



V2P Transmission Line Q&As

Length

The NNR Alternative is 40.5 miles in length and is located primarily on Federal land.

Public

Lands

In January 2017, BLM announced the availability of the Record of Decision authorizing issuance of a right-of-way grant to Pacific Power to construct, operate, and maintain an electric transmission line on BLM-managed public land

Energy

The line would eliminate the redistributed loads and the overloading of the adjacent transmission system, and would ensure continued reliable and efficient service to the Yakima Valley.

How long will the transmission line be?

The NNR Alternative is 40.5 miles in length and is located primarily on Federal land. The route parallels Pacific Power's existing Pomona-Wanapum 230 kV transmission line for the majority of its length.

Why was the BLM's role in this process?

As the lead Federal agency in the development of the EIS, the BLM analyzed the effects of the proposed transmission line on public health and safety; cultural resources and traditional cultural properties; agricultural operations and property values; military training operation; and wildlife.

In January 2017, BLM announced the availability of the Record of Decision (ROD) authorizing issuance of a right-of-way (ROW) grant to Pacific Power to construct, operate, and maintain an electric transmission line on BLM-managed public land for the Vantage to Pomona Heights 230 kilovolt (kV) Transmission Line Project

When did this project start?

In October 2008, Pacific Power filed separate right-of-way (ROW) applications for transportation and utility systems and facilities on Federal lands, with the U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and U.S. Department of the Army (Army) Joint Base Lewis-McChord Yakima Training Center (JBLM YTC) to request grants of ROW across federal lands for a transmission line project from Pacific Power's Pomona Heights Substation to the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) Vantage Substation. Updated applications were submitted to JBLM YTC in November 2013 and June 2016 for the New Northern Route (NNR) Alternative.

In April 2011, Pacific Power filed a ROW application with the Bureau of Reclamation Management (Reclamation) to request a grant of ROW across Reclamation lands and an updated application was submitted in June 2016. JBLM YTC and Reclamation will issue decision documents in response to Pacific Power's applications for the land they administer.

What are the benefits of the V2P project?

In 2007, Pacific Power participated in a regional transmission system planning study to address reliability issues within the Mid-Columbia transmission system. To address these problems, the Mid-Columbia utilities including BPA, Grant County Public Utility District (PUD), Chelan County PUD, PacifiCorp, and Puget Sound Energy worked together with the Northwest Power Pool



(NWPP) – Northwest Transmission Assessment Committee (NTAC) to perform a detailed screening of the transmission system exposure to overloading (NTAC 2007). As a result of the study, system reinforcement projects or upgrades were identified to address system conditions and overloading. The proposed Vantage to Pomona Heights 230 kV Transmission Line Project (Project) was one of the reinforcement projects that were identified for Grant, Benton, and Yakima counties to ensure reliability of the transmission network in the Mid-Columbia area.

The transmission system planning studies determined that an outage of the Pomona-Wanapum 230 kV transmission line would result in the overload of three Pacific Power high voltage transmission lines and two BPA high voltage transmission lines, potentially causing service interruptions in the Yakima Valley. The regional planning study showed that the addition of a Vantage to Pomona Heights 230 kV transmission line would eliminate the redistributed loads and the overloading of the adjacent transmission system, and would ensure continued reliable and efficient service to the Yakima Valley.

How will farmlands be impacted?

The BLM and the Cooperating Agencies have considered impacts on irrigated farmland, including those units referred to in the comment. Typically, structures can be placed as to avoid the irrigation systems. During the engineering and design phase of this project, Pacific Power will work with agencies and private land owners to spot structures and design the structure locations and route to minimize impacts to resources.

Who was involved in this project?

The BLM was the lead federal agency for the National Environmental Policy Act review process for the project. Cooperating agencies that assisted in the preparation of the planning documents were 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 were the co-leads for the Washington State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA). The BLM, WSDOT, and Yakima County worked to synchronize the state and federal environmental review processes.