

I-5 CORRIDOR REINFORCEMENT PROJECT

Public Meeting held 12/8/11 at 6:00 p.m.

Battle Ground Community Center
912 East Main Street
Battle Ground, Washington 98604

PUBLIC COMMENT

(The following song was performed by
a group of schoolchildren, after which
public comments were heard:)

REMEMBER THE CHILDREN ARE COUNTING ON YOU

Nicole: 1. I am just a lone voice, but I hope you'll hear my plea. There is something on my mind and it really troubles me. I hear that there are plans to build big towers through out towns. It will affect our homes and schools, and everything around.

The children are most vulnerable; their health will be at stake. I can't imagine why this is a choice that one would make. We hope that you will help us, and stand for what is right. So children won't be worried when they go to bed at night.

All: Oh, BPA don't look away. It's time to make a stand. We need your help to make a change. Our future's in your hands. We're watching and we're listening to everything you do. Remember the children are counting on you. Remember the children are counting on you.

Nicole: In school kids learn it's crucial to protect the air and trees. But how can they protect themselves from something they can't see? Magnetic fields will fill the air, with no place safe to stay. They'll have to leave their home and friends and school, and move away.

All: Oh, BPA don't look away. It's time to make a stand. We need your help to make a change. Our future's in your hands. We're watching and we're listening to everything you do. Remember the children are counting on you. Remember the children are counting on you.

PUBLIC COMMENT

JERRY QUILLING:

I would like to make a point that the children went over the three minutes.

Good evening. My name is Jerry Quilling, and my wife Maura and myself have five acres of land just off Kelly Road in Yacolt. We're on route segment 26.

It was announced that the BPA was going to have a meeting in Battle Ground, and you are going to listen and not answer questions, which I thought was refreshing. In the past I have been lazy and let other people do the job of fighting for their and my home and property. To those people I say thank you, thank you very much, and Cheryl especially on segment 26 has done a very good job.

Maura and I purchased this land because it was not only beautiful, but the people are kind and generous. Our elevation is 1100 feet and we can sit on our west deck and see the Oregon coastal range, and on clear days we can see sunsets that would take your breath away.

We have a log home -- not a cabin, but a log home with a 1700-foot barn. We have lived here for 18 years, and what I'm trying to do is put a face to the people you're doing this to instead of just the numbers and the pictures that you have.

Maura -- I would like you to know a little bit more about us. Maura had a Girl Scout troop for ten years. We both are active members of North Clark County Lion's Club and participate in making this a better place to live. I'm on the Board of Directors for Dogpaw, which runs five outreach parks for dogs in Clark County. For the last six years I have also volunteered at the Southwest Humane Society. Maura works for Papa Murphy's, so she has about a half an hour drive everyday.

I'm a disabled vet having been wounded in Vietnam. I spent three months in Nam and three years in the hospital after being wounded at Fort Lewis. My doctors have told me in the future I would possibly have to use a wheelchair, and to accommodate that we built our home here that is on one floor with three 3-0 doors and small cabinets that are shorter in some places.

In looking at the BPA's map we are saddened how much of our property is going to be affected. We estimate it to be 35 to 40 percent. Cables will be very close to the west end of our house and we have numerous tall trees that are going to have to be cut down. The dish satellite and cell phones probably won't work there and we may have to move out of the area, leaving our friends and associates here behind. And the value of our house and property is low, and so we are asking BPA to understand what could happen to all the families and communities on your proposed routes.

ERNA SARASOHN:

I just wanted to say that that song was written by Rosalie Karalekas. She is a recently retired elementary school teacher, and she wrote that song because of a great concern and love for children. And the beautiful voice of her daughter Nicole, she came from Portland to sing for us, and the children of course.

The one point I want to make is each one of those children tonight live with the threat of having a line placed within 500 feet of their house. Two years ago when this project was announced and the public became concerned about the risk to our health linked with power lines, BPA told us the issue was still under debate in the scientific community. As the public did more research and became further alarmed, the answer evolved into it is one of the many factors we are considering in the decision-making process.

However, some very credible studies have been finalized these past few years. One of these studies was partially funded by the power industry and published in one of the most prestigious medical journals. The study was a control group of 29,000 children over a period of 33 years, because children are the most vulnerable to the EMF exposure. In their findings they wrote, "Scientific data convincingly and consistently show a link between magnetic fields greater than two to four mg and cancer." People who live within 656 feet of an overhead power line had 70 -- that's 7-0 -- percent increased risk of getting cancer, and living 1,968 feet from a power line they had a 20 percent increase.

BPA data shows that there are 232 families that live with the threat of these lines being located 50 feet or less from their homes, and thousands of families live with the threat of living with the power lines at 50 to 500 feet from their homes; all unsafe distances.

The World Health Organization published a document on EMF and they state, "Action should be taken to avoid harm even when it is not certain to occur." The Leukemia Foundation supports a prudent avoidance approach in relationship to high levels of EMF exposure, and then there's a prudent avoidance law that says if you're considering doing something like putting up a power line and you cannot guarantee the safety of the public, then don't put up the line.

So I think my question to you is this: Knowing all of this information at this point of the project, which has to be at least three years, why am I looking at a BPA map that still has

lines in populated areas?

I just have one more thing. I want you to know that what the public really wants is for you to give us a map in the near future that has all populated areas removed, both rural and urban. Remember the children.

JOHN POLOS:

Wow, that's a tough act to follow. Thank you for letting me speak. I am John Polos. I've lived out east of Battle Ground lake for 40 years. 30 of my 47 years with the Boy Scouts of America was as Scout Master in Battle Ground of Troops 344 and 475, and I want to address you tonight on a couple of issues.

Horace Greeley said, "Go west, young man, go west," and he never left New York City. And now everybody is telling BPA, "Go east, BPA, go east." Well, we'll see.

I think the two speakers that preceded me have really hit it on the head. The way to get an agency to listen to you and to do the things you believe are correct is to be polite and present a logical argument supported with facts, and that's things like how many houses on the route, how many properties, how many near the route. Those kinds of things are really important, and in dealing effectively with a federal or any other agency you want to proceed in a logical manner, not threatening and not, "I'm going to sue you." This doesn't work. And who is the guy that's got the spotted owls? I'm just kidding. No fair putting spotted owls on the site.

I want to ask you people in the audience -- I'm going to turn this around. I want to ask you to do two things to help BPA. And I don't know if I mentioned I'm a retired civil and electrical engineer. I want you to do two things to help BPA. I want you to continue with what you're doing in a logical manner and don't give up. Keep presenting your arguments and get your facts straight, and I want you to do something really totally off the wall. I want you to help BPA find their beloved Julie Weflen. She was abducted from a Bonneville Power substation while on duty as a sub operator and they've never found her.

I want to tell you what you can do to help. It was in the Spokane area. They've just uncovered new evidence. If you have any friends or relatives in Spokane, they know what's going on. They've been watching KREM Channel 2 News or the Spokane Spokesman Review newspaper. Call them, encourage them to write in to the newspaper and the TV station and to keep encouraging the sheriff up there to keep looking for our beloved Julie. Thank you very much.

RICHARD van DIJK:

My name is Richard van Dijk, and on the left is my wife Vivian, who is going to give a speech, and I'm conceding some of my time to her because her presentation is slightly over four minutes, and I will cut mine short.

VIVIAN van DIJK:

Vivan Van Dijk. We appreciate BPA making possibly the only decent decision it's made in the past two years, and that is to delay the EIS until the new year. We would like to think it was our pressure, but more likely it was the thought of having our senators and members of congress on the phone; they, themselves, stirred out by us, we the people. Yes, we the folks that pay the power bills have absolutely nothing to gain, and in fact, we have a whole lot to lose if BPA flies in the face of reason and logic and persists in trying to build this line across the populated areas of Clark and Cowlitz Counties.

