



## Department of Energy

Bonneville Power Administration  
P.O. Box 61409  
Vancouver, WA 98666-1409

TRANSMISSION SERVICES

December 15, 2021

In reply refer to: TEP-CSB-1

### **To: Parties Interested in the Marys Peak BPA Communications Site Project**

The Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) has finalized the environmental assessment (EA) for the Marys Peak BPA Communications Site Project (Project). Based on the final EA, BPA is issuing a finding of no significant impact (FONSI) for one of the alternatives considered in the EA and has selected that alternative for implementation. This letter describes BPA's decision, the estimated construction schedule, and how to obtain additional information.

**Background:** BPA has proposed the Project to maintain and upgrade the existing BPA communications facility located at the summit of Marys Peak, in Benton County, Oregon. BPA prepared an EA to determine if the Project would cause significant impacts that would warrant preparing an environmental impact statement. The EA analyzes the No Action Alternative and three Proposed Action alternatives. The EA was prepared in cooperation with the U. S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service (USFS) Central Coast Ranger District of the Siuslaw National Forest (SNF), and the U. S. Department of the Interior Bureau of Land Management (BLM) - Northwest Oregon District because lands managed by these agencies could be affected by the Project.

The draft EA for the Project was released for public review and comment in October 2020. BPA received comments from interested parties at that time. The final EA provides responses to those comments and minor revisions to the EA. Based on the EA analysis and mitigation measures to help lessen impacts, BPA has prepared a FONSI for Proposed Action Alternative 3C Marys Peak Co-locate with USFS – BPA Albany Substation. The FONSI provides BPA's findings that Proposed Action Alternative 3C would not cause any significant impacts and, therefore, an environmental impact statement will not be prepared.

As part of its separate decision-making process for the Project, the USFS will conduct a pre-decisional administrative review process, commonly referred to as an objection process, before making its decision. The USFS will be sending a separate letter with instructions about their objection process.

**Decision:** BPA has selected Proposed Action Alternative 3C for implementation. Under this alternative, BPA will co-locate with the USFS at their Marys Peak communications site as described in the final EA. BPA plans to start construction in 2023, with breaks in construction during seasonal restrictions.

**Copies Available:** The final EA, FONSI, and a mitigation action plan for the Project are available on BPA's project website at: [www.bpa.gov/goto/maryspeak](http://www.bpa.gov/goto/maryspeak). If you previously requested a copy of these documents, they are enclosed. If you would like to obtain a paper copy of these documents, please call our toll-free document request line at 1-800-622-4520; leave a request naming this Project and provide your name, complete mailing address, and phone number if we need to request additional information.

**For More Information:** If you have questions about the Project, please contact me at 360-619-6276 or [bbyounce@bpa.gov](mailto:bbyounce@bpa.gov). For environmental process questions specifically related to this Project, please contact Becky Hill, Contract Environmental Protection Specialist, Flux Resources at 503-230-7312, or [rlhill@bpa.gov](mailto:rlhill@bpa.gov). For general NEPA questions, contact Doug Corkran, Environmental Protection Specialist, at 503-230-7646 or [dfcorkran@bpa.gov](mailto:dfcorkran@bpa.gov). You can also reach us toll free at 800-622-4519.

Thank you for your interest in the Project.

Sincerely,

/s/ Benjamin Younce

Benjamin Younce

Project Manager

**Enclosures (if requested):**

Final EA

FONSI and Mitigation Action Plan