



Skamania County Community Development Department

Building/Fire Marshal • Environmental Health • Planning

Skamania County Courthouse Annex

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NOTICE OF DEVELOPMENT REVIEW

The Skamania County Community Development Department has received the following application:

APPLICANT: Skamania Public Utilities District #1	DESCRIPTION: Convert 4.4 miles of existing overhead electric distribution lines to underground distribution lines along a new alignment within State Route 14 right-of-way and entrench telecommunications conduit alongside electrical lines. Decommission existing power poles and reduce height of poles from 40' to 25' for continued use as utility poles.
FILE NO: NSA-20-42	
LOCATION: State Route 14, WSDOT ROW, MP 40.5-43.25 (North Bonneville to Stevenson)	
ZONING: GMA – Large Woodland (F-2)	

This application is vested under the NSA Code that went into effect on September 5, 2018. The deadline for submitting written comments on the proposal is 20 days from the date of this notice. Comments must be submitted in writing to the Department at 170 NW Vancouver Avenue, P.O. Box 1009, Stevenson, WA 98648. Those who fail to submit written comments in a timely manner will not be considered interested parties and will be precluded from appealing the Administrative Decision. Comments must address the review criteria and any comments received are a matter of public record.

This project is considered a large-scale use. A Cultural Resource Reconnaissance Survey was required and completed for this project.

The application and supporting documents are available for free review at the Department office at the above address between 7:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m., Monday through Thursday. Copies of all application and supporting documents are available for purchase at \$0.15 per page for black and white copies and \$1.00 per page for color copies at the Community Development Department at the above address between 7:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m., Monday through Thursday. Requests for copies must be paid for prior to release of the documents.