BPA has a clear three-way choice. Does this line get built at all? In the past two years BPA has presented a wondrous range of magical numbers that they claim prove this line is needed. We have successfully challenged each set of assumptions, and we have compelled BPA to re-imagine its justification. In the process BPA has pressured both Clark and Cowlitz PUD's to support its logic, but neither utility has gotten behind this because, in part, they know that they will not see one microwatt of energy from this proposed enhancement to the Canadian-California electric expressway.

The only half plausible sets of numbers that BPA has shown the world indicate that any increase in local load that this line might carry is actually in Oregon, and only in Oregon. For that they would cheerfully and without an iota of remorse rip the hearts of out of generations of Washingtonians by destroying their homes, their neighborhoods and their land holds.

If eventually this line is built, be it in five years or fifteen years, BPA must dispose the principles that they tout in other areas such as the current network open season reform, to let cost follow causation. Southwest Washington is not the cause for needing this line. Oregon and California are. Let them carry the burden for this. Build the line in Oregon where it clearly belongs, or way out east, and let the profiteering merchants in Oregon, California and Canada pay for the extra costs.

Why does BPA think it can justify assaulting Southwest Washington and its citizens? It is for the sake of corporate

profits, for Portland General, the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, and British Columbia's power heads.

If, despite all of our appeals for reason, BPA proceeds to build this towering insult to sanity, homes and neighborhoods and landholdings, then for the sake of our souls and for the sake of our property, build it where it will do the least harm. Build the beast way out east on lands already owned by the Federal Government or the State, or that which can be easily obtained from corporate timberland owners who can be bought off with a lot fewer dollars than it takes to save the salmon.

Every time we turn around BPA has thrown yet a few more million dollars at some worthy and no doubt necessary wildlife or fish habitat project that contribute to making the fish in the Columbia River some of the most staggeringly expensive fish on the planet. Curiously, most of these projects are in Oregon, Idaho or Montana and very few, if any at all, are in Washington. These millions of dollars for the most part stay in the communities where they are spent, and as I said, these moneys are not spent in Washington, yet BPA plans to strip-mine a several-hundred-foot-wide swath right through the heart of Southwest Washington, leaving nothing behind except scarred homesteads, scarred neighborhoods and a scarred countryside.

And let us not forget the scarred hearts of those who have been involuntarily dispossessed by the callous disregard BPA has for people. All it would take to mitigate the impact of this line on people and their property is a few dollars; a few tens of millions of dollars, to be precise. This sounds like a lot until you compare it with the \$850 million BPA spends each and every year on fish. Perhaps, fellow citizens, we should make like Kevin Costner in the movie Water World; grow gills and fins. Then perhaps we, along with the salmon, might have a fighting chance.

DANIEL CLARK:

My wife and I spent 30 years trying to get our dream -- my name is Dan Clark. We live in Castle Rock. We bought 67 acres to build our dream, which could have been a park, could have been anything. This situation is horrible for us because you go right through the middle of it and destroy everything that we had planned. It's almost worthless. We can't sell it. And for what? If you could tell me it's going to benefit us, okay, so be it. But how is it going to benefit us? If you're going to do this to us, tell us you're going to do it, because I don't have that much time to live. You're using up my time. So be fair. Tell us what you're going to do. Thank you.

LES SARASOHN:

My name is Les Sarasohn, and I would like to concede my time to the family spokesman, Erna Sarasohn.

ERNA SARASOHN:

I just wanted to point out two things. We understand that the line going east into an unpopulated area is going to cost more money, but it's only going to cost a fraction of what is spent by BPA every year on fish and wildlife, and it seems to me that it is appropriate for a one-time-only cost to protect the people of Southwest Washington.

I think it gets down to one question: How much is a child's life worth? And I think we really have no choice but to take it east. I also want to point out that we hear that the rate payers are going to have to cover the burden of this, but the fact is that according to Wayne Nelson of Clark PUD, the CEO of Clark PUD, it would take a whopping and unprecedented 20-percent increase in BPA's transmission costs for Clark PUD to cause a one-percent increase in their rates. One percent to the public would be less than one penny per month per household. I think we can all afford that in order to make sure these lines do not go up in populated areas.

The other thing I wanted to note is I know this is not an answering session tonight, but I would like to know when the draft EIS comes out, which is going to be one full year past the original target date, do you plan on naming a preferred route, a backup alternative route, and removing everything else from consideration and unburden the people? You don't know? Okay. Let me just tell you, then, I'll assume -- I'll take that for a no. And so what I want to say to you is these people have been living in chaos for the last two years, and you absolutely have to remove some of the lines when the draft EIS comes out.

These people have to be able to get back to planning their future, and right now the fact that you're leaving them on the line doesn't hurt BPA because it's being done at the expense of the people by continuing to hold them hostage. When the draft EIS comes out, I mean these people have to be able to know if they're going to sell their homes, if they're going to be able to remodel. You have to give them some freedom and unburden them. Thank you.

LIZ HAMILTON:

My name is Liz Hamilton and I just recently had an increase in my electric rate from our local Cowlitz County PUD,

and I understand part of it is because California no longer is going to buy surplus power. So what are we going to do with all this extra power? Kelso's wind farm has been shut down because they can't sell it. They've looked for buyers and there are no buyers.

All right. There's a lot of electricity out there. What do we need another line for? Otherwise, I would suggest that you go through Weyerhaeuser -- I mean, I suppose they're going to be mad at me for saying that, but go out for 100 years -- not just 70, but 100 years where there are no people, put your line through before it gets developed so that I think it would be to Weyerhaeuser's advantage and interest, since they also are in real estate and development, to plan on the future that maybe there will be development across their land somewhere, sometime. Yes, there will be. Do it while there's nobody out there.

The gray line should be considered right now, and maybe you can even avoid the one house that it would take. Anyway, my feeling is right now I would suggest that you drop lines 1, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 11, G, J and H. I happen to be in H.

By the way, I have 130 acres and I've lived there 55 years, and the timber that I stand to lose percentage-wise is greater than Weyerhaeuser's because of the small land size that I have. So I really would like to see everybody think way out further east. Get clear out there where there's nobody and shoot your line through. Our county commissioners have advocated that. They've also written a letter to Steven Wright, and I'm all for them supporting us, and I also think supporting the future would be to do that in your planning stages now. Get away from the people right now and all of our lifelong plans.

I have backed up information here on the fact that California no longer is purchasing surplus power, as well as today's newspaper that came out with wind energy shutdowns because they've got all this electricity, but now they've got to shut them down. The taxpayers paid for that when they were subsidized by the government, and now the taxpayers are going to pay for the losses that these plants cannot produce.

And we're getting it right now -- this year alone I believe our PUD in Cowlitz County has increased at approximately 25 percent, 18 percent just recently. I think that's the gist of what I've got to say, and thank you. Mark, you can come sometime out for a cup of coffee.

RICHARD STONER:

My name is Richard Stoner. People call me Dick or just,

hey you, but my property lays just south of Castle Rock at the top end of Headquarters Road. It's a 15-year to a 50-years reforestation program. If the one projected line goes through where it's indicated it will gut my property, and there's a lot of money involved.

And speaking of money, how does Bonneville Power Administration attempt to compensate those who lose property, in Dan's case lose his dream, and in what amount? When it comes down to the money there's no price on my property. I feel that there's been too few alternatives explored about where to put this line. As far as I'm concerned, they could put it across the Columbia in Oregon, and those people over there will scream and holler just like the people on this side of the river.

