

Department of Energy

Bonneville Power Administration P.O. Box 61409 Vancouver, WA 98666-1409

TRANSMISSION SERVICES

May 21, 2025

In reply refer to: TEP-TPP-1

To: People interested in the South of Tri-Cities Reinforcement Project

Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) has prepared a draft environmental assessment (EA) for the proposed South of Tri-Cities Reinforcement Project. The EA describes the project and why it is needed, discusses the environmental impacts the project would create, and lists the mitigation measures that would lessen those impacts. This letter requests your comments on the EA, announces public meetings, and outlines the next steps for the project.

How to Comment: The EA can be viewed at the project website at www.bpa.gov/nepa/south-of-tricities. If you requested a hard copy, it is enclosed. If you would like to request a hard copy (about 100 pages), please call our toll-free line listed below.

Please send your comments on the EA by **June 21, 2025**, and reference "South of Tri-Cities Reinforcement Project." We will consider all comments submitted during the comment period and provide responses to substantive comments in the final EA. In addition, comments will be available on the project website. There are several ways to comment:

Mail: Bonneville Power Administration Toll-free: 800-622-4519

Public Affairs – DKE-7 **FAX:** 503-230-4019

P.O. Box 14428 Online: <u>publiccomments.bpa.gov/</u>

Portland, OR 97291-4428

Public Meeting: We have scheduled an informal, open-house style meeting to answer questions and accept comments on the EA. We do not plan to give a presentation, so you may come any time during the meeting.

June 4, 2025 6:00pm to 8:00pm Cottonwood Elementary School 16734 Cottonwood Creek Blvd. Kennewick, WA 99338 **Schedule:** The schedule for the EA process is as follows:

EA determination March 13, 2025
Draft EA available for public comment May 21, 2025
Public meeting June 4, 2025
Final EA Summer/Fall 2025
Finding of No Significant Impact (if warranted) Summer/Fall 2025
If decision to build, construction start (if warranted) Spring 2026

For More Information: If you have questions regarding the environmental process, please contact the Environmental Protection Specialist, Doug Corkran, toll-free at 800-622-4519, directly at 503-230-7646, or by e-mail at dfcorkran@bpa.gov.

If you have other questions or would like more project information, please call me at the toll-free number listed above, directly at 360-619-6643, or by e-mail at <u>amloran@bpa.gov</u>.

Thank you for your interest in this project.

Sincerely,

Amanda Williams Transmission Project Manager

Enclosures:

Draft EA (if requested) Comment Form Return Envelope