October 12, 2020

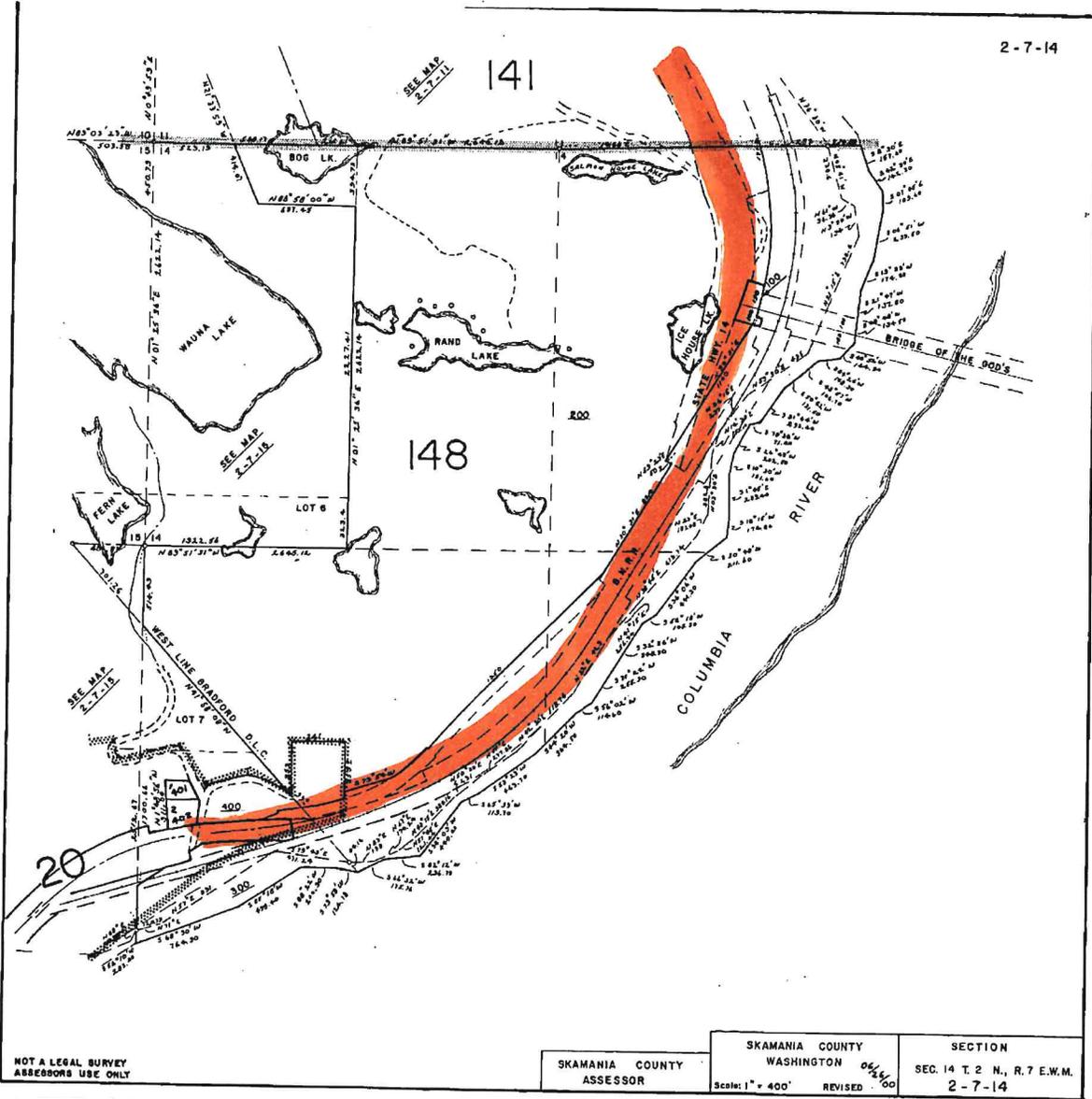
Date

Mike Beck

Mike Beck
Planner

Vicinity Map #1
 NSA-20-42 (PUD)
 WSDOT ROW

2-7-14

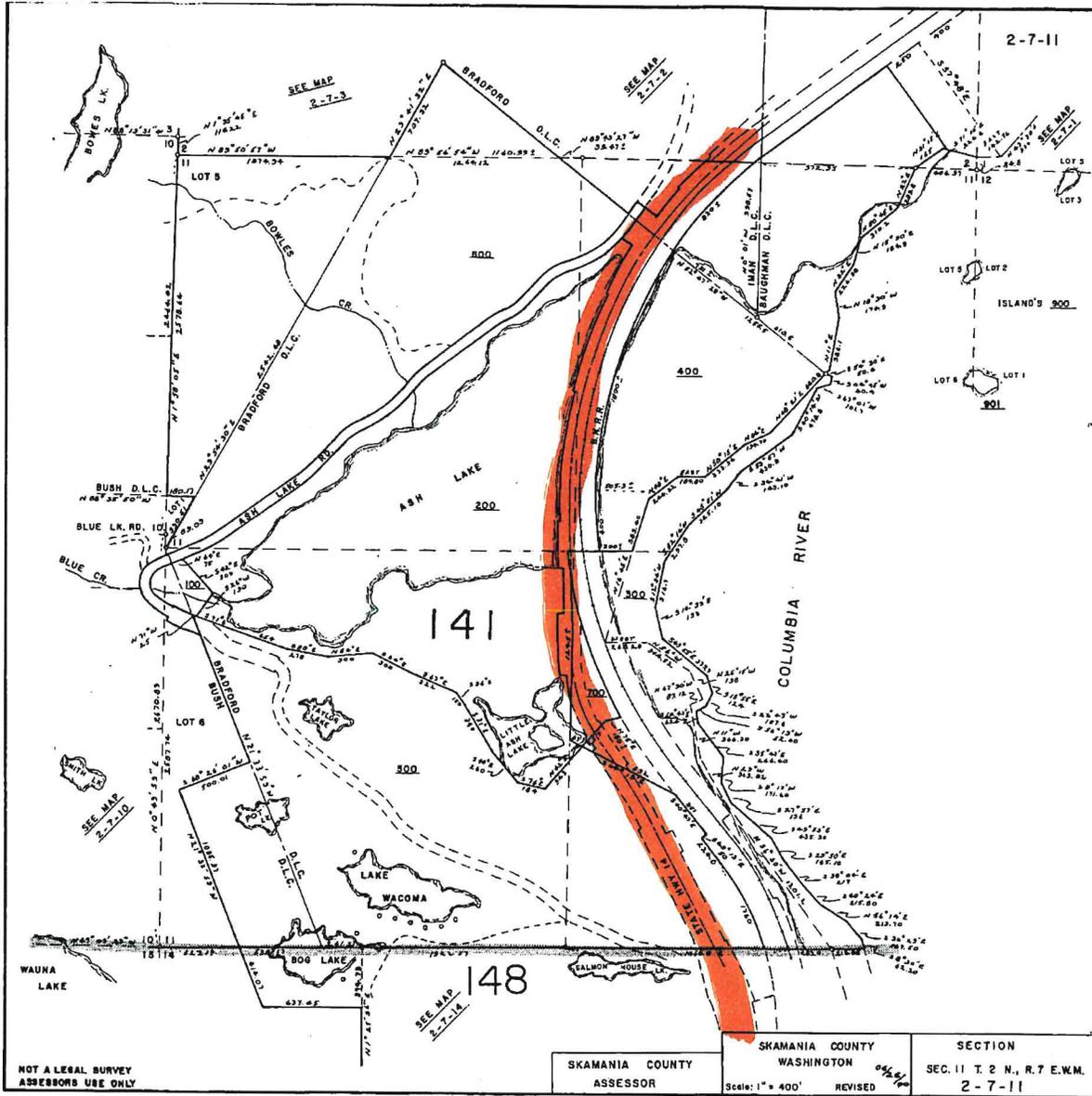


NOT A LEGAL SURVEY
 ASSESSORS USE ONLY

SKAMANIA COUNTY ASSESSOR	SKAMANIA COUNTY WASHINGTON Scale: 1" = 400' REVISED: 06/26/00	SECTION SEC. 14 T. 2 N., R. 7 E.W.M. 2-7-14
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Vicinity Map #2
 NSA-20-42 (PUD)
 WSDOT ROW



Site Plans
NSA-20-42 (PUD)

LEGEND

	TRENCH ALIGNMENT
	HORIZONTAL DIRECTIONAL DRILLING ALIGNMENT
	EXISTING OVERHEAD 12.47-kv DISTRIBUTION LINE
	ORDINARY HIGH WATER MARK
	WETLAND
	WETLAND BUFFER
	SR-14 VARIES FROM 24' - 41'

Five Site Plan Sheets - C2.0 - C2.4



Site Plans
NSA-20-42 (PUD)



PROJECT NARRATIVE

This narrative is written to accompany the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area Land Use Application for the Skamania County PUD No. 1 North Bonneville Powerline Rebuild Project.

Proposal

This proposal includes the conversion of approximately 4.4 miles of existing overhead distribution lines to underground 12.47-kV distribution feeder lines along a new alignment within the public right-of-way of State Route 14. The majority of the underground distribution line will be within existing paved locations or previously disturbed dirt/gravel. The underground distribution line will be installed via trenching, Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD), and Conventional Auger Boring (Jack and Bore) methods.

