

Foundation for Resilient Societies
52 Technology Way
Nashua NH 03060

September 7, 2012

Christina J. Munro, FOIA Officer
Mail Stop DK-7
Bonneville Power Administration
P.O. Box 3621
Portland, OR 97208

Dear Ms. Munro:

RECEIVED BY BPA FOIA OFFICE THIS DATE: 9/7/12
DUE DATE: 10/5/12
LOG # BPA-2012-01868-F

Pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act, we hereby request the following information which we believe to be in the possession of the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA):

1. A list of locations where Geomagnetically Induced Current (GIC) monitoring devices have been installed.
2. Time-stamped and location-specific GIC readings from installed GIC monitoring devices.

We ask that this information be provided in electronic format, which also should be the format in which this information is stored.

Mr. Donald Watkins of your agency should know how to access this information. He can be reached at:

email: dswatkins@bpa.gov
phone: 360-418-2344

Geomagnetically induced current is the result of natural meteorological phenomena emanating from the sun. GIC readings are similar to readings of wind speed, rainfall, river current, etc. We know of no FOIA exemption for information of this kind of naturally caused phenomena.

The Foundation for Resilient Societies is an incorporated non-profit formed for the purposes of education and scientific study, and this request is made for scholarly and scientific purposes and not for commercial use.

We ask that any fees for production of this information be waived. We give the following reasons:

1. The requested information concerns the operations and activities of the BPA in monitoring and mitigating the impacts of GIC.

2. The requested information is likely to contribute to public understanding of the impacts of GIC on transformers within the BPA network and also on the bulk power system for the Western Interconnection.
3. The requested information will contribute to public understanding of the impacts and potential mitigation measures for GIC. We plan to scientifically analyze the GIC data and produce a public summary of its meaning and implications.
4. Commercial electric utilities do not commonly release GIC data and very limited GIC data is available for research purposes. Therefore, the release of BPA GIC data is likely to contribute significantly to the public understanding of the impact of GIC on BPA operations, and to the operations of the bulk power system for the Western Interconnection.
5. The requestor is a non-profit Foundation and does not seek a commercial interest in requesting, using, or disseminating this information.
6. The requestor has no commercial interest in obtaining this information; the information will be used primarily in the public interest.

Our contact information is:

Thomas S. Popik
Foundation for Resilient Societies
52 Technology Way
Nashua NH 03060
Phone: 603-321-1090
Fax: 603-595-2228
Email: thomasp@resilientsocieties.org

We thank you for processing this FOIA request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Thomas S. Popik". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial 'T'.

Thomas S. Popik
Foundation for Resilient Societies