

August 6, 2007

Bonneville Power Administration
Public Affairs Office-DKC-7
P.O. Box 14428
Portland, Oregon 97293-4428

Dear BPA,

I am writing to comment on the proposed Cascade Wind Interconnection Project in Wasco County, Oregon. I have serious concerns with the environmental impact of the proposed Cascade Wind Project. This project lacks independent third party documentation of the project's effect on the surrounding area, including the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area, residences, and wildlife. This effect is both visual (not just the turbines themselves but also the strobe and flicker effects of the light) and the effect of noise. The 400 foot tall turbines (each taller than the Statue of Liberty) would be highly visible from 9 of 13 key viewing areas in the Gorge. Tom McCall Preserve would experience a significant adverse noise and visual impact with 12 turbines located nearby and highly visible.

The Columbia Gorge National Scenic Area is a world class landmark containing breathtaking vistas and unique and important biodiversity. Unfortunately both of these elements are threatened by the proposed turbines.

About one third of the project would be sited in Wasco County's Big Game Winter Range and Sensitive Wildlife Overlay Zone. UPC even states in its application that the bat kill will be higher than usual for Eastern Oregon - what does this mean? 51% or 100%? There are high bird and bat mortality rates with wind turbine projects sited on ridgetops, as this one would be. Birds and bats are facing an ever increasing threat from unregulated wind energy development in migratory pathways.

The degradation and fragmentation of the habitat affects not just birds and bats but other forms of wildlife which rely on the pine oak habitat. Oregon Fish and Wildlife has stated in regards to this project that due to the unique oak woodland habitat, the limited amount of this habitat, and its high wildlife value, an alternative site should be considered.

This project would be sited at an unsafe distance from residences with residences located within 1/4 mile. Setbacks of 1 to 1½ miles are routinely used in Europe to prevent noise pollution with greater distances recommended depending on the terrain. A mountainous terrain requires a greater setback than a flat terrain.

The DVDs, "Welcome To Mars Hill" and "Life Under A Windplant," which are being mailed to you, outline some of the problems that result from the inappropriate siting of turbines. In Mars Hill, Maine, most of the people were initially supportive of the project and believed the developer's assurances that they would not experience any problems from the noise. The people

living down the mountain (less than half a mile from the turbines) are now experiencing a serious noise problem which has destroyed the livability of their homes and is threatening their health.

The Mars Hill project was installed by UPC, which in their application, compares that project to the Cascade Wind Project in the size and number of turbines. We're being set up to be the Oregon version of Mars Hill. Based on its past performance, this company clearly lacks the capability to successfully construct and operate a wind facility. Their request to interconnect to the transmission system should be denied.

Sincerely

Sheila Dooley