CHERYL BRANTLEY:

My name is Cheryl Brantley. On behalf of the Board of a Better Way for BPA I want to thank BPA for providing this opportunity for landowners to share their concerns with you about this project. I also want to thank BPA for providing us with preliminary route data.

In this data we learned that it will cost millions more to route a new corridor on land other than BPA's existing right-of-way. These millions will be reflected in what BPA charges for its electricity. At a time when our country and its citizens are struggling financially we believe no governmental entity should needlessly spend millions more on new land when it can build on the land it already owns rights to.

We also learned that there was a flaw, a missing component to the preliminary route data. BPA elected to exclude a parcel count, counting parcels that would land along each of the route alternatives. To provide us this information wouldn't have been too difficult. Not nearly as difficult as counting ornamental trees.

Since this information is missing, members of our Board utilized BPA's own data and counted all the parcels that would lose land to this project along each of the route alternatives. For any of the new eastern alternatives here is the number of parcels that will be taken, cutting a 550-foot swath through properties -- through properties:

The central alternative will take 231 parcels, the east alternative will take 211 parcels, the crossover alternative will take 132 parcels. On BPA's existing right-of-way, the west alternative along parcel edges, BPA will need 24 parcels. Thank you.

DEBBY PRENTICE:

My name is Debby Prentice. My neighborhood is at the intersections of segments 45, 46, 47 and 50. I would like to let you sit with that for a moment; four segments.

I'm quoting from BPA's website how routes are developed. "Sensitive habitats: Engineers consider potential impacts to plants and animals and try to avoid wetlands, nesting sites, et cetera." In looking at your wetlands data that you just released I find it incredible that on the west alternative there are potentially 148 acres of wetlands to be cleared and 19 acres of wetlands to be filled in for towers and access roads. I can't even build a storage shed 450 feet from the wetlands by us, but you can fill them in? Rhetorical question.

How is it that the west alternative still has almost twice as many acres of wetlands to be cleared as the next highest, which is the crossover alternative at 83 acres? Particularly since a large part of the west alternative is a right-of-way you already own, it would appear that most of the wetlands acres are between the end of segment 25 and the Camas River crossing.

People who want you to use your existing right-of-way must think that the west alternative ends somewhere in the middle of the city of Vancouver. It continues through to Camas and crosses the river.

I'm assuming that when you clear those acres of wetlands of their trees and vegetation that you will be spraying vegetation killer like you would on other parts of a right-of-way. That vegetation killer could leach down into our wells, some of which are as shallow as 34 feet. Many of us do not have alternate sources for our drinking water. Vegetation killer could also flow into streams, many of which flow directly into the Columbia River.

After analyzing all of these potential problems with the wetlands on the west alternative, I can't help but ask the question, when does the Army Corps of Engineers get to look at your proposed alternatives? If they had at the beginning many of these segments would have been eliminated and not included in those four alternatives.

And one final comment: BPA has a unique opportunity here. The citizens of Southwest Washington have provided you the possibility of an alternative number five, the gray line. If you choose the gray line alternative to avoid environmental impact to humans you could be thought of as the only government agency in

existence right now that is actually made up of fellow human beings.

BILL NELSON:

My name is Bill Nelson. On the one hand I'm extremely sympathetic to you folks at BPA. The voters and politicians have asked you to do the impossible; seamlessly blend wind power into your system. It's not a reasonable request. On the other hand, I can't for the life of me understand why you've turned something much, much simpler -- the selection of a new transmission line route -- into a complicated mess.

You had to know fairly quickly, two years ago, that there was widespread opposition to your main proposal to use the existing route for massive new towers. You have 800 engineers at your disposal and could have quickly plotted a gray line in the far eastern part of the county away from people. End of discussion. Instead, we've had endless meetings, excuses and stalling for two long years.

I think everyone here tonight wants to believe that the Bonneville Power Administration is a competent and reasonable government agency with a job to do. It's way past time for you to decide on a gray line route and let all of us off the hook. That's what we would like to hear from you tonight. Thank you.

PATTI OLSON:

My name is Patti Olson. My husband and I live in Yale Valley, and I actually had hoped to have some visual aids, which is not going to work out very well, I don't think, but I'll run across some facts about the line as it's proposed through the Yale Valley.

There will be seven towers from the north end of the Yale Valley crossing -- that lead across the valley to the south ridge. Not including state highway and county roads, there will be, for those seven towers, 14,100 feet of access roads. That's over 2,000 feet per tower, or four tenths of a mile per tower.

Reconstruction would take 5,470 feet. That's three acres. New construction would be 3,880 feet. That's 2.7 acres of property that would be bulldozed across private property to be used by the federal government at will 24/7/365. That's a lot.

Also, in Yale Valley where it crosses Speelyai Creek I have written -- I have drawn on here some property parcels and do note from K80 to K82 this power line runs directly through these two parcels. This is a family enclave that's been in the family

for over 50 years. This cabin is back here by the creek, this one is out by the road. They're going to be both totally demolished. These two do not even appear on the data sheet. They are not there. It is kind of an insult to these people looking at their homes being destroyed by the BPA and not be included in the data sheet.

We're down here, our home. This is about 4,000 feet total, and this is our home on the access road. A friend of ours took this last July of our home. We've lived here 30 years. There was nothing when we bought it. We did everything. We built the road, we built everything. This is my garden, three and a half acres, fenced for elk and deer. I cannot fence out the BPA, I guess.

Most of this I've been growing for 20 years or more, some of it the last 10 to 20. There's a large shrub and tree island here, and another one here, and this is what the BPA -- I hear about the impact -- we hear so much about the impact on homeowners, on property owners. This is what they have planned for my home of 31 years. This is our driveway, our three-car driveway they will rebuild. They would be getting it down to the dirt and rebuilding it. It goes 25 feet out here in front of my house and across here it would have to zigzag across here and go out to their tower. So this is evidently the impact on rural property owners.

JASON CARPENTER:

My name is Jason Carpenter, and apparently I'm the unfortunate recent home buyer on segment 26. I bought my place back in February not knowing that you guys are thinking about putting power lines through the back half of my ten acres. If my real estate agent was here right now I would be strangling him, but I guess it was my responsibility, and unfortunately at the time I didn't know about your pretty map here that I could have found on line.

I'm one of the people here in the room that would like to start building and think about building a future of 31 years and making plans for my property. I'm 46 years old, and God willing I'll be here for another 46, and this is my very first home purchase.

Ever since a small child when you're looking into your future of what is your future going to hold and dreaming of your -- how your life is going to be and what your house is going to look like, and are you going to live by the ocean or on the lake or on a houseboat or whatever, I have always wanted a house with a view. I didn't care if I had a big yard, but the only thing I

wanted was a house with a view. So for years I've been scrimping and saving, and finally, after a year and a half of searching and looking at over 100 properties, I finally found my piece of heaven, so I thought, and hopefully it will remain that way.

When I moved up here from Oregon I brought my business with me as well as two employees, and I am in the process of hiring about another six or seven employees. Should you decide to run power lines through the back of my property, which will kill my view -- absolutely kill it -- there's no towers on my property. You're going to put a tower on my neighbor's property and you're going to put another tower on the other property and you're going to swing power lines across the back half where I'm looking off towards Portland and over Fargher Lake. And tonight we had a spectacular red sunset view -- sunrise -- sunset. It was great. At the nighttime you can sit on the back porch and hear the crickets chirping away. I'm looking forward to that rather than power lines chirping away.

I'm not going to live the rest of my life with this situation. I'll sell my property at a loss. And since I just recently bought my property, I pretty much know how much I paid for that view. I'm kind of wondering if BPA is going to compensate me for that view, because what I've heard is you're compensated if there's actually a power line on your property, but if you lose a view you get zilch.

