
Sent: Friday, August 10, 2007 12:52 PM
To: BPA Public Involvement
Subject: UPC Cascade Wind

To: Bonneville Power Administraton
RE: UPC Cascade Wind Project application

I am writing to request that you deny support for UPC to construct an industrial wind energy generation facility with approximately 40 towers of approximately 400 feet in height adjacent to the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic area. Wind power generation facilities should be sited in appropriate locations, far away from residences and other areas where they have immense detrimental impact.

As an adjacent property owner to the project, whose parcel shares a common boarder with the proposed project, and over whose property the Dalles-Hood River Intertie runs, my concerns include:

Land Use

An immense, noisy, industrial site is incompatible with the surrounding land uses, including residential neighborhoods and some of the most protected sections of the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic area. Fire is another danger that will be exacerbated by such an operation, since wind towers have caught on fire in other locations. At the Public Information Meeting on July 26, the attorney for Friends of the Columbia Gorge cited numerous violations against state laws, county ordinanances and Gorge Special Management Areas. Of particular concern to me is the location of a large, perpetually lighted, electrical substation adjacent to the many residences located just north of the Dalles-Hood River Intertie. Utilities for our homesites are required to lie underground, yet UPC expects to intall several high voltage collector lines well above ground to this substation, in some cases directly over our properties and residences.

Vegetation and Wildlife

UPC has not produced any report that shows that they will not detrimentally affect vegetation and wildlife. At the meeting there was testimony by a wildlife biologist on the impacts to the area's oak habitat, and that the proposed area is home to some "species of concern." Another person testified that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has "considerable uncertainties" about locating the facility here, and that studies made were in wheat fields and not in comparable habitat. In East Haven, Vermont, a UPC proposed wind facility was denied because they did not demonstrate that the operation would not have an undue, adverse affect on birds and bats.

I am especially concerned concerned that the many restrictions on my activities and use of my property (of which I am completely supportive), such as an outright ban on barbed wire fencing, or of fencing taller than 48", which are in place to protect the Winter Elk migration and birthing areas, will be abrogated for UPC, to the detrement of these migrations. Moreover, the construction of a new large electrical substation directly in the path of these migrations in certain to have a detremental effect.

Health and Safety

There have been numerous concerns about the effects of "flicker" on human neurological systems. In one location, a huge turbine blade flew off and landed on adjacent property, endangering human lives.

Soil and Geology

No proof has been supplied by UPC that they will not cause undue erosion in the construction of this operation. In Ma'alaea, Hawaii, UPC was fined \$17,000 for serious erosion problems. There was testimony on July 26th about the soil being bedrock and that UPC misrepresented construction capabilities. Numerous concerns were mentioned about the potential effects on residents' wells and the effect of the tower's many concrete foundations on groundwater flows.

Visual Resources

The visual impacts of this proposed operation will be horrendous, both to neighbors and to anyone hoping to enjoy the beauty of the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic area. At the meeting, maps were brought out that demonstrated how these towers would be highly visible over 35 miles of the 70-mile national scenic area. UPC has not provided appropriate visual documentation of the effect of these towers throughout the region.

Noise

In Mars Hill, Maine, neighbors were told by UPC that there would not be any noise disturbance. Instead, the residents there have experienced constant loud noise described as "profoundly disruptive" One resident wrote, "We have found, now that the mills are running, that UPC Wind Company has misstated and mislead us as to the effects of the turbines. We were told there would be no noise!! That statement was on their website. Sometimes the noise from the turbines is loud enough to hear in the house! It has been described like sneakers in a dryer. Other times it sounds like a plane engine over the house. This is a constant drone that is always there in varying degrees." The noise levels there were found to be out of compliance with Maine's Department of Environmental Protection. This perpetual sonic disturbance is like to prove unhealthful to both people and animal populations.

Despite the many benefits of wind power when appropriately sited, UPC's utter disregard for the human, animal, and environmental impacts demonstrate poor planning at best, if not incompetence. I urge you to deny support for this ill conceived project and work to develop more appropriately sited wind energy farms in the future.

Yours,

Steven A. Bleiler