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FOR YOUR INFORMATION & INVOLVEMENT

MAY 1998

SOUTH OREGON COAST REINFORCEMENT

Coos Bay, OR

The Bonneville Power Administration is proposing to build a transmission line to reinforce electrical service to the southern coast of Oregon. This *fyi* outlines the proposal, tells how you can learn more, and how you can share your ideas and opinions.

WHY A LINE IS NEEDED

The project will reinforce Oregon's south coast area and provide the necessary transmission for Nucor Corporation to build a new steel mill in the Coos Bay/North Bend area. The proposed plant, which would use mostly recycled scrap metal,

would produce rolled steel products. The plant would require a large amount of electrical power to run the furnace used in its steel-making process.

In addition to the potential steel mill, electrical loads in the south Oregon coast area are expected to continue to grow.

The existing transmission system to the Coos Bay area does not have the capacity to serve this potential load and the area's expected load growth not associated with the steel plant. The project will look at providing a transmission path for meeting this need. State utility regulations determine

SCHEDULE

Open houses

Open houses

Last day to comment

Prepare Draft EIS

Draft EIS to public for comment

Final EIS distributed

Decision

April 14, 15, 16, 1998 (Completed)

June 1 and 2, 1998

June 15, 1998

May - August 1998

August 1998

March 1999

April 1999

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which entity will provide the power to the steel mill.

BPA has been asked to begin developing solutions and the environmental studies needed to assess the impacts of the solutions. This process needs to be started now to meet the anticipated schedule for building the plant.

BPA has begun initial information gathering. If Nucor decides not to build the steel mill, we will stop our work on this proposed project and mail you notice that the environmental studies have been suspended. BPA would continue to study the issue of upgrading the transmission system to the southern Oregon coast for the anticipated growth not associated with the steel plant.

THE PROPOSED PROJECT

2 The proposed project has several parts: (1) a 500-kV transmission line; (2) a new BPA substation in the North Bend area; (3) construction of the Nucor plant; (4) a new 230-kV transmission line that would connect the new BPA substation to PacifiCorp's Isthmus Substation south of Coos Bay; and (5) two new 230-kV lines connecting the new BPA substation to a new substation at the plant site.

POTENTIAL ROUTES — 500-kV LINE

BPA proposes to build a 500-kV transmission line and new substation to reinforce electrical service to the Coos Bay area. Potential routes for a new line have been developed with PacifiCorp and federal, state, and local agencies.

Next to Existing Lines — Three routes that parallel existing transmission lines are being looked at. (See map.) The Florence route would follow a BPA line that begins at BPA's Alvey Sub-

BACKGROUND

BPA provides bulk electric transmission service to many customers in the south Oregon coast area: Central Lincoln PUD, City of Bandon, Coos-Curry Electric Co-op, Douglas Electric Co-op, and PacifiCorp. We plan, operate, and maintain the transmission system to provide reliable electric service to our customers.

Growth in the area's electrical demands will require additional transmission capacity in the early 2000's. Integrating Nucor Corporation's proposed steel mill requires this added capacity now.

station near Goshen, west to near Florence, then would follow a BPA line south through Reedsport to a proposed new substation site in the hills above Glasgow. The Reston route would follow a BPA line from Alvey Substation south to near Roseburg, then west next to a BPA line through Fairview, and then north to the proposed substation site. The Dixonville route would begin at the BPA/PacifiCorp Dixonville Substation and follow PacifiCorp's line west to BPA's Reston Substation, then west following BPA's line through Fairview, then north to the proposed substation site.

New Right-of-Way — Two additional routes would parallel existing lines for part of the route, but would then require new right-of-way. The Drain route would follow a BPA line from Alvey Substation southwest to near Drain. From near Drain, new right-of-way would head southwest, cross the Umpqua River, then turn west and travel to the proposed substation site. The North Umpqua route also starts at Alvey Substation and again follows the BPA line to just south of Creswell, then turns southwest on new right-of-way. This corridor heads

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SOUTH OREGON COAST REINFORCEMENT PROJECT

Legend

- BPA Facility
- PP&L Facility
- Proposed ARC Furnace Site
- - - County Boundary
- Primary Road
- BPA Transmission Line
- PP&L Transmission Line
- ◆◆◆ Proposed 230-kV
- ◆◆◆ Potential Options For New 500-kV Route

west to near Elkton, crosses the Umpqua River, and ends at the substation site. At this time, BPA believes the routes using some new right-of-way may be the preferred routes to study.

A new transmission line would be about 75 miles long and would require approximately 150 feet of new right-of-way width. A new substation would require about 5-7 acres.

BPA is also considering taking no action.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

BPA is preparing an Environmental Impact Statement that covers the entire project. BPA and the federal agencies potentially affected by the alternatives will work together to evaluate the potential impacts of project alternatives. This information will be a major part of the EIS. Each alternative will also be evaluated to see if the revenues it could generate would cover its costs.

The other federal agencies helping prepare the EIS are the Bureau of Land Management, the Forest Service, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

In the process of defining potential line routes and substation sites, BPA examines the impacts of new structures, right-of-way and access roads.

