



**STATE OF WASHINGTON**  
**DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY**

PO Box 47600, Olympia, WA 98504-7600 • 360-407-6000

May 20, 2025

Bonneville Power Administration  
ATTN: Jonnel Deacon  
905 NE 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Portland, OR 97232

Re: Coastal Zone Management Federal Consistency Decision for BPA Sammamish-Maple Valley Access Road, King County, Washington

Dear Jonnel Deacon:

On April 9, 2025, the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) submitted a Consistency Determination with the Washington State Coastal Zone Management Program (CZMP). At Ecology's request, BPA supplied additional information on May 7, 2025. Ecology issued a 21-day public notice on April 21, 2025, and received no comments.

BPA proposes to improve and repair access roads along its entire 24-mile-long Sammamish–Maple Valley No. 1 transmission line corridor in King County, Washington. Retaining access to critical utility infrastructure within the transmission line corridor is essential to maintain the availability of electrical power in the Puget Sound region. Project access roads in the area are degraded and in some cases prevent adequate access. Road improvements are required to maintain access to all portions of the transmission line corridor.

Based on the 30% design, the proposed project would include the following:

- 6.64 miles of access road improvements
- 6.14 miles of road reconstruction
- 1.14 miles of new road construction

In addition to the road construction activities, the following activities are proposed:

- 6.41 miles of roadside clearing and mowing
- 4.36 acres of landing construction

Drainage improvements, including the following:

- 9.04 miles of ditch construction

- 66 drain dips
- 26 cross-drain culverts
- Culvert replacements at approximate structure locations 10/5, 20/5, 21/3, 21/4. Impaired culverts would be replaced with larger-diameter culverts, which will improve hydrologic connectivity of the wetland or ditch
- A new culvert and road reconstruction placed at structure location 23/4

Areas of access road improvement, repair, and construction are proposed in numerous separate areas along the Sammamish–Maple Valley No. 1 transmission line between the Novelty Hill Substation and Maple Valley Substation.

The proposed access road work would include road improvement, reconstruction, and new construction. Road improvement and reconstruction would require the application of various sizes of aggregate, blading, and compaction. Typical new road construction would also require brushing prior to the application of aggregate. To accomplish reconstruction, 3 to 6-inch rock would be placed on the existing road prism by a dump truck and leveled with a bulldozer. Then, additional 1.25-inch minus material would be placed on top of the larger rock by a dump truck and leveled with a bulldozer. Once level, a roller would be used to compact the road. Typical BPA Road specifications are 14 feet wide with an additional 3 feet on either side reserved for ditches, water bars, drain dips, or ditch reliefs. In the case of road improvement, only 1.25-inch minus rock would be placed on top of the existing road by dump truck and leveled with a bulldozer.

BPA would also construct landing areas adjacent to structures to provide access to the towers. Landing area construction would include the removal of brush, blading, grading, and the application and compaction of aggregate. In addition to road improvement and new construction, BPA also proposes to install approximately 66 drain dips and construct 9.04 miles of ditch, 26 cross-drain culverts, culvert replacements at four currently impaired locations, and one new stream culvert where the previous road and culvert was washed out. To accomplish this, light-duty trucks, bulldozers, dump trucks, excavators, graders, cranes, and other equipment may be used.

The Sammamish–Maple Valley No. 1 transmission line extends from BPA's Novelty Hill Substation north of the City of Sammamish in unincorporated King County south to its Maple Valley Substation in the City of Maple Valley. The transmission line is approximately 24 miles long, and the project corridor (consisting of the transmission line corridor and associated access roads) encompasses approximately 708 acres. It crosses portions of unincorporated King County and the Cities of Sammamish, Issaquah, and Renton. Most of the project area is within existing BPA right-of-way; however, portions of the project area are within utility easements across privately owned land. Most of the project corridor consists of areas managed strictly for the utility corridor, which includes vegetation management below utility infrastructure and around existing access roads. However, in other areas of the project corridor, land use is

variable because it crosses multiple parcels and jurisdictions. Portions of the project corridor are used for recreation, and municipal parks are present within the easements to support multi-use access. Recreational opportunities in the vicinity of the project corridor include sports fields, hiking trails, and public open space.

Pursuant to Section 307(c)(3) of the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 as amended, Ecology concurs with BPA's determination that the proposed work is consistent with Washington's CZMP.

If you have any questions regarding Ecology's decision, please contact Teresa Pucylowski at [teressa.pucylowski@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:teressa.pucylowski@ecy.wa.gov).

## **Your right to appeal**

You have a right to appeal this decision to the Pollution Control Hearings Board (PCHB) within 30 days of the date of receipt. The appeal process is governed by Chapter 43.21B RCW and Chapter 371-08 WAC. "Date of receipt" is defined in RCW 43.21B.001(2).

To appeal, you must do all of the following within 30 days of the date of receipt of this decision:

- File your notice of appeal and a copy of this decision with the PCHB (see filing information below). "Filing" means actual receipt by the PCHB during regular business hours as defined in WAC 371-08-305 and -335. "Notice of appeal" is defined in WAC 371-08-340.
- Serve a copy of your notice of appeal and this decision on the Department of Ecology by mail, in person, or by email (see addresses below).

You must also comply with other applicable requirements in Chapter 43.21B RCW and Chapter 371-08 WAC.

## **Address and Location Information**

### **Filing with the PCHB**

For the most current information regarding filing with the PCHB, visit: <https://eluhwa.wa.gov/> or call: 360-664-9160.

### **Service on Ecology**

#### **Street Addresses:**

Department of Ecology  
Attn: Appeals Processing Desk  
300 Desmond Drive SE  
Lacey, WA 98503

BPA Sammamish-Maple Valley Access Road  
Aquatics ID No. 142635  
May 20, 2025  
Page 4 of 4

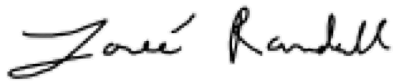
**Mailing Addresses:**

Department of Ecology  
Attn: Appeals Processing Desk  
PO Box 47608  
Olympia, WA 98504-7608

**E-Mail Address:**

[ecologyappeals@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:ecologyappeals@ecy.wa.gov)

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Loree' Randall". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Loree' Randall, Section Manager  
Aquatic Permitting & Protection Section  
Shorelands and Environmental Assistance Program

Sent via e-mail: [jwdeacon@bpa.gov](mailto:jwdeacon@bpa.gov)

E-cc: Jeff Walker, AECOM  
Teresa Pucylowski, Ecology  
Austin Schmalz, Ecology  
[fedconsistency@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:fedconsistency@ecy.wa.gov)