



**Department of Energy**  
Western Area Power Administration  
P.O. Box 281213  
Lakewood, CO 80228-8213

**Subject: Scoping Notification Letter for Environmental Assessment for WAPA’s Bouse Upgrade Project (DOE/EA-2106)**

Dear Interested Party:

Western Area Power Administration (WAPA), a power-marketing agency within the U.S. Department of Energy, invites you to provide comments and input regarding WAPA’s proposed Bouse Upgrade Project.

WAPA proposes to re-build, upgrade, and decommission components of the Parker-Davis Transmission system to improve overall system reliability, safety, and to better meet future transmission needs. The existing Parker-Headgate Rock and Parker-Bouse 161-kilovolt (kV) transmission lines, located along the Colorado River in La Paz County, Arizona and San Bernardino County, California, are part of the Parker-Davis Transmission System. The transmission lines were installed in the 1950s with wood pole H-frame structures, and many of the structures are in poor condition and difficult to access.

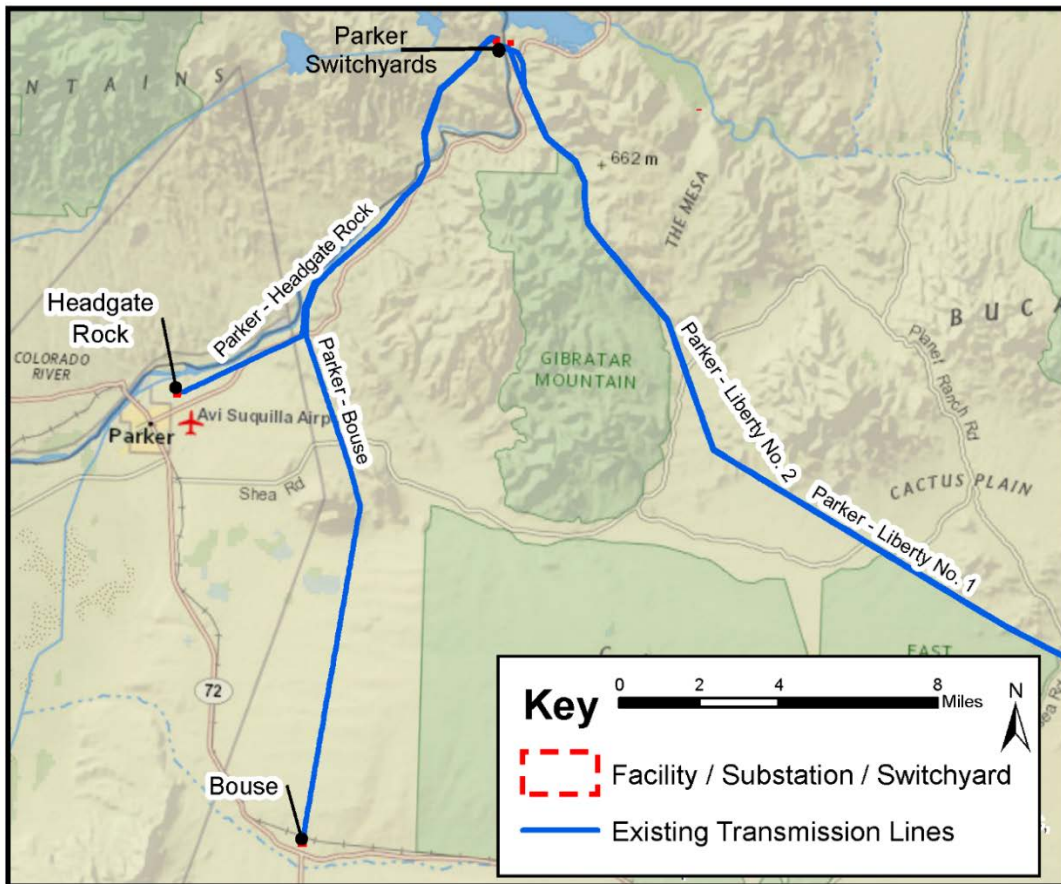


Figure 1. Existing Transmission Lines from Parker to Headgate Rock and Parker to Bouse Substations.

The proposed Project involves the four phases described below:

1. Construct an approximately 18-mile-long, new, double-circuited, 230-kV transmission line connection between the existing Bouse Substation and the existing Parker-Liberty 2 230-kV transmission line (Figure 2).
2. Expand the existing Bouse Substation by adding breakers, switches, a 230/161-kV transformer, and two 230-kV bays.
3. Connect the existing Parker-Bouse 161-kV transmission line to the Parker-Headgate Rock 161-kV transmission line, which would complete a 161-kV circuit from Bouse Substation to the Headgate Rock Substation; and
4. Decommission and remove two 10- to 13-mile-long segments of the existing Parker-Bouse and Parker-Headgate Rock 161-kV transmission lines that cross the Parker strip (Figure 3).