Your comments will help us determine what the EIS examines in detail. We've identified some possible issues:

- fish and wildlife, including threatened and endangered species, especially marbled murrelet, spotted owl, bald eagle, and cut-throat trout
- water quality
- erosion
- property values

- economic development
- loss of highly productive forest land
- land use, especially forest, agriculture, and urban areas
- views
- health effects
- historic and cultural resources
- Oregon Dunes Recreation Area

WHAT IS AN EIS

BPA, as a federal agency, must study the environmental impacts, both adverse and beneficial, of a proposed project before it can proceed. This requirement is set out in the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969. The Act also invites public participation in deciding the scope of issues in an environmental study.

NEPA requires that significant environmental impacts of a proposed project be discussed in an Environmental Impact Statement. The EIS must include measures to avoid, reduce or compensate for adverse environmental impacts. A draft EIS is released for public review before a final EIS is completed and a decision regarding the proposed project is made.

NEPA helps public officials make decisions with a full awareness of the environmental consequences and the ability to take actions that protect, restore, and enhance the environment.

HOW TO GET INVOLVED

It is important to us that everyone who is interested or affected by this proposal can talk to us. We've designed a number of ways for you to receive information and participate. We need your help to identify alternatives, environmental re-

sources, and environmental issues to study in the Draft EIS.

You can comment to us by mail, e-mail, phone, fax, or at a public meeting. One way is no more important than another. Send comments, letters, additions to the mail list, and requests for more information to:

Communications Office

Bonneville Power Administration - AC-7
P.O. Box 12999, Portland, OR 97212
E-mail: comment@bpa.gov

If you would like to phone comments, call (503) 230-3478, or toll free, 1-800-622-4519.

Documents can be requested by calling toll-free 1-800-622-4520. If a machine answers, be sure to name this project and leave your complete mailing address.

PUBLIC MEETINGS

Three public meetings were held in April at Creswell, Elkton, and North Bend.

At the meetings, we were asked to look more closely at the route that parallels existing transmission lines from Dixonville to Coos Bay. That is why we have scheduled two additional meetings.

500-kV transmission line near Goshen, OR

- Monday, June 1 - 4 to 8 p.m.
Douglas High School
1381 Northwest Douglas
Winston, OR
- Tuesday, June 2 - 4 to 8 p.m.
Coquille Community Building
115 North Birch
Coquille, OR

The meetings will be informal open house meetings; come anytime between 4 and 8 p.m. Project materials will be available for review and you can talk with staff from BPA, the state of Oregon, Nucor Corporation, PacifiCorp, and the federal agencies working with us.

5

PROJECT PARTNERS

BPA works with many others in developing an EIS. For this project we are working closely with:

- U.S. Department of Interior, Bureau of Land Management
- U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- U.S. Department of Fish and Wildlife
- U.S. National Marine Fisheries Service
- State of Oregon, Economic Development Department
- Nucor Corporation
- PacifiCorp

FOR MORE INFORMATION

For information on the proposed BPA transmission lines and substation, contact:

Lou Driessen, Project Manager
Bonneville Power Administration - TNF
E-mail questions to: lcdriessen@bpa.gov
or call toll-free 1-800-282-3713

For information on the EIS or the environmental process, contact:

Ken Barnhart, Environmental Project Lead
Bonneville Power Administration - EC-4
E-mail questions to kabarnhart@bpa.gov
or call toll-free 1-800-282-3713

For information on the transmission line between the proposed BPA substation and PacifiCorp's existing Isthmus Substation, contact:

Bjorn S. Gullaksen
PacifiCorp
920 SW Sixth Av., Rm. 800 PSB
Portland, OR 97204
(503)464-6418
E-mail: bjorn.gullaksen@pacificorp.com

For information on the Nucor plant and lines connecting it to the new BPA substation:

Tim Harmon
Lane Powell
520 SW Yamhill
Portland, OR 97204
(503)778-2155
E-mail: harmont@lanepowell.com

For information on the state's role and overall economic benefits of the project:

Chris Claflin
Oregon Economic Development Department
125 Central, Suite 300
Coos Bay, OR 97420-2301
(541)267-4651
E-mail: chrisclaflin@state.or.us

Project maps will be available at the public meetings and at the following BLM offices and local libraries.

BLM Offices

Eugene, 2890 Chad Drive, 7:45 - 4:15 p.m.

North Bend, 1300 Airport Lane,
7:45 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Roseburg, 777 NW Garden Valley Blvd.,
8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Libraries

Coos Bay Public Library, 525 Anderson Avenue

Coquille Public Library, 105 North Birch St.

Cottage Grove, WA Woodard Memorial Library,
40 South 6th Street

Creswell Library, 195 South 2nd Street

Drain, Mildred Whipple Library, 205 West "A"

North Bend Public Library, 1800 Sherman Ave.

Reedsport Branch Library, 395 Winchester St.

Roseburg, Douglas County Library,
1409 NE Diamond Lake Blvd

Sutherlin, C. Giles Hunt Memorial Library,
210 E Central Street

Project information is also available electronically at www.efw.bpa.gov/Environment/POLICIES/NEPA/SOCR

Bonneville Power Administration
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