



**Department of Energy**  
Bonneville Power Administration  
P.O. Box 491  
Vancouver, WA 98666-1409



In reply refer to: TEP-TPP-1

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

Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) has finalized the environmental assessment (EA) for the South of Tri-Cities Reinforcement Project. Based on the final EA, BPA is issuing a finding of no significant impact (FONSI) and has made a decision to proceed with the project. This letter describes BPA's decision, the construction schedule, and how to obtain additional information.

**Background:** BPA will construct a new 500/115kV substation and 18-mile-long 115-kV transmission line in Benton County, Washington. The Project would increase the long-term electrical capacity of the transmission system in the Tri-Cities area to address reliability concerns and the anticipated increased electricity demand.

BPA prepared an EA to help the agency determine if the project would cause significant impacts that would warrant preparing an environmental impact statement. BPA released the draft EA for public review and comment in June 2025 and received 75 comments. The final EA provides responses to those comments and minor revisions to the EA. Based on the EA analysis, including mitigation measures to help lessen impacts, BPA has found that the project will not cause any significant impacts and, therefore, an environmental impact statement will not be prepared.

**Decision:** BPA decided to construct the South of Tri-Cities Reinforcement Project with the Railroad Option. Project construction is expected to begin in early 2026 and continue through 2028, with breaks in construction during seasonal restrictions.

**Copies Available:** The final EA, FONSI, and mitigation action plan are available on BPA's website at [www.bpa.gov/nepa/south-of-tri-cities](http://www.bpa.gov/nepa/south-of-tri-cities). If you previously requested a copy of the documents, they are enclosed. If you would like to obtain paper copies of any of these documents, please call our toll-free document request line at 1-800-622-4520; leave a request naming this project and giving your name and complete mailing address.

**For More Information:** If you have questions regarding the environmental review process, please contact the Environmental Protection Specialist, Douglas Corkran toll-free at 800-622-4519, directly at 503-230-7646, or by e-mail at [dfcorkran@bpa.gov](mailto: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 360-619-6230, or by e-mail at [mdnelson@bpa.gov](mailto:mdnelson@bpa.gov).

Thank you for your interest in our work.

Sincerely,

Meadow Nelson  
Transmission Project Manager

**Enclosures (if requested):**  
Final EA  
FONSI/Mitigation Action Plan