My feeling, until I heard some comments tonight, was that the west alternative would be a better way to go. You already own that land. People who live next to the west alternative, they bought that knowing going into that. People like us didn't know that. Anyway, the gray line sounds like the better way to go.

TERRY CONSTANCE:

My name is Terry Constance. I'm the chairman of Another Way BPA, and I serve as director on that group and I live in Clark County. We have a corporation that's non-profit that's No Lines in Populated Areas and we are an umbrella for other groups, and we kind of put together a list of things that people can come together and kind of support this movement that we have against Bonneville's invasion of the human environment.

Mark Korsness, just a minute ago, brought up the word "environment," and he just used the word "environment" by itself, but the National Environmental Policy Act defines the word, and in that Act the word is defined as natural and human, not just natural. So the NEPA was created to protect people from agencies like this taking people's livelihood from them.

And so when you see an agency come along to impact people in this way and destroy their lives, NEPA will prevent that from happening when they do a review and find that has occurred. Debby Prentice, a moment ago, mentioned the Army Corps of Engineers. Through the Freedom of Information Act we've discovered a document related to Article 404B of the Army Corps of Engineers that recalls that BPA did a fasttrack on this project and skipped over the wetlands mitigation and jumped right through it. This made the United States Army Corps of engineers extremely upset. They are trying to do some patchwork now to correct that issue. Whether they'll get it corrected in time is just a question.

The Army Corps of Engineers must permit this project. If they don't stamp it, it doesn't get built. The assessed value missing from their document they just put out is really an insult to the people that live here. There's human impact in there that's missing. It's not just homes, it's not just property. There's people there. You should have put the number of people that are impacted in that document and listed their children, because who's the voice of the children?

We proved in a presentation that I did in Mark Korsness' -- with his bosses at BPA in their offices that this will not benefit Clark and Cowlitz Counties, and yet they still have this agenda to create this path right through the heart of the most populated area in Washington state. That's never been done before and they are not following prudent avoidance, and I've outlined a series of NEPA violations that they've had and listed about ten of them. I'm not going to go over those in detail right now, but you have to have Americans have a safe environment to live in. That's required by law and it's required by the NEPA principles, and you have to follow those.

When the Clark County Commissioners and Cowlitz County Commissioners asked on November 4th if there was a study, you completely denied there was a study in process, although E3 was completely underway. You didn't mention that whatsoever. You didn't mention the Army Corps hadn't signed off on the permits or done a study on the wetlands. You just yanked it right off the map without anyone's permission or anyone's input at a coffee break. That's not right for the people of Washington state. You can't do that kind of stuff.

This year we saw an electricity load forecast. Have we seen a BPA lower electrical bill forecast? No. The load is dropping. PGE built towers south of Portland to solve that load. Why is BPA still going to build this project? It makes no sense whatever.

The gray line impacts the least number of people. The very least number of people. You have to consider it. It's got to be in the draft. We want you to pick it as a preferred route.

SANDRA BENNETT:

Hi, I'm Sandra Bennett. The route currently favored by BPA goes right through our neighborhood, and I'm the president of the neighborhood association. Bonneville Power originally announced it needed this to make a power line in case an act of terrorism or natural disaster disrupted power along the existing line. Then they said that Oregonians had threatened to take up arms if the line crossed into Oregon via the more logical route.

Later we learned that the power from the new lines would primarily be sold to Oregon and California. Recently it's been reported that there's a glut of power in Washington because of a surplus of water behind the dams and because of all the wind turbines, many of which have been turned off because they can't sell their power.

BPA has not adequately addressed the concerns about health hazards associated with EMF submitted from the towers of this size and they have been indifferent to the negative impact these mega towers, if built along the I-5 corridor preferred route, will have in home values in the area. As a former real estate appraiser, I can unequivocally state that these power lines will diminish the value of adjacent and nearby properties and has reduced the value -- comparable value of homes that already exist adjacent to the existing lines.

Homeowners in Clark County and Cowlitz County have already lost significant property value due to the recession. It would be unconscionable to cause further loss of property value by having these mega towers imposed on them.

BPA says it will be far more costly to place the new lines in the far eastern gray line quadrant of the county, but why should we have to give up our land so BPA can sell more power? It appears that the primary beneficiaries if BPA seems to expand its market will be Oregon and California. Thus, if the extra funding is needed for the line BPA should look to those two states and stop trying to ram this scheme down our throats.

VICENTE MOLINOS:

Hello, good evening. My name is Vicente Molinos. I am on the board of Another Way BPA. I live in the Coweeman River area, Cowlitz County, and I am very happy to see the information that you posted in the website. I think that's a good start;

particularly a good start for evaluating the direct costs of the project today, the present cost. If BPA really wants effective public participation, it's very important that you also post some of the detailed backup studies that produced those conclusions. That's the only smart way for us to participate.

The second major point is that, as you know, all projects have direct costs and benefits and indirect costs and benefits. I think you have, up to this point, ignored the future costs and benefits of the project. Particularly on the cost side, both Cowlitz and Clark County stand to lose tremendous amounts of property tax revenues and also economic opportunities by routing lines on the most valuable lands in the county. We're doing some analysis of that, and if you could share some of the detailed studies that were done we will happily help you evaluate that.

Until you do evaluate all those different economic opportunity costs and impacts for both counties, both now and projected, I don't think you are in compliance with NEPA. And as you heard here today, the fact that two counties that are not the richest counties in the country are paying for the energy that will benefit largely other counties that are much better prepared than us to support some of those costs, I think again that's a violation of the NEPA principles.

In closing, I think until you evaluate those external costs, present and future, and you look at all alternatives, including the gray line alternative, which you will find out very quickly that compensates for all the extra costs of going further east for the gray line, in less than 30 years, probably much less than that, you will have paid for the costs. Thank you very much.

KEN LONG:

My name is Ken Long. I live in the Highlands, and the west alternative route is going to affect our house. My wife also works on the committee working with the rest of the community people.

I guess, you know, one of the key things -- I'm talking from the heart. I don't have any notes in front of me. The big question I have to BPA is why you are trying to influence us about the need of this going through this populated area. I understand the greater need. I also understand that it was a huge commitment on the current administration and the new windmills that are plaguing the eastern and -- eastern Washington and Oregon counties that are being shut down. You're under contract to have those built and maintain some sort of revenue for the people that have contracted you to have those built.

Okay, fine. We understand most of the energy needs in this area are being transferred down to -- this microphone is not doing good.

The energy that you're producing is by -- you can't produce enough of it to support the grid, and you want to sell the energy to our southern neighbors. We're not going to benefit at all in this county, so when I look at the fact that you want to bring all these transmission lines through a heavily populated area, the most populated area that you could possibly -- route that you could possibly pick, we have two things that are involved that are going to affect us. One are property values, which to me is lower than the ultimate; the health risks and the health expenses that we may have to take care of without any assistance whatsoever from this government.

So how much more suffering does this government and BPA want us to deal with with having a project that there is no benefit to us whatsoever? We've lost property values tremendously with this new economic situation the government has, you know, presented to us, and now you're asking us to bear the burden of more expenses and more burden.

To me this is a very simple analysis. You move it as far away as possible to least impact -- to have the least impact on the population in this area. It can't be anymore difficult than that. I don't care about the expenses because the expense that we are going to partake in should be given to the people that are going to benefit from that energy. Thank you.

(A brief recess was taken at this time.)

ARDIE STEIN:

I'm Ardie Stein. I'm the coordinator from the Yale Valley. We have a coalition here so that we won't have these lines come through our area.