The existing overhead distribution lines will be decommissioned and the conductors, crossarms, and insulators will be wrecked out. The wood poles will remain in-place; however, the poles will be topped one foot above the communication line (lowering the total height of the poles from 40' down to approximately 25'). Please refer to the project maps and proposed site plan included with this application for more information.

Wave & Woden is proposing to add a communication conduit to the proposed trench. The conduit will be approximately 1.5-inches to 4-inches in diameter. The additional conduit is not expected to increase the trench footprint.

The end goal of this project is to help Skamania PUD's system become more resilient to natural disasters common for the area including fires, windstorms, and ice storms. By upsizing the feeders and taking the circuits underground, disaster recovery will greatly improve. This portion of work triggers the requirements of the National Scenic Area Land Use Application.

This project is located within Skamania County between the mapped urban areas of North Bonneville and the City of Stevenson along WSDOT State Route 14 (SR 14). The work will begin at approximately mile point 40.5 and proceed east to mile point 43.25 at SW Rock Creek Drive. This work is located within the National Scenic Area boundary, according to ArcGIS information.

Construction Schedule

Construction for this project is planned to begin in December 2021 and is anticipated to be completed by July 2022.

Applicable Standards – Skamania County Code

SCC Title 12 – Streets, Sidewalks, and Public Places

PROJECT NARRATIVE

The work associated with this project within the NSA and Skamania County will be done within the Washington State Department of Transportation right-of-way. This section does not apply.

