



US Army Corps
of Engineers
Seattle District

Public Notice of Application for Permit

Regulatory Branch
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Seattle, Washington 98124-3755
Telephone (206) 764-3495
ATTN: Steve Manlow, Project Manager

Public Notice Date: January 4, 2013
Expiration Date: March 1, 2013
Reference: NWS-2011-346
Name: Bonneville Power Administration
(I-5 Corridor Reinforcement Project)

Interested parties are hereby notified that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) has received an application to perform work in waters of the United States as described below and shown on the enclosed drawings dated November 29, 2011. The Corps will review the work in accordance with Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (CWA) and Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act.

APPLICANT: Bonneville Power Administration
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AGENT: Bonneville Power Administration
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Portland, Oregon 97208-3621
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Telephone: (800) 282-3713

LOCATION: The project area is a 79.8-mile-long and up to 150-foot-wide corridor that extends from near Castle Rock, in Cowlitz County, Washington to near Troutdale, in Multnomah County, Oregon. The northern project terminus is the proposed Casey Road Substation, which would be built 2 miles west of Westside Highway and 6.5 miles northwest of Castle Rock. From the Casey Road substation, the project would extend south and east through Cowlitz and Clark Counties, and across the Columbia River near the city of Camas. The project would terminate on the south side of the Columbia River at the proposed Sundial Substation, which would be built on Port of Portland property along Sundial Road, approximately one mile north of Interstate 84, in Troutdale, Oregon. The project area also includes new and existing access road rights-of-way along the entire route, as shown on the attached project drawings. The project would cross the following major waterbodies, listed from north to south: Cowlitz River, Ostrander Creek, Baxter Creek, Coal Creek, Salmon Creek, Whittle Creek, Coweeman River, North Fork Goble Creek, Goble Creek, Kalama River, Dee Creek, Knowlton Creek, North Fork Lewis River, Cedar Creek, Chelatchie Creek, Colvin Creek, Houghton Creek, Husky Creek, John Creek, Johnson Creek, Pup Creek, Brush Creek, Big Tree Creek, East Fork Lewis River, Rock Creek, East Fork Little Washougal River, Little Washougal River, Washougal River, East Fork Lacamas Creek, Jones Creek, Camas Slough, and Columbia River. The project would also cross wetlands and unnamed tributaries that drain into these streams and rivers.

WORK: BPA is proposing to construct the I-5 Corridor Reinforcement Project, a 500-kilovolt (kV) lattice steel tower transmission line that would connect two new 500-kV substations near Castle Rock, Washington and Troutdale, Oregon. The transmission line corridor would be about 79.8 miles long and up to 150 feet wide. Under its preferred alternative, BPA proposes to permanently fill up to 21 acres of wetlands, convert up to 87 acres of forest and scrub-shrub wetlands to emergent wetlands, install or reconstruct up to 401 permanent culverted or bridged stream crossings, and install up to 46 temporary culverted or bridged stream crossings. At the Columbia River crossing, BPA would install a new transmission line tower and supporting base that would fill 0.01 acres of the Columbia River.

PROJECT PURPOSE AS STATED BY APPLICANT: The overall purpose of the project is to increase 500 kV transmission capacity in the southwest Washington/northwest Oregon area and allow BPA to provide for local load growth, maintain reliable power, and accommodate requests for long-term, firm transmission service.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Postcards announcing the availability of this Public Notice and project drawings will be distributed to the owners of property located within 300 feet of the proposed right-of-way. To access an electronic version of the project drawings, go to the Seattle District's web page at <http://www.nws.usace.army.mil/> and select "Regulatory Public Notices" under the "Open Public Comment Periods" heading. Public notices are listed in reverse chronological order. If you do not have internet access and would like a paper copy of this notice or project drawings, please contact us at (206) 764-3495. For additional information on this project, please visit Bonneville Power Administration's project webpage at www.bpa.gov/goto/i5.