First of all, you made a grown man cry. Shame on you. Second of all, we human beings are a part of that natural environment. Everyone that I know who is a human being is a natural being. My first question is, what is BPA expecting to hear at this listening meeting that they have not heard, seen or read ad nauseam for two years, dragging people through it this long? Shame on you. That's all I can say about that.

Assuming the BPA is up to the task of building the I-5 corridor project, why is it necessary to hold citizens on four proposed lines hostage? We, meaning the Yale Valley Coalition, Another Way BPA, and Stop the Towers, are demanding a preferred route and one alternative be chosen immediately and that the

other two lines be released.

If two years of studying and scoping has not rendered a clearer decision than four alternatives, what will three or four more months of deliberations and two more years of torturous indecision change, unless you have been sincere in your commitment to study the gray line alternative and include it in your EIS? We submit that two lines should be chosen now and one of those be the gray line alternative, which would release that third group of homeowners from this seemingly ongoing, endless nightmare for two counties.

Currently and exactly at what phase is the scoping and citing of the gray line, and will it be included in the EIS for spring? We all think you should take your best shot.

SHERRON BILYEU:

Hi, Mark. How are you? My name is Sherron Bilyeu, and I want to thank you for giving me the opportunity to give my story.

First of all, this is personal to you. I want to tell you a little bit about my property. In 1960 my husband's family purchased our property, which is just off Williams Road and Yale Bridge Road, and we inherited it because of death in 1985. Our children grew up spending a lot of time there finding out the names of flowers, birds, weeds, animals and much more, thanks to my wonderful mother-in-law. It was the ideal place to learn about nature and the environment.

One of our daughters currently lives near us, and she and her husband do volunteer work for the Forest Service to improve paths for hikers around this beautiful state. One or both of us spend at least two to three weeks every month at our property constantly keeping up with the things that need to be done as homeowners and stewards of nature.

There are six properties, and at one time we were all related. Six properties on ten acres. We are all careful how we treat the environment. Our properties are next to Speelyai Creek, which is home to small frogs, salamanders and fingerlings. In 1987 biologists from Washington State Fisheries and Game examined the creek's viability and we were told not to go in the creek, as it was important to the marine life that was coming back at that time.

Our cabins get our water from underground springs, which is the only way that we get our water. And along with the families that live on that ten acres, the creek also boasts mallards, wood ducks and their families. Each spring we see a

new load of babies paddling along the way. Beavers, otters, fish use the water as their home. Blue heron, King Fishers and cedar waxwing are seen daily when it's warm weather. Pileated woodpeckers attack old growth timber across the creek, and you can see the burnt remains of the Yacolt fire jutting into our roadway.

Chickadees, hummingbirds expect food when we arrive. They know we're coming and they're waiting. Bats, screech owls and tiny pygmy owls visit yearly. We also have an agreement with Washington State Firewise Program with which we received a grant to keep our property safe from fire. Trilliums, Indian pipe, wild columbine, snow drops and ancient rhodies grow along the road in the shade. All of these plants that I just mentioned were there before we got our property, so they have been there a long, long time. Salmonberry, thimbleberry, serviceberry, salal, kinnikinnick and Oregon grape grow profusely.

Our concern is the impact on the environment that's putting access roads, towers, constant noise from power lines will have on our wildlife and waterways, which we have guarded since 1960.

On a personal note, I am concerned with my health and the magnetic field that these lines will generate. I have a neurostimulator installed inside my spinal column, and anywhere that I get near a magnetic field it will set it -- it will burn my spinal cord. It will kill me.

There's more I would like to say, but I think you know that the time limits me. My husband and I would like to invite you up to our property, not to discuss anything else, but to have you look around to see what we'll all be missing. Thank you.

TRENTON SPOLAR:

My name is Trent Spolar, and I'm a physician, dermatologist, internist, but sometimes being even accused of being a surgeon because I like to get to a problem and cut through it if I can.

I have a personal axe to grind and that is that I have an electrical stimulator too, and I feel the jolt when I get into a magnetic field. There's been no real decisions made on how dangerous electromagnetic fields are, but the general feeling is they are not good, and no one wants to be next to them. For that reason I like the gray line; but on the other hand, the surgical personality in me says you've got a line, use it.

STEVE RAPALUS:

Hello. My name is Steve Rapalus. I live about -- well, in the Venersborg area. I think I find it interesting that we're talking about counting homes, counting heads as part of the process, and the reason -- well, I'll get to that in a minute, but we need to pick a route. Instead of figuring out how many homes there are we need to pick a route with no homes, and here's why: When you guys first came out with the first set of plans I went to the first meeting, ran quick, got the map, checked my house and went, boy, I escaped that one, but I felt pretty bad when I looked at it and saw it going over other people's homes. So I started writing editorials to the paper and submitted comments to BPA, and then you guys came out with a new set of routes, and that one -- the first one was two and a half miles from my house, the second one was about 3,000 feet. And I said oh, good, when they come out the third time they'll be right overhead.

So you've heard stories from some folks today. When the last route came out I traced it, and there's a guy about 3,000 feet from me and it goes right over his place out in the middle of the woods. This guy built a place recently and I said if that was me it would pretty much destroy my happiness out there.

Let me give you a comparison. My son is at Helmand Province right now, and it's the second time. And let's say that something happened to him over there, God forbid. That would pretty much destroy my life too, as you can probably understand. Yet if he was the only soldier that got hurt that month, let's say, most people around the country would say, oh, we had a pretty good month in Afghanistan. They don't know me, they don't know my son, and I don't know these people here today that the lines are going right over their house, but I can certainly understand what it would do to them if the line does go to their house. Thank you.

CATHI SIMMONS:

My name is Cathi Simmons. You know, recently -- in fact, I think it was today -- in the newspaper it has come out that fracking indeed causes contamination in water. Now, all of us have watched the PR going on around about natural gas, and yet -- and it has been fantastic, good looking guys, like yourself and others, like Doug Johnson and others, and Maryam -- good looking people who are in PR who are presenting a case which is palatable to the general public. What I am saying is that the case for EMF is a stronger, and getting stronger case.

A friend of mine's husband who works on electromagnetic --

excuse me, on imaging of the brain, they're getting closer and closer to realizing the effects of these things. To take a chance as these children got up here this morning (sic), you know, in their innocence, because they really don't know what it involves, it's the adults who take the responsibility for these children and these babies. When I first came out -- when I first found out about this it wasn't property values that concerned me. It was EMF.

I spoke to one of your very good PR people who told me that he used to live indeed on a transmission line. I said, how many kV's? 125,000. Well, quite a difference between that and 500,000. I just want to leave you with the fact that these are human lives, and just because it is the easiest route in the sense that you have nice people here and that others -- and you know will remain to be seen what will be happening in the future, but if this continues a number of us are not going to put up with this, and you know that.

I want to encourage everybody who is here to join either Another Way BPA or Stop Towers Now. There is nothing else to do but fight this with everything that you have. And why? Because you have an opportunity for the human factor. Not the monetary factor, and the fact that we've got these wind farms up and that the government has dangled some money in front of us, or in front of the BPA so we can increase what we don't need in our area here, not because of those reasons, but because they are human beings and they are little children who will be impacted by this. Thank you very much.

DR. JOHN SIMMONS:

My name is John Simmons. I want to start by saying we live on route 50, which is part of the west route, and this is the so-called Alcoa line. It has a right-of-way of 100 feet. It will be extended 50 feet -- that's 25 on either side -- a number which is a joke compared to what a right-of-way should be. It's going right through Camas, it goes by two churches, it goes through a business park, and quite close to the Camas High School. It is a disaster, and it's one where the lines are going to have to be piled on top of another to get it in, and it's a disaster and a travesty. And then from there it will go to route 52, which happens to -- however you go, you blindly demand crossing to Troutdale and endangering all the people at that crossing, which is inhuman and not to be tolerated.