PROJECT NARRATIVE

SCC Title 16 – Environment

A SEPA Environmental Checklist has been prepared for this project and is included in this application for review.

SCC Title 19 – Critical Areas

SCC 19.03 – Wetlands

A wetland and waterbody delineation and assessment was conducted by WSP and a summary report produced in August of 2019 for this project. The summary report is included in this application for review. Fifteen wetland features were identified within the study area. Seven of these features are regulated wetlands under the jurisdictions of North Bonneville, Stevenson, and/or Skamania County (in addition to their regulation under state and federal programs). One of the wetland features (Wetland G) is located within Skamania County’s jurisdiction. This wetland was not rated, as it was confined to a roadside ditch and is not a regulated wetland. Please refer to the enclosed report for more information.

This application is in compliance with SCC 19.03.040(D)(2)(b) for allowed uses within wetland buffers. Construction for this project is proposed within the existing right-of-way of SR 14 and demolition efforts are located within existing utility corridors. Where this alignment coincides with Wetland G the utility will be installed utilizing HDD techniques to a determined depth below the functionality of the resource. HDD is a steerable trenchless method of installing underground conduit in a shall arc along the prescribed bore path by using a surface-launched drilling rig. There is minimal to no impact along the bore path.

SCC 19.04 – Critical Aquifer Recharge Areas

This project is not located within a Critical Aquifer Recharge Area. This section does not apply.

SCC 19.05 – Fish and Wildlife Habitat Conservation Areas

All project impacts will be located within areas of previous disturbance within the public right-of-way associated with SR 14. No wildlife habitat will be removed during the course of the project. In addition, potential indirect noise impacts will occur adjacent to SR 14. Construction noise is not expected to exceed ambient levels and is not expected to disturb wildlife.

Portions of the proposed alignment which cross fish habitat areas (wetlands and streams) will be constructed utilizing horizontal directional drilling techniques to bore under the habitat area to minimize impacts.

PROJECT NARRATIVE

SCC 19.06 – Frequently Flooded Areas

This project is not anticipated to impact any floodplains. The project is outside of the 100-year and 500-year floodplains as shown on FIRM Panel 530160 0425 B, effective August 5, 1986. This section does not apply.

SCC 19.07 – Geologically Hazardous Areas

The underground distribution alignment falls within the Geologic Unit QI; which is classified as Quaternary mass-wasting deposits. The QI deposits consist primarily of landslide deposits, but locally include talus, colluvium, protalus ramparts, and rock glaciers. This unit also includes debris avalanche material from the 1980 eruption of Mount St. Helens.

The soils in this area are mapped as ranging from bedrock to low to moderate susceptibility to liquefaction. The portion of the alignment which traverses the land bridge between the Columbia River and Ashes Lake is mapped as having high liquefaction susceptibility. The project is located within NEHRP Seismic Site Classes B, D, and E. The alignment area is mapped as being a moderate to high area for deep susceptibility to landslides.

Mapping data was taken from the United States Department of Agriculture Soil Survey data and the Department of Natural Resources Washington Geologic Information Portal.

SCC Title 20 – Shoreline Management

A wetland and waterbody delineation and assessment was conducted by WSP and a summary report produced in August of 2019 for this project. The summary report is included in this application for review. Six streams were identified within the study area. Four of the streams are located within Skamania County’s jurisdiction and are described in more detail below.

The Columbia River is within 200-feet of the proposed project, located on the south side of the BNSF railroad tracks. Streams A through D were identified within Skamania County as Class V streams and are all located on either side of SR 14, running directly through the rights-of-way within the study area. Each of these streams travel under SR 14 via a culvert and eventually drain to the Columbia River.

SCC Title 22 – Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area

SCC 22.10 – Zoning General Regulations (GMA and SMA)

The portion of the work which lies outside of the urban boundaries is mapped within the NSA General Management Area and designated as F-2 Large Woodland according to the land use designation map adopted by the Columbia River Gorge Commission.

PROJECT NARRATIVE

Portions of the proposed alignment cross known wetlands and require horizontal directional drilling, herein referred to as HDD, to a maximum depth of approximately 75' below ground surface to install the distribution line conduit. Due to this depth, this project does not meet the exemptions for review listed in SCC 22.10.040(A)(9)(b) or the expedited development review uses listed in SCC 22.10.050(K)(1-2).

