



Montana-to-Washington (M2W) Transmission System Upgrade Project

Montana Public Service Commission Informational Meeting

August 30, 2012





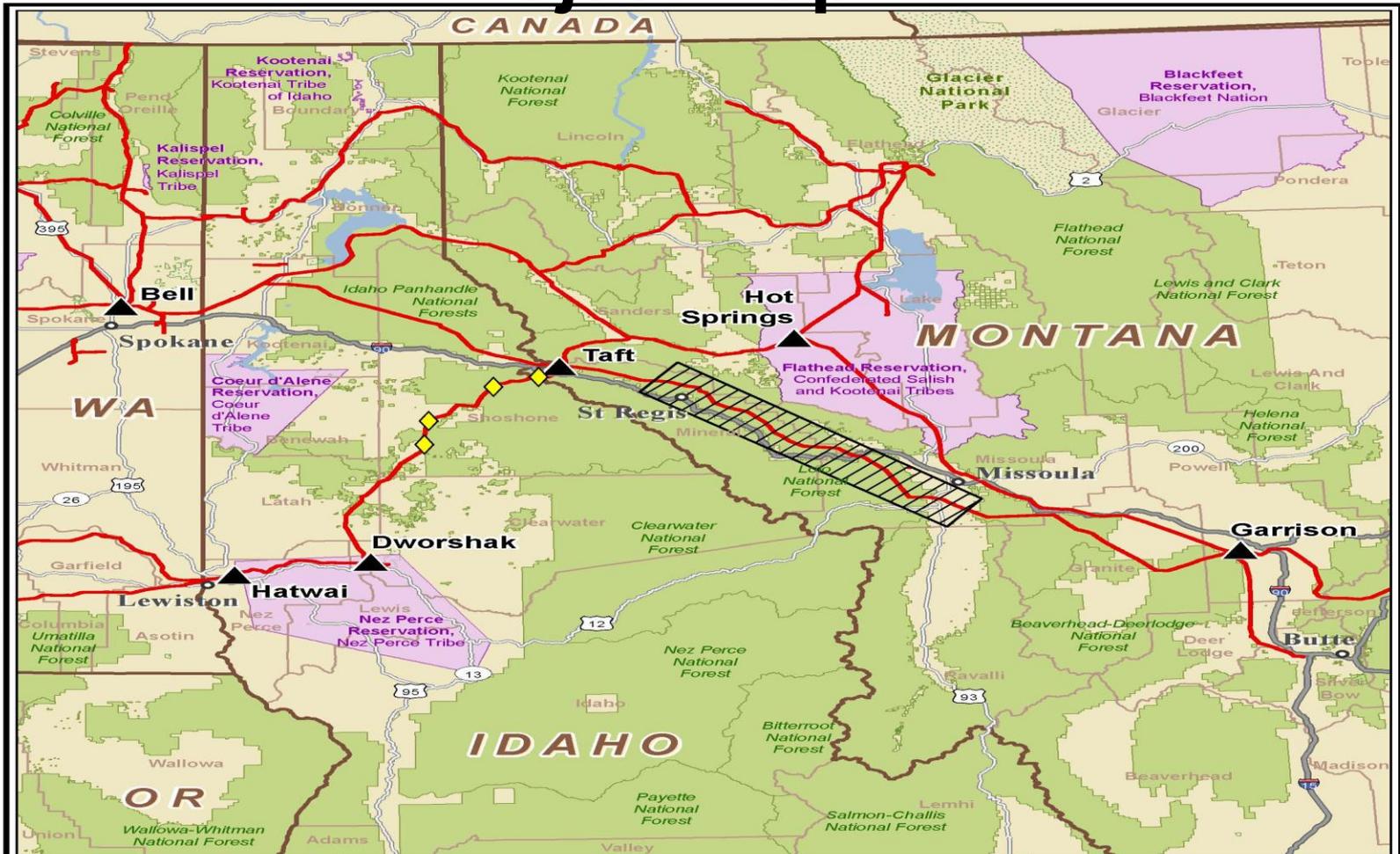
M2W Project Background

- BPA received transmission service requests (TSR) in excess of 1,000 MW from Montana parties (Gaelectric, Powerex) in 2010 Network Season Process (NOS).
- In May 2011 BPA issued NOS 2010 cluster study results:
 - The M2W transmission upgrade project, formerly known as the Colstrip Upgrade Project, would provide service for 530 MW at potentially embedded network rate, subject to further study to confirm costs and capacity enabled.
 - The M2W Project relies on (1) excess capacity provided by construction of the NOS 2008 Central Ferry-Lower Monumental 500 kV project and (2) generation dropping enabled through a Remedial Action Scheme.
 - Service for the total amount of TSRs in NOS 2010 would require construction of a new 400-mile, \$1B, 500 kV Garrison-Ashe transmission line likely to require an incremental rate.
 - In May 2012 BPA launched National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review of M2W.