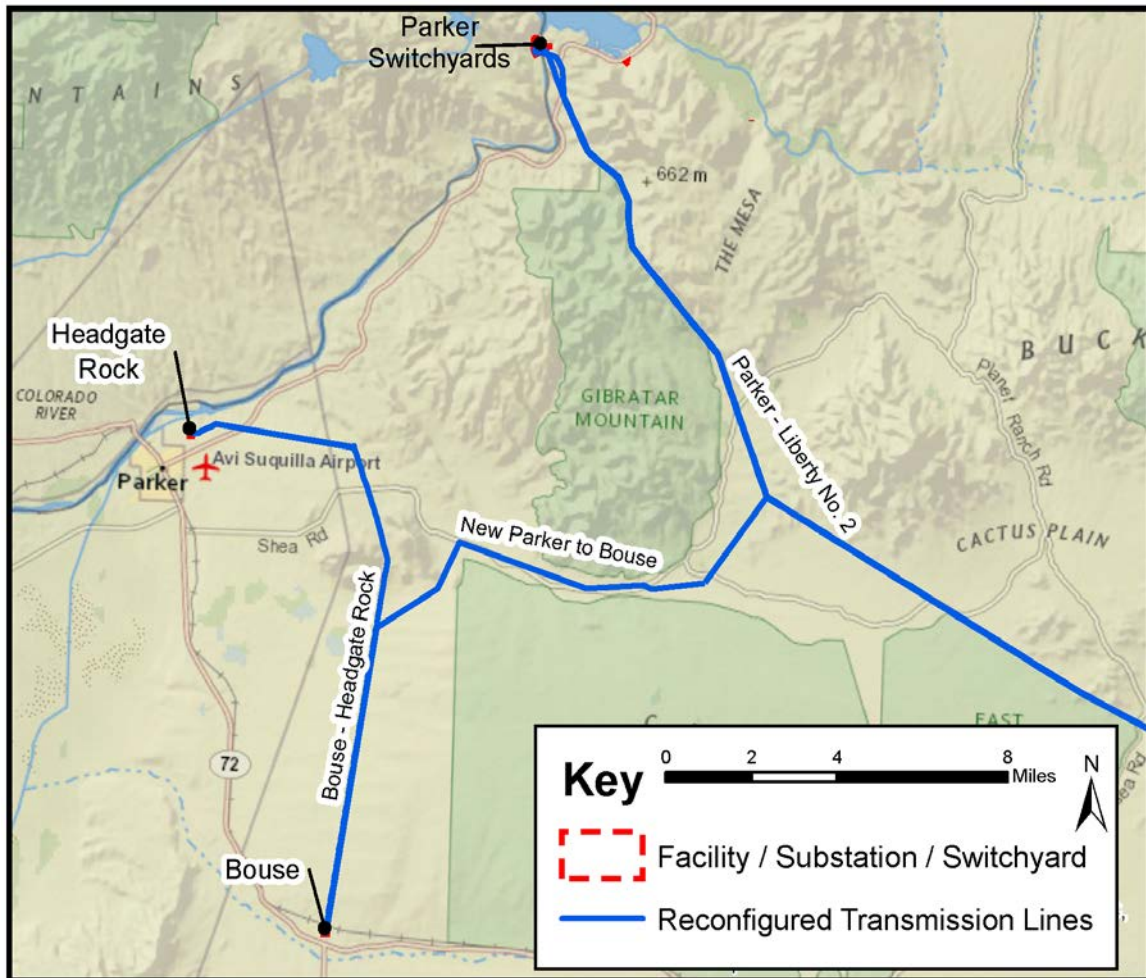


Figure 2. Reconfigured Transmission Lines from Parker to Bouse and from Bouse to Headgate Rock per Alternative 7.

**Construction of a new, double-circuited, 230-kV transmission line connection between the existing Bouse Substation and the existing Parker-Liberty 2 230-kV transmission line:**

To construct an approximately 18-mile-long 230-kV transmission line connection between the existing Bouse Substation and the existing Parker-Liberty 2 230-kV transmission line, WAPA would need to obtain 0.3 miles of right-of-way across land managed by the Arizona State Land Department and 18 miles of right-of-way across land managed by the Bureau of Land Management in La Paz County (Figure 2). The new line would connect at the existing Parker-Liberty 2 230-kV transmission line near the Hayden-Rhodes Aqueduct and run along or near Swansea Mine Road and Shea Road, before meeting with the existing Parker-Bouse 161-kV transmission line approximately 1.8 miles southeast of Black Peak. The line would continue south along the existing Parker-Bouse 161-kV transmission line until terminating at the Bouse Substation located 0.2 miles north of Arizona State Route 72 and Arizona State Route 95's intersection.

