

NEWS Release BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

1103 N Fancher - Spokane Valley, Washington 99212 - www.blm.gov/or/districts/spokane

For release: February 4, 2015

Contact: Stephen Baker (503) 808-6306

Public Comment Sought on Supplemental Draft EIS for the Vantage to Pomona Heights Transmission Line Project

Spokane, Washington: The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) seeks public comment on the Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Vantage to Pomona Heights Transmission Line Project in Grant, Kittitas, Benton, and Yakima Counties, Washington. The public comment period ends February 17, 2015.

Pacific Power is proposing a new 230-kilovolt transmission line to provide more reliable power to the Yakima region. The new line would run from Pacific Power's existing Pomona Heights Substation east of Selah, Washington, in Yakima County to the Bonneville Power Administration's existing Vantage Substation east of Wanapum Dam in Grant County, Washington.

The Supplemental Draft EIS focuses analysis on a new route that is located largely on the Army's Yakima Training Center and is parallel and mostly north of an existing Pacific Power transmission line. The new route was identified as a result of comments received on the January 2013 Draft EIS. The new route is approximately 41 miles in length.

The BLM is the lead federal agency for the National Environmental Policy Act review process for the project. Cooperating Agencies that assisted in the preparation of the Supplemental Draft EIS are Yakima Training Center, Bureau of Reclamation, Bonneville Power Administration, Federal Highway Administration, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington Department of Natural Resources, Washington Department of Transportation, and Kittitas and Yakima Counties.

Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) and Yakima County are the co-leads for the Washington State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA). WSDOT will serve as the nominal lead for SEPA and have the final responsibility for completion of all SEPA procedures and documentation. The BLM, WSDOT, and Yakima County will work to synchronize the state and federal environmental review process. The SDEIS will be used to move in a unified direction for environmental review and analysis for both SEPA and NEPA. This unification will also be carried into the FEIS.

Public Review Period: The public has until February 17, 2015, to review and comment on the Supplemental Draft EIS. The 45-day public comment period began on January 2, 2015, and will end on February 17, 2015. The Supplemental Draft EIS is available for

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review online at: <http://www.blm.gov/or/districts/spokane/plans/vph230.php>. The January 2013 Draft EIS is also available online.

Ways to Submit Comments: Comments can be submitted in any of the following ways:

- Online at: <http://www.blm.gov/or/districts/spokane/plans/vph230.php>.
- By email to: blm_or_vantage_pomona@blm.gov (please specify Vantage to Pomona Heights Supplemental Draft EIS in the subject line).
- By mail to: Spokane District, Records Manager, 1103 North Fancher Road, Spokane, Washington, 99212, Attn: Vantage to Pomona Heights Supplemental Draft EIS.
- By fax: (509) 536-1275, Attn: Vantage to Pomona Heights Supplemental Draft EIS Project Manager.
- Written comments may also be hand delivered to the BLM Wenatchee Field Office, 915 Walla Walla Avenue, Wenatchee, Washington 98801-1521, between 8:00 am and 4:00 pm Monday through Friday, excluding Federal holidays.

Following the 45-day public comment period, the BLM will analyze the comments and prepare a Final EIS, targeted for release late 2015.

- BLM -

The BLM manages more than 245 million acres of public land, the most of any Federal agency. This land, known as the National System of Public Lands, is primarily located in 12 Western states, including Alaska. The BLM also administers 700 million acres of sub-surface mineral estate throughout the nation. The BLM's multiple-use mission is to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations.

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