

Beale AFB Proposed Interconnection Line

Project Information

Western Area Power Administration (WAPA) is one of four federal power marketing agencies within the U.S. Department of Energy. WAPA markets power through its Sierra Nevada Region (SN) office from the Central Valley Project and the Washoe Project to preference customers in central and northern California and northwest Nevada. SN maintains and operates numerous substations and more than 1,500 miles of transmission lines.

WAPA received an interconnection request from Beale Air Force Base (AFB) to connect to WAPA's Cottonwood-Roseville 230-kilovolt (kV) line located in Yuba County, California. As part of the proposed project, a new 230-kV/60-kV interconnection line would directly connect from WAPA's Cottonwood-Roseville transmission line to a proposed substation on the base. The total length of the line, depending on the final route, equals approximately 6 miles. Currently, three alternative transmission line corridors are being considered and will be evaluated for this proposed interconnection (see attached map).

Need For The Project

Beale AFB has a need to improve the reliability and redundancy of electricity supply to the base. Currently, electricity is transmitted to Beale AFB via one existing 60-kV line. In response to the need for reliability and redundancy, an additional new line with a different alignment is proposed. The existing 60-kV line will remain.

Environmental Analysis

Because this project requires a federal action, it must be in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and other relevant regulations. WAPA contracted Transcon Environmental, Inc., an environmental consulting firm, to prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA) and perform other NEPA compliance activities. This EA will consider potential effects of the proposed 6-mile transmission line project to the environment, including physical, biological, social, economic, and natural resources.

Project Update

WAPA performed initial public scoping for this project in December 2017 / January 2018. As a result of feedback from scoping, and more information obtained regarding natural resources in the area, WAPA and Beale identified an

additional alternative to consider for the project. There is still not a preferred alternative. All alternatives under consideration are as follows (see attached map):

- Southern Alternative (included in January 2018 scoping)
- Northern A Alternative (included in January 2018 scoping)
- Northern B Alternative (added to the project in June 2018; included in July 2018 scoping)

Because of these changes, and the newly affected landowners near the Northern B Alternative, WAPA is opening a second 45-day public comment period and holding another open-house style public meeting to answer questions and collect comments.

* GETTING INVOLVED OR MAKING COMMENTS

The open house will be held Monday, August 6, 2018 from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at:

**University of California Cooperative Extension
142 Garden Highway #A
Yuba City, CA 95991**

Your comments are welcome and important to establish the level and scope of analysis. Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, be advised that your entire comment—including your personal identifying information—may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold from public review your personal identifying information, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so. Written comments are due by September 7, 2018. You can submit comments in writing or verbally at the open house, or send them to:

*Tish Saare, Environmental Protection Specialist
Western Area Power Administration
114 Parkshore Drive
Folsom, California 95630
Email: Saare@wapa.gov
Phone: (916) 353-4526*

If you have questions regarding this project, please contact Tish Saare. For project information and updates, please visit the project webpage at:

<https://go.usa.gov/xU9zz>

PROJECT PROCESS

PROJECT IDENTIFIED/PROPOSED

1

SCOPING & ISSUES IDENTIFICATION

2

* PUBLIC COMMENTS & AGENCY COMMENTS

INCORPORATION OF COMMENTS

RESOURCE ANALYSIS & ALTERNATIVE COMPARISON

3

IMPACT ANALYSIS & WRITING OF EA

4

DRAFT EA

* PUBLIC COMMENTS & AGENCY COMMENTS

5

INCORPORATION OF COMMENTS

FINAL EA

6

WAPA ROUTE SELECTION

7



Western Area
Power Administration