**Connection of the existing Parker-Bouse 161-kV transmission line to the Parker-Headgate Rock 161-kV transmission line (Jumpers):**

The connection of the existing Parker-Bouse 161-kV transmission line to the Parker-Headgate Rock 161-kV transmission line completes a circuit that transmits power from the Bouse Substation to the Headgate Rock Substation on the existing infrastructure. The remaining segments of the Parker-Headgate Rock and Parker-Bouse transmission lines that run north of the connection point through the Parker Strip to the Parker Substation would be deenergized.

WAPA identified the following seven alternative connection points (Jumpers) for the existing Parker-Bouse and Parker-Headgate Rock 161-kV transmission lines.

1. Alternatives 1 and 2 would run along Cienega Springs Road within the southern end of the Parker Strip, requiring approximately 0.1 miles of right-of-way across land managed by the Arizona State Land Department (ASLD) (Figure 3).
2. Alternative 3 is located south of Storage Place Road within the southern end of the Parker Strip, requiring approximately 0.1 miles of right-of-way across private land (Figure 3)
3. Alternative 4 is located west of Rio Vista Road, south of the ARS 95 overpass within the southern end of the Parker Strip, requiring approximately 0.2 miles of right-of-way across private land (Figure 3).
4. Alternative 5 is located east of Lakeside Boulevard and north of 94<sup>th</sup> Street within the southern end of the Parker Strip, requiring approximately 0.9 miles of right-of-way across private land (Figure 3).
5. Alternative 6 is located along Lakeside Boulevard and 94<sup>th</sup> Street outside the Parker Strip, requiring 0.5 miles of right-of-way across ASLD managed land and 0.6 miles of right-of-way within the Colorado River Indian Reservation (Figure 3).
6. Alternative 7 is located about a mile south of the Parker Strip terminating near the Blue Water Casino, requiring 0.3 miles of right-of-way across ASLD management land, 0.3 miles across land managed by the Bureau of Land Management, and 2.7 miles of right-of-way within the Colorado River Indian Reservation (Figure 3).



