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Bonneville Power Administration Cascade Wind Interconnection Project

The proposed project of UPC Cascade Wind in its current configuration is seriously flawed and inadequate such that BPA should not enable this company to proceed to construction.

The proposal does not address compatibility with the surrounding rural residential area. Significant issues of noise, shadow flicker and light pollution are not addressed. Why are industrial wind generators allowed within one quarter mile of homes? No other industrial generation facility would be allowed so close. Why are wind turbines any different?

Issues of locating such a project adjacent to the Columbia Gorge National Scenic Area and the visual impact from key viewing sites are not given proper consideration. The Wasco County goal/policy to protect the Columbia River Gorge, not just the National Scenic Area, would be compromised. Seven Mile Hill Road and the general Mosier area are renowned by various and multiple diverse tourist and special recreation groups for their vistas and opportunities for wildflower and wildlife viewing. People come here and enjoy this region for its natural beauty, not manmade industrial machines.

The effect of a UPC Cascade Wind interconnection with BPA would further disrupt wildlife. Road building into critical oak habitat would impact overall wildlife. Multiple species of birds migrate through this area as Seven Mile Hill is a major link in the Columbia Flyway. The area is within the Big Game Winter Range Zone. Again industrial development would dramatically change the area and how it is presently used.

What are the benefits to the local community? The power would be shipped away elsewhere. Wind generators operate at full power production such a small percentage of time. How much energy would really be generated? In the broad scheme of things 60 megawatts is not much given the negative impacts mentioned above. Without the subsidies, tax credits, and accelerated depreciation, to name a few, the wind turbine industry would not exist and the taxpayer/ratepayer eventually foots the bill to the benefit of the developer.

BPA should be aware of potential liability from health issues that will develop at some point in the future if this ill conceived project is ever built. A concerted effort of conservation and small scale renewable energy systems geared toward the homeowner should be the preferred path for our energy future.

UPC's request to interconnect to the transmission system should be denied.

Sincerely,

Phil Swaim