Project Map



Montana to Washington Transmission System Upgrade Project



4/17/2012

Legend

- Project Related BPA Substation
- BPA Transmission Line
- Proposed Compensation Station Zone
- Dworshak-Taft Line Upgrade Locations
- USFS Forest Boundary
- Indian Reservation
- National Park





Project Description

Project upgrades would include:

In Montana:

- Construct a new series compensation substation near St. Regis or Missoula.
- Install new circuit breakers and a new shunt capacitor at Hot Springs Substation.
- Install new circuit breakers and upgrade existing series capacitor at Garrison Substation.

In Idaho:

- Upgrade existing series capacitor at Dworshak Substation.
- Expand Hatwai Substation to install new series and shunt capacitors.
- Replace roughly 12 miles of conductor on the Taft-Dworshak No. 1 500-kV line.

In Washington:

- Expand Bell Substation to install new series and shunt capacitors.
- Upgrade existing series capacitor at Bell Substation .





Project Components



Series Capacitors

Series Capacitors enable more power to flow through transmission lines without installing new wires.



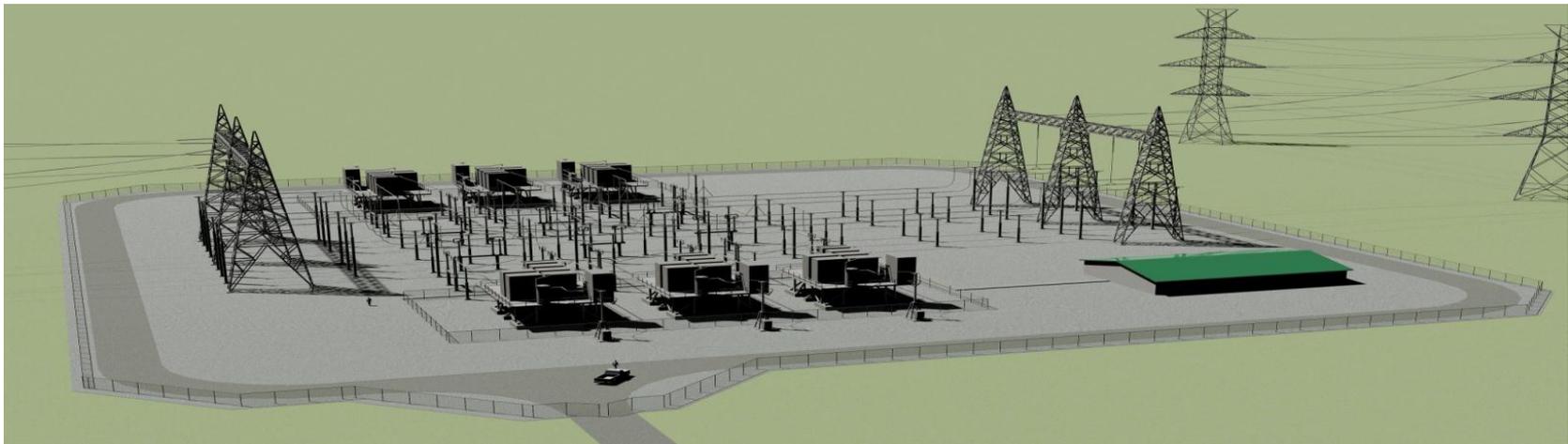
Shunt Capacitors & Circuit Breakers

Shunt Capacitors support required voltage levels. Circuit breakers help limit the extent of a power outage.





Project Components



New Series Compensation Substation

A new series compensation substation would allow BPA to increase the power transmission capacity along the Taft-Garrison No. 1 and No. 2 500-kV transmission line.





M2W NEPA Review Schedule

- July 2, 2012 Scoping comment period ends
- August 2012 Consider scoping comments
- Summer/Fall 2012 Field studies, preliminary design, environmental analysis, and Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)
- Fall 2013 Release Draft EIS for comment
- Winter 2013 Address comments
- Fall 2014 Release Final EIS and issue decision





M2W NEPA Scoping Update

- Public comment period for scoping closed July 2nd – comments posted at <http://www.bpa.gov/applications/publiccomments/closedcommentlisting.aspx>
- 67 comments received: ~1/3 identify topics for EIS review, ~1/3 address alternative substation sites, and remainder concern questions/views about the project, EIS schedule and other issues.
- State, local and tribal governments, other federal agencies and citizens provided comments.
- EIS will focus on BPA's proposed construction and vicinities where activities would occur.
- BPA may modify initial set of alternative sites for new substation in western MT.
- Customer and stakeholder interest in expediting the 2017 M2W energization schedule – BPA continues to examine opportunities to do this.





Questions?