The wetland and stream boundaries shown on the project drawings are approximate, and have not yet been verified by the Corps. A delineation of wetland boundaries and the ordinary high water mark (OHWM) of all waters of the U.S. will be completed and submitted to the Corps for verification, prior to a decision on this application.

MITIGATION: The applicant has submitted a mitigation strategy that will be used to guide development of a detailed mitigation plan proposal for this project. The applicant is considering a combination of the following mitigation options to compensate for likely project impacts to waters of the U.S., including wetlands: purchase credits from a mitigation bank, if available; purchase credits from an approved in-lieu fee program, if available; implement permittee-responsible mitigation using a watershed-based approach; implement permittee-responsible, on-site and in-kind mitigation; and, implementation of permittee responsible, off-site and/or out-of-kind mitigation. A final mitigation plan will be developed as project design advances and impact acreages are finalized.

ENDANGERED SPECIES: The Endangered Species Act (ESA) requires federal agencies to consult with the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and/or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) pursuant to Section 7 of ESA on all actions that may affect a species listed (or proposed for listing) under the ESA as threatened or endangered or any designated critical habitat. The Bonneville Power Administration, as the lead agency for ESA consultation, will consult with the NMFS and/or the USFWS as required under Section 7 of the ESA.

ESSENTIAL FISH HABITAT: The Bonneville Power Administration, as the lead agency for a determination regarding EFH, will consult with the National Marine Fisheries Services if necessary.

CULTURAL RESOURCES: The Bonneville Power Administration, as the lead agency for determining compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, will consult with the State Historic Preservation Officer and Native American Tribes as appropriate.

PUBLIC HEARING: Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider this application. Requests for public hearings shall state, with particularity, the reasons for holding a public hearing.

EVALUATION: The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impacts, including cumulative impacts, of the proposed activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefits, which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal, must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the proposal will be considered, including the cumulative effects thereof; among those are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, historic properties, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, floodplain values, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, mineral needs, considerations of property ownership, and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people.

The Corps is soliciting comments from the public; Native American Nations or tribal governments; Federal, State, and local agencies and officials; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this activity. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps to determine whether to issue, modify, condition or deny a permit for the work. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and the other public interest factors listed above. Comments are used in the preparation of National Environmental Policy Act documents and also to help determine the need for a public hearing and/or the overall public interest of the activity.

The described discharge will be evaluated for compliance with guidelines promulgated by the Environmental Protection Agency under authority of Section 404(b)(1) of the CWA. These guidelines require an alternatives analysis for any proposed discharge of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States.

SOURCE OF FILL MATERIAL: The applicant has not yet identified the source of the fill material. Should a permit be issued, the Corps will evaluate the fill material source prior to the start of construction.

COMMENT AND REVIEW PERIOD: Conventional mail or e-mail comments on this public notice will be accepted and made part of the record and will be considered in determining whether it would be in the public interest to authorize this proposal. In order to be accepted, e-mail comments must originate from the author's e-mail account and must include on the subject line of the e-mail message the permit applicant's name and reference number as shown below. All e-mail comments should be sent to Steven.W.Manlow@usace.army.mil. Conventional mail comments should be sent U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Regulatory Branch, Post Office Box 3755, Seattle, Washington, 98124-3755. Either conventional mail or e-mail comments must include the permit applicant's name and reference number, as shown below, and the commentator's name, address, and phone number. All comments received will become part of the administrative record and are subject to public release under the Freedom of Information Act, including any personally identifiable information such as names, phone numbers, and addresses. All comments, whether conventional mail or e-mail must reach this office no later than the expiration date of this public notice to ensure consideration.

Please include the following name and reference number: Bonneville Power Administration, NWS-2011-346

See Corps website at <http://www.nws.usace.army.mil/> and select "Regulatory Public Notices" under the "Open Public Comment Periods" heading to view proposed project drawings: 34 pages