

NEWS Release

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

28910 Hwy 20 West • Hines, Oregon 97738 • <http://www.blm.gov/or/districts/burns>
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PUBLIC MEETINGS SET TO DISCUSS PROPOSED TRANSMISSION LINE IN THE NORTH STEENS MOUNTAIN AREA

HINES, Oregon – Four public scoping meetings to discuss the proposed construction of a transmission line in the north Steens Mountain area are set for the end of July in Diamond, Frenchglen, Burns, and Bend, Oregon. The proposed 29-mile long transmission line would cross Bureau of Land Management (BLM), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Malheur National Wildlife Refuge and private lands.

Echanis, LLC recently applied for a right-of-way with the BLM to construct the 230 kilovolt (kV) line that would ultimately be used to convey power generated from wind farms proposed for development by parent-company Columbia Energy Partners, LLC on the north side of Steens Mountain.

Those interested in the transmission line development are encouraged to participate in the public scoping process. The open-house meetings will allow attendants to see maps of the proposed transmission line location, suggest alternatives and discuss issues with BLM and Malheur National Wildlife Refuge resource specialists and project proponents from Echanis, LLC. Meetings are set for:

- Tuesday, July 21, 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. at the Diamond School in Diamond, Oregon,
- Tuesday, July 21, 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at the Frenchglen School in Frenchglen, Oregon
- Wednesday, July 22, 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at the Harney County Community Center in Burns, Oregon
- Thursday, July 23, 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. at the Phoenix Inn in Bend, Oregon

During the meetings, formal comments can be submitted in writing. Comments may also be submitted by mail to:

North Steens Transmission Line Project Lead, Burns District BLM
28910 Highway 20 West
Hines, OR 97738

by fax to (541) 573-4411; or by email to: OR_Burns_NS_Transmission_Line_EIS@blm.gov

Public scoping comments will be used to focus the environmental analysis of the proposed transmission line construction and will be accepted for 30 days after the project's official Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement is printed in the Federal Register. Publication of the Notice of Intent is anticipated sometime within the next two weeks.

For more information, or to have your name added to the North Steens Transmission Line Project mailing list, please call: (541) 573-4443.

About the BLM: The BLM manages more land – 256 million acres – than any other Federal agency. This land, known as the National System of Public Lands, is primarily located in 12 Western states, including Alaska. The Bureau, with a budget of about \$1 billion, also administers 700 million acres of sub-surface mineral estate throughout the nation. The BLM's multiple-use mission is to sustain the health and productivity of the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations. The Bureau accomplishes this by managing such activities as outdoor recreation, livestock grazing, mineral development, and energy production, and by conserving natural, historical, cultural, and other resources on public lands.

