

## **Wallula Power Project and Wallula-McNary Transmission Line Project Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) (DOE/EIS-0330)**

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**Responsible agencies:** U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), Bonneville Power Administration (Bonneville); Washington State Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council (EFSEC)

**Cooperating agencies:** Bureau of Land Management; U.S. Department of Interior, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

**Title:** Wallula Power Project and Wallula-McNary Transmission Line Project

**States involved:** Washington (power plant and transmission line) and Oregon (transmission line)

**Abstract:** Wallula Generation, LLC proposes to construct a nominal 1,300-megawatt (MW) natural gas-fired combined-cycle combustion gas turbine facility (the Wallula Power Project). The project would be located in the northwestern portion of Walla Walla County, Washington, approximately 8 miles south of the City of Pasco, 2 miles north of the unincorporated community of Wallula, and 7 miles southeast of the unincorporated community of Burbank. The purpose of the proposed power project is to provide low-cost energy to meet the growing needs of the Northwest and other interconnected electric transmission areas where electric energy is needed. Firm transmission of the power generated by the Wallula Power Project would require construction of a new 500-kilovolt (kV) transmission line, construction of a new switchyard near Smiths Harbor, and upgrades to the existing McNary Substation. Approximately 5.1 miles of new transmission line from the proposed generation plant to the new switchyard would be completed, and approximately 28 miles of new transmission line from the Smiths Harbor Switchyard to the McNary Substation would be constructed adjacent to an existing transmission line. Wallula Generation, LLC would construct and operate the generation plant and associated facilities, including the makeup water supply line. Bonneville would design, construct, and operate the two 500 kV transmission line segments and switchyard. To supply natural gas to the plant site, a 5.9-mile pipeline interconnection would be engineered, constructed, owned, and operated by PG&E Gas Transmission-Northwest (GTN).

This EIS evaluates the environmental impacts of the proposed action, which includes the proposed power plant and 33-mile transmission line. It also evaluates an alternative using taller towers and longer spans between towers along part of the transmission line, and the use of an alternative approach for the transmission line where it would enter the McNary Substation. The No Action Alternative is also addressed.

**Proposal's sponsor:** Wallula Generation, LLC

**Date of implementation:** Construction activities for the power plant are expected to last approximately 24 months. The construction schedule would be based on the date EFSEC approves the Application for Site Certification. The expected time to begin transmission system construction is October 2003. The transmission line would need to be completed and tested by summer of 2004.

**List of possible permits, approvals, and licenses:** The table in the EIS entitled "Overview of Permit, Approval, and Consultation Requirements for Wallula Power Project" presents a list of federal and state requirements, permits, and approvals required for the proposed action and alternatives, and identifies the agencies that administer them. The EFSEC Site Certification Agreement would provide construction and operational requirements and all other relevant Washington state permits and approvals for the power plant. No other Washington state or local permit is required for the power plant. For convenience, the information referenced above lists the major Washington state and local permit requirements preempted by EFSEC for the power plant.

As a federal agency, Bonneville is constitutionally prohibited from complying with the procedural requirements associated with obtaining state and local land use approvals or permits. The agency would strive to meet or exceed the substantive standards and policies of the environmental regulations referenced above.

**Authors and principal contributors to Draft EIS:** Jones & Stokes is the principal author. A list of contributors is included in the Draft EIS.

**Subsequent environmental review:**

Prevention of Significant Deterioration Permit Review  
Adjudicative Hearings

**Date of final lead agency action:** After EFSEC deliberates the facts, testimonies, and EIS contents, a recommendation will be sent to the governor (expected in summer 2002). The governor has 60 days to accept or reject the recommendation or to remand the recommendation to the Council for further investigation (expected in late summer or early fall 2002).

**For additional information on the Draft EIS, or to request additional copies, please contact:**

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Call 1-800-622-4520 for additional copies. Please ask for the project by name.

**Location of background information:** You may access the Draft EIS and find more information about the project and the responsible agencies on the Bonneville web site at [www.efw.bpa.gov](http://www.efw.bpa.gov) and the EFSEC web site at [www.efsec.wa.gov](http://www.efsec.wa.gov). Copies of the Wallula Power Project Application for Site Certification, EFSEC No. 2001-01 and this Draft EIS are also available for public review at the following locations:

Washington State Energy Facility  
Site Evaluation Council  
925 Plum Street SE, Bldg. 4  
Olympia, WA 98504-3172  
(360) 956-2121

Washington State Library  
Utilities and Transportation  
Branch  
1300 South Evergreen Park  
Drive SW  
Olympia, WA 98504-7250  
(360) 664-1199

Umatilla City Library  
911 Seventh Street  
Umatilla, OR  
97882-0820  
(541) 922-5704

Burbank Library  
875 Lake Road  
Burbank, WA  
Mon, Fri, Sat: 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
Tues, Wed, Thur: noon to 8 p.m.  
(509) 545-6549

Touchet Community Library  
179 Hansen Road  
Touchet, WA 99360  
Mon, Fri: 1 to 5 p.m.  
Wed: 1 to 5 p.m. and 6 to 8 p.m.  
(509) 394-2329

Walla Walla Public Library  
238 E. Alder Street  
Walla Walla, WA 99362  
Mon, Tues: noon to 8 p.m.  
Wed: 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.  
Thurs, Fri, Sat: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
(509) 527-4550

**Cost of copy to the public:** There will be no cost for the Draft EIS.

For information on Department of Energy (DOE) NEPA activities, please contact Carol M. Borgstrom, Director, Office of NEPA Policy and Compliance, EH-25, U.S. Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Avenue SW, Washington, DC 20585; by telephone at 1-800-472-2756; or visit the DOE website at [www.eh.doe.gov/nepa](http://www.eh.doe.gov/nepa).