

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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“CEC To Convert to 115,000 Volt Transmission To Sisters – Switch Requires 6 Hour Outage”

Central Electric Cooperative announced plans today to convert to 115,000 volt electric transmission into the Sisters area west of Redmond this September. The switch will require two separate, six-hour power outages for the safety of line crews and engineers doing the work, said CEC spokesman Alan Guggenheim.

“The upgrade from 69,000 volts to 115,000 volts will improve system reliability and provide for increased power demand by new and existing customers,” said Guggenheim.

The first outage, planned from 10 p.m., Tuesday, Sept. 16 to 4 a.m., Wednesday, Sept. 17, will affect 3,094 residents in Sisters and outlying areas of Indian Ford and Aspen Lakes, and portions of Plainview and Dry Canyon. The planned outage does not affect Tollgate and Black Butte Ranch substations where service will remain at 69,000 volts until they are converted to 115,000 volts in 2010. That conversion requires a new substation in Tollgate, plans for which go before Deschutes County on Sept. 2.

The second outage, planned from 10 p.m., Thursday, Sept. 18, to 4 a.m., Friday, Sept. 19, will affect 1,428 residents in the Eagle Ridge area west of Cline Falls Highway. The Eagle Crest Resort and residential areas east of Cline Falls Highway are not affected.

“These dates and times are subject to change due to heavy weather or events on the regional power grid beyond the control of Central Electric. Consult our website at www.cec.coop, as well as local radio, television and newspapers, and their websites, for news updates on the days of the planned outages for more information,” said Guggenheim.

Central Electric will mail outage notification letters to the approximately 4,500 affected businesses and residents two weeks before the switch. In addition, Central Electric invites the public to an informational meeting from 6-7:30 p.m., Wednesday, September 3, in the Sisters Public Library, to discuss the voltage conversion.

“We cannot meet the future needs of our customers in this area with additional 69,000 volt service from the Bonneville Power Administration. Our switch to 115,000 volt service is necessary in order to meet forecasted load growth and to maintain reliability for our customers,” said Guggenheim.