



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION 10

1200 Sixth Avenue, Suite 900  
Seattle, WA 98101-3140

OFFICE OF  
ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW  
AND ASSESSMENT

November 21, 2016

Linda A. Clark, District Manager  
Bureau of Land Management  
Spokane District Office  
1103 North Fancher Road  
Spokane, Washington 99212

Dear Ms. Clark:

In accordance with our responsibilities under Section 309 of the Clean Air Act, the National Environmental Policy Act, and the Council on Environmental Quality regulations for implementing NEPA, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has reviewed the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the proposed Vantage to Pomona Heights Transmission Line Project in Grant, Brenton, Kittitas, and Yakima Counties, Washington (EPA Project Number: 10-002-BLM).

In our comments on the Draft Supplemental EIS in February 2015, we reiterated our concerns about the proposed project due to its potential impacts to water quality, land use and farmlands, vegetation and wildlife, and cultural resources. Because the Supplemental EIS included a new alternative, we expressed additional concerns about the new alternative due to increased seismic activity or landslide risks and insufficient information on effects of climate change. We recommended that the Bureau of Land Management coordinate with other entities to reduce impacts by the project and requested that the FEIS include up-to-date information about permits required by the project and measures to specifically protect water quality and reduce risks and protect biota and habitat.

The FEIS is responsive to our comments. In particular, we are pleased with selection of the New Northern Route-Overhead Design Option and its components as the preferred alternative because it would lessen impacts to environmental resources within and adjacent to the proposed power line corridor. We also appreciate the inclusion of more clarifying information on water quality, updated discussion on impacts of climate change, and other changes made to the EIS between draft and final, based on inputs received from the public and other agencies. In addition, the FEIS includes commitments to apply for and obtain all necessary permits and authorizations for the project, including those for compliance with the Clean Water Act regulatory requirements, and to restore all lands disturbed during the line construction, as well as efforts to continue to work with other agencies and landowners as the project is implemented to reduce impacts.

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on this FEIS. If you have questions about our comments, please contact me at (206) 553-1601 or by electronic mail at [Littleton.christine@epa.gov](mailto:Littleton.christine@epa.gov) or contact Theo Mbabaliye of my staff at (206) 553-6322 or by electronic mail at [mbabaliye.theogene@epa.gov](mailto:mbabaliye.theogene@epa.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Christine B. Littleton".

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