SCC 22.14 – Zoning Classifications General Management Areas

SCC 22.14.040 – Large Woodland (F-2) Zone

The proposed project meets the requirements as listed in SCC 22.14.040(E)(2)(d)(i). This project includes the removal of a portion of the aboveground utility poles and complete wreck out of the overhead distribution lines to take the services underground within the public right-of-way. The chosen alignment will improve the forestlands adjacent to the public right-of-way with the removal of the distribution lines and associated poles. The size of the utility is the minimum necessary to meet the demand of the service.

SCC 22.18 – Zoning Classifications Special Management Areas

This project is not located within any mapped Special Management Areas. This section does not apply.

SCC 22.18 – Scenic Resource Protection – General Management Areas

The final product of this project will enhance the views of the project area. This project involves removing overhead distribution lines, placing them underground, and removing approximately 10'-15' of the existing power poles along SR 14. Minimal impacts due to foot traffic will occur within the existing vegetation during the removal of the overhead lines. All other removal efforts will be taking place from surfaces that support vehicular services.

Per SCC 22.18.050(A)(3)(a-b) this application includes a rare plant survey, sensitive wildlife habitat review, and a wetland and waterbody delineation and assessment. Please refer to section SCC 22.20 below for more information regarding natural resource protection measures for this project.

SCC 22.20-Natural Resource Protection – General Management Areas

A wetland and waterbody delineation and assessment was conducted by WSP and a summary report produced in August of 2019 for this project. The summary report is included in this application for review. Fifteen wetland features and six streams were identified within the study area. Seven of these features are regulated wetlands under the jurisdictions of North Bonneville, Stevenson, and/or Skamania County (in addition to their regulation under state and federal programs). One of these wetlands and four

PROJECT NARRATIVE

streams are located within Skamania County's jurisdiction and are described in more detail below.

The following are statements from the applicant which demonstrate that a practicable alternative site for this project does not exist in compliance with SCC 22.20.010:

1. *The basic purpose of the use cannot be reasonably accomplished using one or more other sites in the vicinity that would avoid or result in less adverse effects on wetlands, ponds, lakes, riparian areas, wildlife or plant areas and/or sites;*

The proposed alignment of the underground trenching and HDD work is within the public right-of-way. The alignment, as shown in the site plans, is the least impactful route within the area to provide services to the adjacent communities. The use of horizontal directional drilling underneath many of these critical areas is proposed for use to minimize impacts.

2. *The basic purpose of the use cannot be reasonably accomplished by reducing its proposed size, scope, configuration, or density, or by changing the design of the use in a way that would avoid or result in less adverse effects on wetlands, ponds, lakes, riparian areas, wildlife or plant areas and/or sites; and*

The basic purpose of this use is to upgrade existing aboveground electrical infrastructure and construct these services underground for protection from the elements. The size of the utility is the minimum necessary to meet the demand of the service. The configuration and alignment of the proposed trenching and drilling is within the public right-of-way to limit impacts to surrounding properties.

3. *Reasonable attempts were made to remove or accommodate constraints that caused a project applicant to reject alternatives to the proposed use. Such constraints include inadequate infrastructure, parcel size, and land use designations.*

The proposed project location and alignment is located within the public right-of-way where impacts have already been made via construction of SR 14 to the natural environment. The project is removing aboveground utilities and placing them underground, thereby enhancing the overall look and feel of the area. The constraints of the area and proposed alignment can be overcome. Alternative sites would pose greater removal of natural vegetation and ground disturbance than the alignment/property proposed for this project.

PROJECT NARRATIVE

SCC 22.20.020 – Development Review for Water Resource Zone Protection

This project meets the allowed uses as listed in SCC 22.20.020(B) which require administrator review for compliance with the protection of scenic, natural, cultural, and recreational resources. The enhancement of this public utility is in the public interest. The design of this utility project has taken into consideration the water resources within the proposed alignment (as described in the project wetland and waterbody delineation and assessment) and has modified the design approach to mitigate impacts to these resources utilizing horizontal directional drilling (HDD).

