



Department of Energy

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

October 6, 2000

In reply refer to: KEC-4

To: People Interested in the Kangley - Echo Lake Transmission Project

Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) has narrowed the options that will be studied for the Kangley-Echo Lake Transmission Project. This letter identifies the alternatives we will continue to study, summarizes reasons for dropping some options, and outlines our next steps.

Alternatives

BPA will analyze transmission routing Options 1, 2, 3, and 4a and 4b in an Environmental Impact Statement. (See enclosed map.) BPA will also consider a no action alternative. Options 5, 6, and 7 are being dropped from further consideration.

Background

Last spring BPA proposed Options 1, 2, and 3 as alternatives to meet the need for this project. At that time, we received comments suggesting we consider other options outside of the Cedar River Municipal Watershed, and that we limit the number of river crossings. In response, BPA developed four additional options (4, 5, 6, and 7) and reopened the public comment period. At a public meeting in Maple Valley on September 20 and in many written comments, area residents asked that BPA drop Options 5, 6, and 7 from further consideration because of their potential impacts.

Reasons

After gathering more information about the potential impacts and obtaining new cost information, BPA has determined that Options 5, 6 and 7 are not reasonable alternatives for meeting the purposes of this project for the following reasons:

- Options 5, 6, or 7 would cost more than double Options 1 or 2 partly because the new transmission line would be longer, would require more costly angles, and would require expensive connections to existing lines.
- Options 5, 6 or 7 would require removing many more homes and other structures, and would disrupt existing land uses more than the other options.
- Options 5, 6, or 7 would require added costs and time for property acquisitions, which would likely affect the overall project schedule. Since a new line is projected to be needed by 2002, a delay could affect the reliability of the area's transmission system.

Next Steps

We are beginning to prepare the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The Draft EIS will be available for public review and comment early next summer. Everyone on the mail list will receive notice when the study is available and when we will have public meetings to take comments on the Draft EIS.

Thank you for taking the time to share your comments with us.

Sincerely,

/s/Lou Driessen

Lou Driessen
Project Manager

Enclosure:
Map

bcc:

Official File - KEC (EQ-14)

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