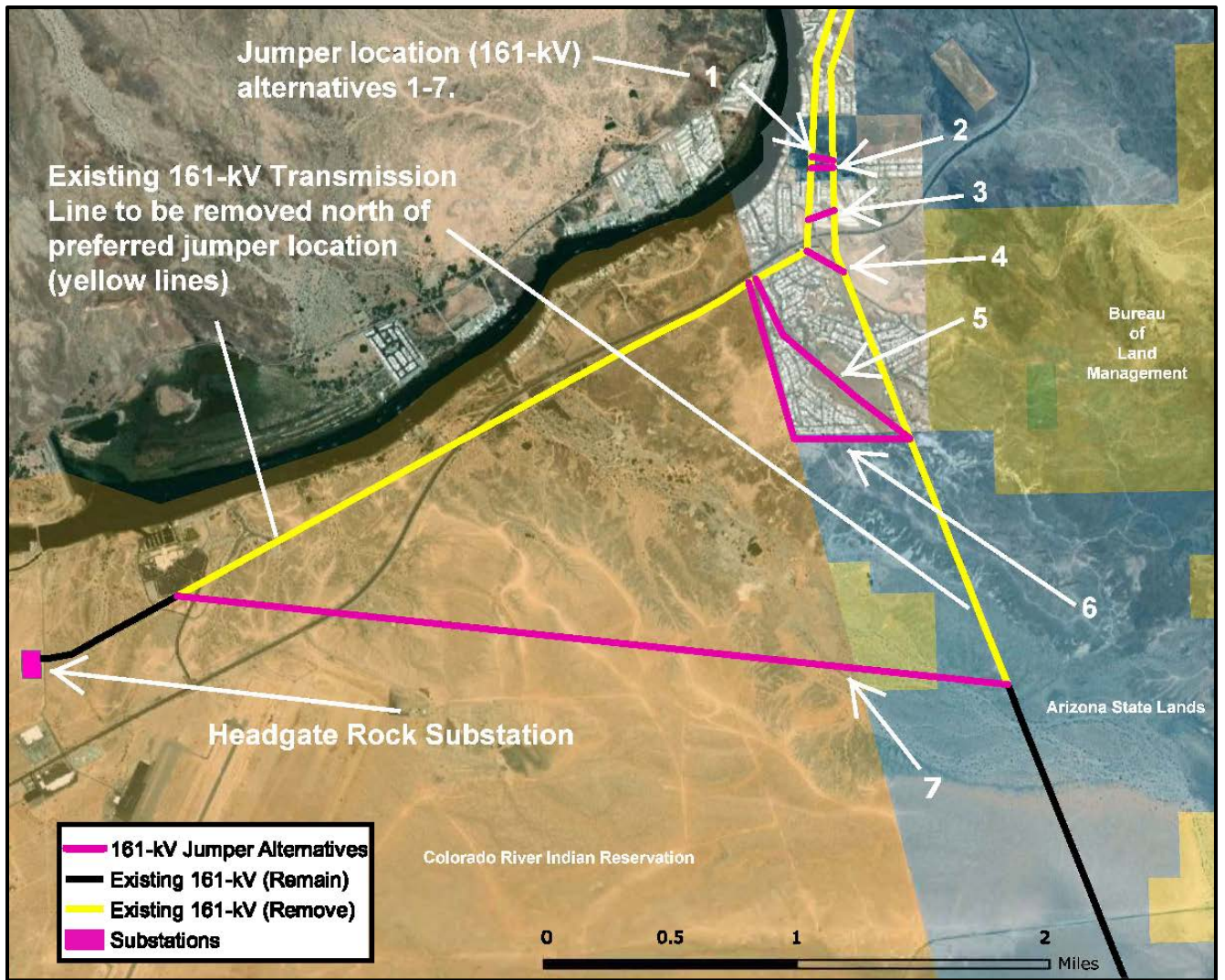


Figure 3. Connection Points (Jumpers) for the existing Parker-Bouse 161-kV transmission line to the Parker-Headgate Rock 161-kV transmission line.

**Decommissioning and removal of segments of the existing Parker-Bouse and Parker-Headgate Rock 161-kV transmission lines:**

Depending on the selected alternative connection point, WAPA would remove up to 13 miles of the Parker-Headgate Rock and Parker-Bouse transmission lines, traversing portions of the Colorado River Indian Reservation, the Parker Strip, private land, land managed by ASLD, land managed by the Bureau of Reclamation, land managed by the Bureau of Land Management, and the Colorado River within San Bernardino and La Paz Counties.

**Your comments and input:**

WAPA requests your comment regarding issues, concerns, and suggestions you may have regarding the proposed Project and alternatives. Your comments will help define issues and alternatives for consideration in the environmental review processes, including the following:

<b>Law or Order</b>	<b>Environmental Processes</b>	<b>Public Input Sought</b>
Clean Water Act & Executive Order 11988 Floodplain Management	WAPA will assess Project impacts, if any, to waters of the U.S., floodplains, and wetlands and comply with the requirements of applicable U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Section 404 permits.	WAPA seeks your input about floodplains and wetlands located near the Project and ways to avoid or minimize impacts.
Endangered Species Act and other Special Status Species	WAPA will serve as lead Federal agency for Section 7 consultations with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. WAPA will evaluate threatened, endangered, and other special status species and their habitat that could be affected by the proposed action. WAPA will conduct a biological review of the areas impacted.	WAPA seeks your observations about the occurrence of protected species near the Project and suggestions on ways to avoid or minimize impacts to wildlife.
National Environmental Policy Act	WAPA will serve as lead Federal agency in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment of the proposed action, its alternatives, and its impacts.	WAPA seeks your comments about alternatives and environmental issues that you would like to see discussed in a Draft Environmental Assessment.
National Historic Preservation Act	WAPA will serve as the lead Federal agency for Section 106 consultations with the State Historic Preservation Officers, Indian tribes, and consulting parties. WAPA plans to conduct an archaeological survey.	WAPA seeks your suggestions about cultural resource data sources and applicable types of identification efforts.

Comments can be provided in writing (via email or U.S. Mail). Please submit your comments by **February 17, 2021**.

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**Virtual Public Scoping Meeting:**

Due to COVID-19 concerns, WAPA will be hosting a web-based virtual public scoping meeting using WebEx. This virtual public scoping meeting will be held to provide interested parties an opportunity to learn about the proposed Project, ask questions, and provide comments. The WebEx will be held on **January 11, 2021 from 2:00 pm to 5:00 pm Mountain Standard Time**. Please visit the Project website ([link below](#)) prior to January 11, 2021 for more information on how to access the WebEx as well as to view instructions on how to participate.

The Project website can be found at:

<https://www.wapa.gov/regions/DSW/Environment/Pages/Bouse-Upgrade-Project.aspx>

We look forward to receiving your comments on this proposed Project and hope that you will be able to attend the public scoping meeting.

Sincerely,

*Andrew M. Montaña*

Andrew M. Montaña  
Environmental Manager