

NEWS Release BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

28910 Hwy 20 West • Hines, Oregon 97738 • <http://www.blm.gov/or/districts/burns>
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BLM
Burns District Office

Public Comment Period Opens for Proposed North Steens Power Line

Hines, Ore. – The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Burns District released the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Proposed North Steens Transmission Line Project (Project). The Project is a 29-mile, 230-kilovolt (kV) transmission line that would convey power generated from wind farms proposed for development on private land on the north side of Steens Mountain. The transmission line would cross BLM and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service land, and private lands.

The Draft EIS includes analysis of the proposed route, two deviations of the proposed route, a northern route, a 115kV construction alternative, and a “No Action” alternative. Because the wind farm developments and transmission line on private land are connected actions under National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the DEIS also analyzes the effects of these proposed facilities.

A 45-day public comment period is scheduled to begin July 16 and end August 30, 2010. Public meetings in Burns and Bend, Oregon, will be scheduled during the comment period. The BLM will announce these meetings and any other public involvement activities at least 15 days in advance through the BLM Web site, public notices, media releases, and/or mailings. Formal written comments can be delivered or mailed to the Burns Office, or submitted by email to OR_Burns_NS_Transmission_Line_EIS@blm.gov. Entire comments – including personal identifying information – may be published as part of the EIS and Decision process.

Compact disks containing the Draft EIS are available at the BLM Burns District Office. The document is also available online at: www.blm.gov/or/districts/burns/plans/index.php

Copies of the Draft EIS are available for review at the Burns District Office and at the Harney County, Bend Public and Multnomah County libraries during regular business hours. The Final North Steens Transmission Line EIS is scheduled for completion in November 2010. For further information about the Draft EIS or to have your name added to the project mailing list, contact North Steens Transmission Line Project Lead at (541) 573-4400.

Mail or deliver to:

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

Fax:

(541) 573-4411
Attention North Steens
Transmission Line Project Lead

The BLM manages more land – 245 million surface 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.

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