

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, approximately 6 miles, to a proposed substation on the base. Of the 6 total miles, approximately 1 to 2 miles—depending on the final alignment—would be located off-base, with the remaining 4 miles located on-base. Currently, two alternative corridors are being considered and will be evaluated for this proposed interconnection.

Need For The Project

The purpose of the proposed project is to ensure that the Beale AFB electrical infrastructure will supply and effectively support the missions assigned to the installation by Congress and the President. Beale AFB needs a reliable and resilient electrical transmission system that is upgraded to satisfy current electrical standards. This need includes a redundant electrical interconnection to supply critical missions and prevent electrical failure during maintenance and/or electrical faults. In response to Beale's request, WAPA will provide an electrical interconnection.

Environmental Analysis

Because this project requires a federal action (i.e., WAPA responding to a request for an interconnection line), 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 6-mile proposed interconnection line project to the environment, including physical, biological, social, economic, and natural resources.

Project Timeline

WAPA will hold an initial 30-day public comment period to address the EA's scope, and will conduct environmental studies through summer 2018.

* WHEN TO COMMENT & LEARN MORE

One public open house to present the proposed project, answer questions, and accept public comments is scheduled for Thursday, January 11, 2018 from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. The open house will be held at the **University of California Cooperative Extension, 142 Garden Highway #A, Yuba City, California 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 January 19, 2018. You can submit comments in writing or verbally at the open house, or send them to:

*Tish Saare, NEPA Project Manager
Western Area Power Administration
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Folsom, California 95630
Email: Saare@WAPA.gov
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If you have questions regarding this project, please contact Don Lash.

For project information and updates, please visit the project webpage at:
<http://www.wapa.gov/regions/SN/environment/Pages/Beale-WAPA-Interconnection-Project-BWIP.aspx>

PROJECT PROCESS

PROJECT IDENTIFIED/PROPOSED

1

SCOPING & ISSUES IDENTIFICATION

2

* PUBLIC COMMENTS & AGENCY COMMENTS

RESOURCE ANALYSIS & ALTERNATIVE COMPARISON

3

IMPACT ANALYSIS & WRITING OF EA

4

DRAFT EA

5

* PUBLIC COMMENTS & AGENCY COMMENTS

FINAL EA

6

WAPA ROUTE SELECTION

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