Two of the wetlands discussed within the project report will be impacted by this project (Wetlands F & G). Wetland F was identified within North Bonneville’s jurisdiction. Wetland G was mapped under Skamania County jurisdiction. Neither of these wetlands were rated, as they were confined to roadside ditches and are not regulated wetlands.

Streams A through D were identified within Skamania County as Class V streams and are all located on either side of SR 14, running directly through the right-of-way within the study area. Each of these streams travel under SR 14 via a culvert and eventually drain to the Columbia River.

Given the nature of this project and topography of the surrounding area, the alignment of the underground installation has been designed to minimize the impacts to these water resource zones as much as practicable. Portions of the alignment which are located in these zones will be installed via HDD techniques to an approximate maximum depth of 75’ below ground surface to not disturb the functionality of these resources.

SCC 22.20.030 – Development Review for Wildlife Habitat Protection

All project impacts will be located within areas of previous disturbance within the public right-of-way associated with SR 14. No wildlife habitat will be removed during the course of the project. In addition, potential indirect noise impacts will occur adjacent to SR 14. Construction noise is not expected to exceed ambient levels and is not expected to disturb wildlife.

SCC 22.20.040 – Development Review for Sensitive Plant Protection

A field survey was conducted for this project and concluded that sensitive plants were not located within 1,000 feet of the proposed project area. In addition, no rare plant populations, or their associated buffers, are mapped within 1,000 feet of the proposed project within Skamania County as mapped by the Washington Department of Natural Resources (2020a and 2020b).

PROJECT NARRATIVE

SCC 22.22-Cultural Resource Protection

Per SCC 22.22.010(E)(1)(b) an archaeological survey shall be required for all proposed uses within five hundred feet of a known cultural resource. The proposed project alignment runs adjacent to a number of archaeological sites, triggering the survey.

A cultural resources survey was conducted by Archaeological Services, LLC and produced a summary report dated July, 19, 2019. The report was submitted to the State Historic Preservation Officer at the Department of Archaeological and Historic Preservation (DAHP) on July 24, 2019. This work included a pedestrian survey of the entire project area and the excavation of 40 shovel test probes, targeting high-probability areas that had not previously been tested or monitored. Archaeological Services, LLC determined that no historic properties would be affected by the project, as designed at the time of the study.

It is anticipated that the ground-disturbing impacts of this project will fall almost entirely within dredge fill, road fill, and/or heavily disturbed soils. Given these parameters, very few project impacts to intact, native soils appear likely, and no effects upon cultural resources are expected. A full copy of the cultural resources survey report and DAHP submission is included in this application for review.

SCC 22.24-Recreational Resource Protection – General Management Areas

A majority of the proposed alignment is located within a Recreation Class 1, with a portion of the alignment abutting a Recreation Class 3 area (near Little Ashes Lake), and a Recreation Class 2 area (land bridge adjacent to the Columbia River). The project alignment is near the Pacific Crest Trail but trail closures are not anticipated during construction. However, this project does not involve the construction of any resource-based recreation uses, developments, or facilities. Per SCC 22.24.020(A), this section does not apply.

SCC Title 24 – Clearing and Grading

This project does not meet the exemptions for clearing and grading permits as stated in SCC 24.02.060 and will be required to obtain a grading permit through Skamania County prior to any ground disturbing activities.

The underground distribution alignment is anticipated to be approximately 1-foot wide in most locations and 5 to 6-feet in depth. The trench will expand to 3 to 4-feet wide along the land bridge, separating Ashes Lake from the Columbia River, where trenching activities will occur within the Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) easement. Spoils from the trench excavation are expected to be placed back in the trench, once the conduit has been bedded. In occurrences where the proposed alignment crosses SR 14, streams, creeks, and wetlands the underground

PROJECT NARRATIVE

distribution line will be horizontal directional drilled (HDD) to ensure minimal impacts are made to these features. All trenches and drilling locations will be restored to pre-existing conditions. Erosion control measures will be installed prior to earth disturbing activities to prevent sediment-laden water from leaving the work areas.

A complete grading application will be submitted under separate cover to Skamania County in compliance with Title 24 of the SCC.

This concludes our narrative for the North Bonneville Powerline Rebuild project. Should you have any questions during your review, please feel free to contact me at jwsmith@mackaysposito.com or (360) 823-1320.