Now, I wanted to say that the country these days, we're seeing this incredible resurgence of conservatism in which it is stated the government is incompetent. Don't let the government, which is influenced by big business, power companies and the

like, don't let them be pawns and minions with PR people giving the lie to what is nothing but a monetary goal. Don't let that government control our lives.

And we've seen government officials making decisions such as the disastrous introduction of eels into Lake Michigan, such as the monstrous TVA environmental errors, and many, many more that you should table this entire project until you have got a perspective on what the long-term is, because the technology is now changing dramatically, all the conditions are changing dramatically, alternative fuels and transmissions are changing dramatically.

You are not competent to choose this, and just because some politician ahead of you, for expedient purposes pushed by power plants, has given you shelter so that you can sleep at night after you commit a colossal failure for years is not something that should be tolerated.

KEITH MATHISON:

Thank you, and I'm sure you're feeling a lot of heat, and it's sort of like the pain that everybody else is feeling that is going to be near these lines, so take it that way. One thing I would like to say is go east. And I was looking over the fact sheets and I had a few questions that I know I could get it done in three minutes.

The fact sheet states state renewable resource mandates in the same paragraph as access to low cost power. I think you need to prove that wind power is low cost, because there's been several testimonies showing that a lot of them are idle, and I know when I drive by the wind farms very few blades are moving. And so why are we subsidizing that if we're trying to reduce costs? Were these mandates ever voted on by the people, or were they just put in place by some environmentalists that are trying to jam it down our throats? So that was one thing on the fact sheet.

The other thing is the fact sheet talks about both new and existing right-of-ways. When old right-of-ways get developed on all sides why is not the highest and best use of the land changed? I mean, zoning laws change for private properties. Why are these just sacred ground that never changes? It seems that old power line right-of-ways might become obsolete for many reasons, as has been stated. Much of the old private airports that get built around end up being obsolete, and they have to move out. There's one on Mill Plain or Fourth Plain right now that's being converted. And I think these old right-of-ways, especially for power lines, need to be reconsidered.

Then it also says 15 percent of BPA's revenues are derived from surplus power sales. If you are using inefficient wind farms because of mandates not approved by voters, how can you say all the revenue is used to lower the cost? Correct me if I'm wrong, but I believe rates are higher because of wind farms, and that power companies are being mandated to use a certain amount of expensive environmentally correct energy doesn't make sense.

But bottom line is I think you just need to go east. It affects everybody here just like it's affecting you hearing it and taking the heat for all of this stuff. Thank you.

GEORGE VAUGHAN:

My name is George Vaughan, and I live on the west route over in west Vancouver, Hazel Dell area. I just want to thank everybody for coming out tonight and voicing your opinions. I haven't agreed with everybody, but I think it's wonderful that people take time out to do this.

I have a couple of concerns. Many of my concerns have already been voiced by some people very articulately. My concern is for even though I live along an existing line and it would require the least amount of property acquisition for BPA to install the new transmission line, it's going to affect many, many more people than any of the other routes. For one thing, the new line would carry at least 500 kilovolts, if not more than that, because the line already carries 250 kilovolts there. So I don't know if that would triple the capacity to this existing west route or what, but in any case, the towers would be twice as high at least, and the transmission of electricity would be twice as great, so it would be affecting all of us along this line for many hundreds of feet. And I'm just very concerned about all the people living on the line, and I just wanted to speak for them tonight.

And I think that BPA should definitely take another look at this and see if it's really necessary. And if they think it is really necessary after looking at all the facts -- I think the facts that come in all the time about this -- and for the necessity of this new transmission line, that you look at another alternative route that would not affect the number of people that these existing routes would. And I think also that you ought to seriously consider going into Oregon and bringing the line down that way. I think that that -- if it is deemed to be necessary -- and it seems to be necessary for most of the people south of us -- that would be ethically the thing to do. Thank you.

WILLIAM MOYER:

My name is William Moyer, and I would like to speak to one aspect of the use of the existing route which I don't think has been fully aired in the public media, specifically in the newspapers, and that is those of us who are close to or directly on, or possibly with the exception of those who are directly on that existing route, really did not know in advance that that was subject to expansion.

The existing route is a relatively low-level power line, physically low, it is below the tree level. You don't see it. The new lines that are proposed are going to be on 150-foot high towers; a 15-story building. That's going to be about 100 feet above the tree level. It makes a significant difference, and it is unfair, honestly, for anyone to say, oh, you're on an existing route, you should have known better.

JANE FIELDING:

My name is Jane Fielding. When I came in I felt like I needed to give my credentials; who did I represent, what group was I with. And I represent a citizen, which we all are who live on, unfortunately one of the routes that has been put on the lines to devastate our homes and our properties without any benefit to us.

Last spring I found engineers on my property. They wanted to know why I was there, and I told them that I lived there, and then we went about looking at a spur line that was supposed to connect route 43 down to route 50. It went through wetlands, it went through a ravine that is up to 30 feet deep. It really would have devastated that, and I felt really great when I found that it was taken off the proposal, because the engineer stated at that time, you know, if they just looked at the pictures they could have seen that this was wetlands and they shouldn't be in this area.

What I found when I looked at the map again was that although they had taken the spur line off, they had left the last tower, seeming like an afterthought, bringing the lines over the top of route 48, connecting it to the last tower of the spur line, and then angling it back to back across 48 to a new 150-foot tower. That effectively puts the lines, or the easement of the lines, at my deck.

We heard at one stage that it wasn't okay to displace any families, and it's pretty hard to see how you would be able to continue to live in a place where you are right under the power lines. I have sons that are disabled, but everybody in this room

has a really wrenching story to tell.

You can't put these lines in populated areas without affecting someone. So again, I feel kind of selfish talking about just my place, but consider we're talking about everybody's place and not just mine. In my case I have a son that's had a VNS implanted. That's an implant that sends electrical impulses to his brain to try to stop seizures. I can't imagine what will happen when now all of a sudden he's living in this kind of a magnetic field.

I can't imagine what's going to happen to anybody that's living in those magnetic fields, and I think you have lots of information that says not good things, but we keep ignoring that.

Go east. Go on the Department of Natural Resource land. That's public land. We're part of the public, so benefit the public by using that instead of devastating the public by putting it through populated areas. Even one home, as you said, is too many to lose.

JANE REVESZ:

I'm Jane Revesz. I was born in Clark County 77 years ago, and along with four generations of my family I am dedicated to keeping and managing our family tree farm, so this is kind of the other side of things. These tree farms that we have were purchased in the 1940's and early '50's by my folks who saw that the burned over hills of our east -- and I emphasize east -- county would one day be valuable, productive, tall trees again. It was just snags and brush when I was a kid, but they saw trees.

They loved the back country, the creeks, the fishing, especially the trees, the view, everything about those places, and they found their dream tree farms. They bought and sold land for some time, saved money, and now we have four tree farms. And we are really trying as a family to keep those tree farms and continually improve them for timber production, first goal; fish and wildlife, clean water and the piece of mind they bring before BPA and some of the threatening of other regulatory things to put us out of business.

We are definitely east county and are ridiculously, severely threatened by the proposed BPA transmission lines and access roads. Family tree farms are really important for Clark County and they have been through very hard times -- of course you know that with the housing and so on, the bubbles -- and the timber prices went way down. We had some timber markets this year, but not much for the last five years, and most of these are not in the west alternative.

