Plymouth Energy and Plymouth Farm are separate legal entities and operate independently. Also surrounding the farm and adjacent to the plant site on the southwest side is the Williams Northwest Gas Pipeline Company (Williams Co.) Plymouth compressor station. The compressor station is part of a regional gas transmission system and has four gas pipelines passing through it. The PGF power plant site property would be fenced, with access easements for roads, pipelines, and transmission lines across Plymouth Farm.

Access to the plant site is currently provided by an easement from Christy Road and through Plymouth Farm. Christy Road borders the farm on its southern side (see Figure 2-3). Access to the farm and plant site requires crossing the Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) railroad tracks at one of two railroad crossings in the immediate area. The western crossing is for Plymouth Farm's exclusive use. The eastern railroad crossing provides access to the Williams Co. compressor station and, by easement agreement, provides a shared access to the farm.

An access road to the PGF plant site for construction and operation of the power plant would be constructed as an extension of Plymouth Industrial Road, which intersects SR 14 approximately 1.8 miles west of I-82. The road currently serves the AgriNorthwest grain facility, located east of the plant site. The existing road would be relocated on AgriNorthwest's property and extended across Plymouth Farm to the plant site, as shown on Figure 2-3.




*SOURCE: USGS 1:100,000 topographic maps, Richland, Washington, 1978, and Hermiston, Washington-Oregon, 1984*

0 5 10

Scale in Miles

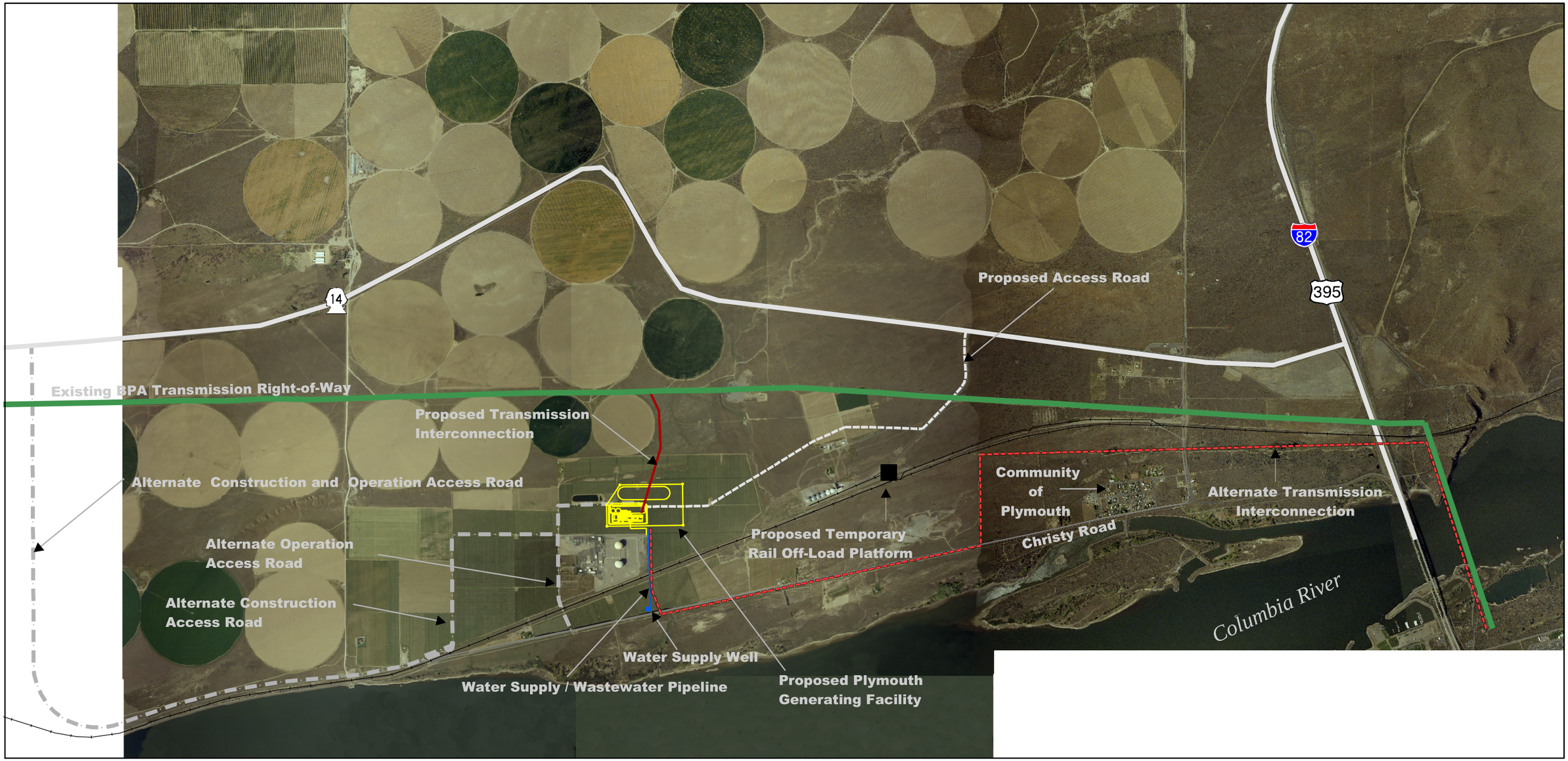
Figure 2-1

## Regional Project Location Map

Figure 2-1 (continued)

Figure 2-2
**Plymouth Generating Facility - Aerial View**

Figure 2-2 (continued)




**Legend**

- Proposed Rail Off-Load Platform
- BNSF Railway\Rail Sidings
- Proposed Plymouth Generating Facility
- BPA Transmission Right-of-Way
- Alternate Benton PUD/BPA Transmission Interconnection
- Proposed and Alternate 230 kV Transmission Interconnection
- Access Alternative
- Proposed Access Road
- Water Supply / Wastewater Pipeline

Figure 2-3

**Proposed Project and Infrastructure Alternatives**

Plymouth Generating Facility
Plymouth, Washington

URS

Figure 2-3 (continued)