

DOE 2012 National Electric Transmission Congestion Study Workshop

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Northwest Congestion

2006 DOE Congestion Study identified:

- “Seattle to Portland” as a Congestion area of Concern
- Montana-Wyoming as a Conditional Congestion Area due to potential for coal and wind resource development
- Projects are being pursued to relieve Seattle to Portland congestion (Castle Rock-Troutdale line) and Montana-NW congestion (Colstrip Upgrades)



Northwest Congestion

2011 WECC Ten Year Regional
Transmission Plan identified congestion on:

- Montana to NW Path
- Pacific Ties (COI and PDCI)

Studies included Castle Rock-Troutdale project
and potential wind development in Montana and
Northwest



ColumbiaGrid Perspective

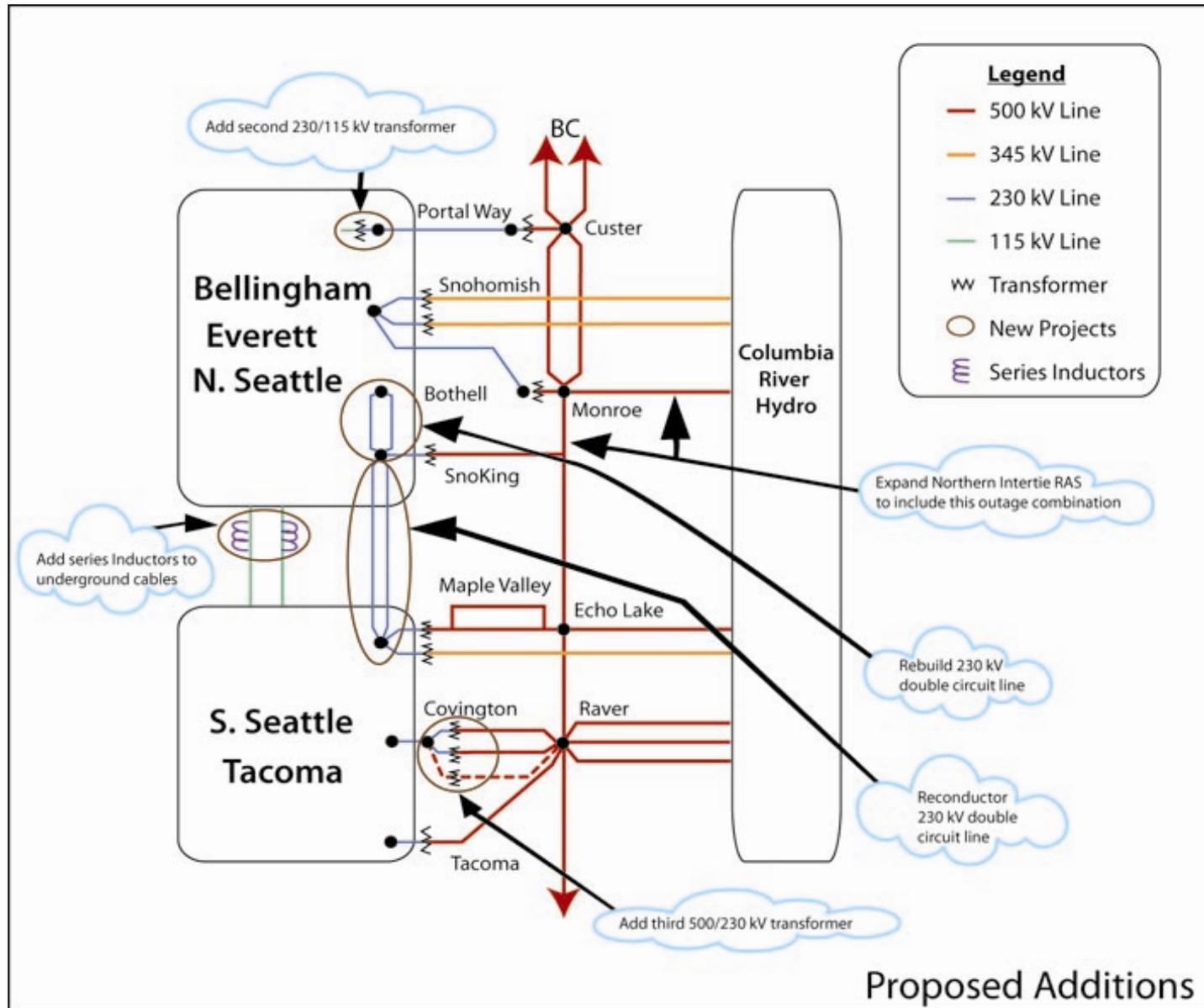
- ColumbiaGrid members energized \$400 million in projects in 2011 and have committed projects totaling over \$2 billion.
- Some congestion is economical
- Not all congestion shows up in prod/cost models
 - Puget Sound Area Expansion Plan



Puget Sound Congestion

- Congestion in Puget Sound area limits transfers to and from Canada
- Congestion occurs mostly when facilities are out of service – does not show up in Production/cost studies
- Puget Sound Expansion plan was developed to provide support during these outages
- Lower voltage improvements were more effective than mega-project

Puget Sound Area Study Team Proposed Plan





Questions?