The central, the crossover and the eastern alternatives all hit one or more of our four tree farms. And now what about the gray line? The gray line goes through our fourth tree farm. I don't know how we could be so lucky. We have had a terrible couple of years, but the gray line -- the County road maps are wrong. It goes inside our property, it goes through the old Tarbell homestead near a 400-year-old tree. It might be the oldest one in the County. It's kind of ugly because the top broke out, but it's our pet.

And then on the west side of that it's about a half mile that thing goes inside our property line. Well, you know what that does. There are two fish-bearing creeks already. Please, please don't destroy our tree farms.

PETER T. REVESZ:

Good evening. I'm Peter Revesz. I need to speak up anyway because I'm not only speaking for the recording, but also for all of us. Here's what my story is about: I married into the Witter family 55 years ago, and when I married in there our trees were about 5 to 15 feet tall. They came in after the Yacolt burn and here we are today, 150-foot trees in beautiful stands. We harvest in two- to five-acre lots as opposed to hundreds of acres as institutional, government and industrial ones do.

At a difficult time of our economy we are the quiet small, but stern backbone of small tree farming, sustainable -- in fact, sustained for four generations in our family. I'm very proud of our accomplishments and I think we set an example of how agriculture should behave, does behave and does during difficult times like we do.

We find it strange that when BPA comes in with these power lines to put those 500-kilovolt lines through our place, does permanent damage to small areas, which means our percent of hurt is bigger than the industrial ones, and yet we are the ones who, because of the family, of the survivable backbone of forestry and some of the best forestry in Clark County, and perhaps the world, it is therefore with that larger viewpoint that I'm saying when we penalize those that are trying to do the very best kind of job, it flies in the face of something that as an American I must face up to because I was born behind the Iron Curtain.

I came here and I enjoyed private free enterprise. Now, for gosh sakes, let's protect private free enterprise, which is the small forest landowner in particular. Why don't we put these lines outside of private -- particularly small private

properties? It can be done, and with careful layout let's make it a rule of thumb that we will go around private property, particularly the small ones.

LEE WITTER:

My name is Lee Witter, and I am also part of the Witter-Revesz four-generational tree farm family, and I am also here to talk about in laying out the lines, please respect the rights of small forestland owners. And I have prepared this visual aid which Jane is showing, and in our 220-acre tree farm which was my parents' and then was mine and now belongs to my children, the line O which is the red line, would bisect the best stands of timber on that as presently line O is located. And again, all family farms are in trouble now. Lots of small businesses are in trouble now.

Our type of farming happens to be tree farming, but the blue line that you see is the expanded riparian buffer that goes along King Creek, which has already removed 23 of the 220 acres from normal forestry. Line O would take an additional 50 acres, so O is the red line, and then the yellow line is an orphan -- line O orphans 24 and a half more acres, which would be subject to wind throw and really very difficult to tree farm normally.

And then the access roads -- there are going to be three towers on our property and one just north. One here, one here, one here, very steep slopes and erosion here, and then another one right here (indicating), so we figure that it will take at least 12 and a half acres more across the green forestry remnant to put access roads to those towers.

And so we figure from our 220 acres of timber -- that as Jane and Pete mentioned, represent 80 years of family forestry, blood, sweat and tears and so on -- we are going to have 110.1 acres on which to practice normal forestry. And so our plea is that you pay attention to the property rights of small private landowners, and we would certainly like to consult with you. As Jane mentioned, we have four properties in forestland, and if you include the gray line, each one of those properties somehow is threatened by one of these lines. It's unbelievable. Anyhow, our plea is not to forget the family tree farm.

CHRISTINA PILE:

Good evening. My name is Christina Pile, and I am really new to this fight. We were one of the unfortunate home purchasers that were not aware of what was about to come, and as many people here said, we dreamt of being able to be out in the country and worked very, very hard to have what we call green

acres. The house looks like Green Acres.

My biggest concern is not money or loss of property or loss of my home value. My greatest concern is for human health and safety, and when I think of that -- we are already close to your 250-megavolt power lines. We can see them out our front door, we can walk to them if we want to. So we knew they were there. We did some checking.

EMF is a huge concern. There are EMF devices that are approved by the FDA for use in healing soft tissue and broken bones. If it can heal and if it can stimulate cellular regrowth in soft tissue, then that stands to reason it is a medical scientific fact that EMF's have an effect on human health. If it can have a positive effect, it can also have a negative effect.

We need to be very careful about what we're doing with the amount of human lives that we're impacting, whether that be a physical life, or in the case of many of these other people, their livelihoods, or simply the lives that they have tried to build for their entire lives. Indiscriminate exposure to high-voltage power lines creating huge EMF fields, as we've heard from several people who have implants, are very, very dangerous. As many people have said before, we're learning more and more about them.

I urge you, I beg you, how much is a human life worth? How much? Even if it's one life, is it worth one life, a physical life or a livelihood or the life someone has built for this power line? Is there not some way to protect -- I happen to have noticed -- and I don't know how much that yellow gives me -- in your own statement it states, "For this project, as with every transmission project, we work to minimize impact to the natural and human environment."

Among other issues, human health, safety, including electromagnetic fields, if what you say here is true, then you must move your lines as far away from human population as is possible. One life isn't worth the dollars.

GWEN SUNDERLAND:

My name is Gwen Sunderland, and I have some comments, first of all for my neighbors, and then for those at BPA. Today I read BPA's annual report for 2010 and I learned some interesting things. First, BPA has a \$360 million shortfall for fiscal 2010. Second, the annual report notes that the transmission services are the one bright spot in an otherwise bleak financial picture. BPA is, by definition, a fiscally mismanaged company. Any company that loses \$360 million is

fiscally mismanaged. They have a huge financial incentive to grow transmission services such as those they want to hoist on us.

Of note, I also found that BPA was censured by the Ninth Circuit Court for mismanaging REP settlements and improperly managing funds, and yet I also looked at BPA open jobs and found them to be quite cushy. \$100,000 to \$150,000 for an open managerial position, for example, and many others in this range. This is several times the average for folks in this area. BPA acts as a reverse Robin Hood taking from those with less to enrich those that already have more.

Now my comments for BPA. Your corporate history and your dealings with us thus far do not inspire trust. You have a financial incentive to grab our land. I am not here to reason with you, I am not here to tell you my story. I'm here to tell you that we don't want you here.

You already have a viable route on land you've already appropriated, and you need to build underground. That technology has been around forever, you should use it. I'm here to tell you to use your own land and keep your hands off ours. I am further here to advise you that if you attempt to grab our land we will be out to stand in front of the bulldozers. That means me, that means my 80-year-old father in a wheelchair, and that means many of us here. And we'll be outside your offices as well. And the gentleman who spoke earlier and who said -- and he was perfectly correct to note that the spirit of the times is with us and not with you. You are Goliath, the big guy attempting to take from the little guy, and we are David. We are a room full of Davids here and we are here to stop you, and this is a message for your upper management. We will stop you.

GREG MILLER:

I am Greg Miller from La Center, Washington on the west route. I bought my property about four years ago. There was no mention of this at the time of buying the property. I looked at the title documents and I did see that there was a right-of-way of the BPA. I walked the property, I looked the property over. It was not even obvious that you could build another line on the back of the property. I thought, I've got a good green space between me and the next property owner, the lines were down in a draw, you can't see them, so we bought the property. It's 330 feet wide by 128 feet deep.

We had a manufactured home on the front of the property. We lived in the manufactured home with the intent of building our dream home on the back of the property, away from the main road,

41st Avenue. We picked the spot that we were going to build the house, we invested the time in clearing the property. I went to the building department two years ago, applied for the building permit. I was not notified by the building department at all that there was even a proposal to put a line back there, but they issued a building permit to me, and within a few weeks of the building permit I get a letter that's postmarked at least a month in advance that should have been mailed to me.

