



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 10

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OFFICE OF
ECOSYSTEMS,
TRIBAL AND PUBLIC
AFFAIRS

March 11, 2016

Nancy Wittpenn
I-5 Corridor Reinforcement Project
Bonneville Power Administration
P.O. Box 9250
Portland, Oregon 97207

Dear Ms. Wittpenn:

In accordance with our responsibilities under Section 309 of the Clean Air Act and the National Environmental Policy Act, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has reviewed the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) proposed I-5 Corridor Reinforcement Project (EPA Project Number: 09-059-BPA).

The FEIS analyzes the potential environmental impacts associated with building a 500-kilovolt lattice-steel-tower transmission line that would run from a new 500-kV substation near Castle Rock, Washington, to a new 500-kV substation near Troutdale, Oregon. The FEIS considers four alternative transmission line routes (West, Central, East and Crossover, each with optional route variations); three sites for the proposed substation near Castle Rock, and one site for the proposed substation near Troutdale. The Central Alternative – Option 1 was identified as the Preferred Alternative in the Draft EIS, and remains the Preferred Alternative in the FEIS.

In our March 2013 review of the DEIS, EPA requested additional analysis of wetland impacts under the proposed alternatives. Specifically, the EPA questioned the extent to which wetland function is already altered within the West corridor. We appreciate the clarification provided within Chapter 16 of the FEIS, as well as the functional wetland assessment included in Appendix L of the FEIS.

Our comments also provided specific BMPs for inclusion in Table 3-2 (Mitigation Measures Included as Part of the Project). We appreciate the inclusion of the recommended BMPs in the FEIS. Finally, we noted that all of the action alternatives would utilize part of the Reynolds Metals Superfund site for the Sundial Substation. We appreciate the commitment by the BPA to coordinate and fully cooperate with both the EPA and the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality regarding geotechnical investigations, potential placement of towers and construction of the proposed Sundial Substation.

Thank you for the opportunity to review this FEIS. If you have question about our comments, please contact me at (206) 553-1601 or by electronic mail at littleton.christine@epa.gov, or you may contact Teresa Kubo of my staff at (503) 326-2859 or electronic mail at kubo.teresa@epa.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Christine B. Littleton".

Christine B. Littleton, Manager
Environmental Review and Sediment Management Unit