So now I've got a postmarked letter from the BPA notifying me that they want the right to come on my property, that this is going to be an issue, and at that point I have to say to myself, okay, what do I do? I've got a building permit, it's all mapped out where I'm going to put my house. Do I put my life on hold for the next, who knows how many years while BPA decides what they're going to do with my property? It's total (expletive).

My house now, which I spent two years of my life building, pretty much every stick of it I built myself, it's my dream home. It's got a great view, sunsets. It will all be ruined if this goes through. Do you think I'm going to stand there and let you do that? Hell, no.

You said you were going to come out with an EIS study in December. We asked you to postpone it because of the time of the year. You postpone it another six months? (Expletive). No one could run a business the way you guys run a business. In any kind of relationship with a customer, with a client, it's totally ridiculous that you would put us on hold.

You've got so much land to the east that you could put this on that wouldn't affect anybody. I don't understand. The gray line is the alternative. That is the one that you should be looking at, and it should be not affecting anybody. There's plenty of land out there. I'm a pilot. I fly over this country all the time. There's so much property out there that you could put it on and not affect anybody. I can't believe you couldn't do this.

PERRY CALABRESE:

Hi, Mark. My name is Perry Calabrese, and I live at (address withheld). My property borders segment number two, the Ross/Lexington line. I'm a property owner that has lost everything already. Let's get that established right now.

I like the way this forum started out at the beginning and they said let's stick to the facts, so I'm going to do that tonight. My dad told me once, and I believe it now, the cheapest

way is never the right way, so let's invest the extra dollars, let's invest the extra money that's needed and take the beast east. That is the right thing to do.

One thing that really humored me watching TV -- and I don't spend a whole lot of time watching TV, but it's a Portland General Electric commercial and the commercial boasts -- I mean, they really do -- they brag that they don't need any extra power. They talk about due to their conserve -- or conservation efforts and new technology and appliances and lighting and energy efficient homes, that commercial specifically says they do not need any additional power in the Multnomah County area. And so I took the liberty to e-mail them and I got in contact -- I'm sorry, I don't know the name of the person right now, and I gave them a phone call also and I said, is this really true? And he said yes. In fact, their energy use is down. And that is the commercial that's broadcast on, I believe it's mostly on Channel 8.

Then there's another issue with people -- the controversy over whether California needs the power. Well, California law SB X 1-2 states that by the year 2020 the majority, more than 80 percent of the power produced in California, must come from within the state of California, not outside sources. And that is due to technology advancing as fast as it is with bloom energy servers. The Bloom Energy Server is coming way down in price and a majority of the largest technology corporations in southern California now are supplementing their power with renewable Bloom Energy Service.

I work in a school district just north of here. I work in the La Center school district. That school district survives mostly on local tax dollars without much industry help at all. In fact, about the only income that they get from industry are some of the downtown shops, which is a very small downtown if you've never been there, and a couple of casinos. Everything else relies -- the school relies on residential property taxes, and putting this power line through that school district is going to severely impact future taxable income from land that will not be able to be developed and will not be able to contribute to the wellbeing of our school district and children.

The route through Lexington is tragic. If you've seen the maps, that is just horrible of what those people are going to deal with. One of the towers is being placed directly behind newly built homes which is sandwiched between a church, a church and school, probably about 600 apartments and one of the fastest growing residential areas just north of Kelso.

And I would like to play for you right now -- I will end as soon as you guys hear this. This is amazing. This is a

digital recording of me sitting in my car on Delameter Road near the current line. (Playing recording). That is just sitting in my seat. I would like to end, and I will end quickly knowing that there aren't any other people after this anyway.

You're a geotech, right? I'm going to share this photograph with you. This is Hazel Dell Road shortly after a half acre was clearcut in a known slide area above my property, which is causing my home and my property to slide. You need to take a look at the depth of this. And this is before the road actually slid. And also the other picture is just in my front yard, and this crack is about 20 to 24 feet long. And when I left -- before I left I took my iPad and I did a picture for you of my daughter's bedroom that has a crack that goes from the floor of her bedroom, which is on the bottom floor of the house, all the way up to the second floor to the ceiling. That is what's happening to my home right now.

Now in closing, I think a BPA employee stated it best, and that employee's name is Steve Noralski. He's the vegetation control person for BPA. He told my wife on leaving our property, "If you don't like it, Mr. Calabrese, file a tort claim against the BPA." Thank you.

MICHELE BLACK:

Hi, Mark; hi, Maryam. Long time no see.

There's a couple points that I want to make in closing, and one has to do with the misconception and some rhetoric that's been thrown around about how if this line is put in, particularly on the gray line -- because it would be the most expensive -- how it would impact rates. As I think most people know, but some people may not be aware, that what BPA does is they transmit the power. You don't actually own the power, but you're transmitting it for your customers. You have hundreds of customers and those customers have thousands, if not millions of rate payers.

This line is a national infrastructure project and will use embedded rates if it is built. In other words, BPA is going to absorb the entire cost of the line within the current transmission rate structure for the entire BPA network. So it's not as if this line is put in Southwest Washington and only Southwest Washington rate payers are going to absorb the cost. It's going to be spread out among the entire BPA system. What this means is that the cost will be distributed and it means pennies, if that, that will increase the rates, because your transmission rates, according to Wayne Nelson, who is the CEO of Clark PUD, when we met with him last year that your transmission rates to your Clark PUD bill is about four percent of that bill.

And of that four percent he stated to us it would literally be pennies. And we estimated that using the BPA's 2012 rate structure, if I estimate that the cost of transmission delivered to my home is about two tenths of a penny per kilowatt per hour, you -- like me -- may use 2000 kilowatts per month. Only a few pennies of my \$169 bill pays for BPA transmission costs.

So although \$100 million dollars seems like an incredible amount of money, and it is to individuals, to BPA it really is insignificant, and to the rate payer it's insignificant. In fact, I would say to you that because BPA's transmission lines will increase the capacity -- the load capacity that BPA can transmit, it actually could possibly reduce rates because they can then transmit more power and make more money from their customers. So I wanted to clear that up.

The second thing I want to talk about is I live against the existing right-of-way. Yes, I knew I was against an existing right-of-way when I purchased my home, and I knew that the 230-kV line was put in the existing right-of-way 40 years ago. Maybe I'm stupid, but maybe I'm not. I don't think the average individual understands how a power company's right-of-way works.

I was never told and had no idea in looking at it -- like this gentleman has said, had no idea that they could put 80-foot towers -- I didn't know that 80-foot towers were even possible -- or 150-foot towers, excuse me, could be fit next to the existing towers that are there.

I also would like to say that to those who have said, well put it in the existing right-of-way, they're living next to it anyway, to take a 230-kV line and add a 500-kV line next to it is like saying, well, you live next to a county road, so having the state come in and put in an interstate next to it should be acceptable. That's absolutely ridiculous.

I have one more thing. Regarding the 40 years that has gone by, things have changed, times have changed. There's more science, there's more data to support adverse health effects. There wasn't this data 40 years ago. In fact, I don't know that 40 years ago we even knew that there could be a 500-kV line that could exist. I don't know that this was even technology that was even there. So to be able to predict 40 years ago that people were going to be able to move in around these lines probably wasn't even -- people probably never really thought much of it.

I think that BPA has a responsibility to its neighbors, as I have a responsibility to my neighbors. There are laws that have been put into place, rules that have been put into place in 40 years. 40 years ago I could have a chicken farm in my

backyard or I could have a 15-foot fence. Now I can't, because there are laws that are in place for me to protect my neighbors. I think BPA has that same responsibility to its neighbors. Thank you.

(End of public comment)