

August 8, 2007

Dear Bonneville Power Administration,

The local residents of the 7-mile Hill community are totally against the Cascades Wind Project. The project has not been approved and an Electrical Substation Inter-tie should NEVER be built in our rural Community.

UPC has proposed a 60-megawatt wind turbine project called "Cascade Wind on Seven Mile Hill", near The Dalles, Oregon. We have been told that this project has been placed on the "Fast Track".

UPC has held two public meetings so far, and over 100 upset local residents have shown up at both meetings to express vocal opposition. Many have written to the D.O.E. expressing concerns about this project. I have been living on Seven Mile Hill near Wasco Butte for over 22 years. The proposed south array sites would place five wind turbines within one mile of my home; three of those would be less than 1/2 mile away. Other proposed sites are less than 1/4 mile from other homes. This is unacceptable to me and the residents of our rural community. Recent studies have raised concerns about a Pandora's box of health problems associated with living near wind turbines. This includes a greater risk for certain cancers. Dr. Keith Stelzer, Chair of the Cancer Committee, Mid-Columbia Medical Center, has written numerous letters to the powers that be, expressing concern about the Cascade Wind Project sites. Studies have recommended that wind turbine sites be at least 1 1/2 miles away from homes. These site standards have been adopted in California and in other countries such as France, Denmark and England. Low frequency sound waves, also very loud noise levels (Oregon recently changed noise level standards to allow wind turbines), brightly flashing strobe lights and overhead transmission lines have caused people to abandon their homes at Mars Hill, a similar UPC project in Maine. Our property values would fall and some families would feel compelled to sell their homes a terrible loss of money. This project should not be built anywhere on Seven Mile Hill, because construction and operation of the project would create a dangerous FIRE HAZARD to our rural community. The Forestry Department recently held a meeting and notified land owners that they live in a VOLATILE FIRE AREA and would be liable if a fire starts due to their negligence. The wind turbine hubs contain hundreds of gallons of oil, which would catch fire if the turbines lock up. Moreover, turbines on a ridge are natural targets for lightning. Everyone in The Dalles area remembers the recent Sheldon Ridge Fire, which was started by lightning; residents of Mill Creek and other areas had to evacuate. If a fire starts in these high wind areas, it would be impossible to contain by the time fire crews could make it up the hills

to the remote sites.

Hundreds of heavy equipment trucks would have to haul long turbine blades, towers, hundreds of thousands of tons of concrete, substations, electrical towers and equipment thru the towns of Mosier and/or The Dalles and up and down the roads we rely on every day. This would create a traffic hazard and endanger the lives of people who drive these roads. This includes our children commuting on school buses. The increased traffic to and from town would be frustrating and dangerous! The visual impact of forty, 413-foot tall wind turbines, 1/2 mile from my home and from most of The Dalles,

or anywhere from our treasured Columbia Gorge National Scenic and Recreation area, wilderness areas, and wildflower Preserves is totally unacceptable to me and a growing number of concerned people. For example, at the Rowena Plateau/Nature Conservancy Viewpoint, 12 turbines, .6 to 2 miles away would be highly visible. The wildflower preserve would experience an obvious increase in noise level.

UPC proposes drilling a huge, deep, high capacity well for support. This proposal is bad news for the residents of our rural Seven Mile community. Numerous studies have been made and it is well documented that the Seven Mile Hill underground water supply is extremely marginal. Studies show that some well water levels are dropping four feet a year. Drilling the proposed big support well would spell disaster for our rural community.

UPC would have to build roads through a beautiful Ponderosa -White Oak forest. This forest, on the edge of the Oregon desert, is the last refuge of local wildlife and is the Big Game Winter Range. This will destroy their habitat. Where will they go? In addition, the whirling blades also kill migrating raptors, songbirds, and bats.

The proposed UPC site is in the direct path of a low-level Tactical Military Training Route, IR344, which is on all air maps. The route crosses north-northwest over the proposed sites. I know this route has been in use for over 30 yrs and may date back to WW2. There is a civilian website dedicated to Mission Planning. From that website, I obtained the following information about activities practiced on that route:

Flying Low to practice avoiding radar; 480 miles per hour and 500 feet above the ground. Using ground-following instrumentation; it is o.k. to fly route IR344 in any weather, day or night. AND it is o.k. to stray four miles to the right or left of route IR344. It is an active route; fighter jets often roar over my house at tree top level. Huge swept-wing, jet cargo planes often fly in formation up Mosier Creek valley at low elevation. Also, the proposed site may be in conflict with the instrument flight approach to The Dalles Airport. Thus, the windmills would be a hazard to aviation and another source of danger to local residents.

The first site application proposal did not mention homes and residents near their wind turbine sites. Our rural community is NOT farms and agricultural. It is our home. There seems to be a callous, total lack of regard for the impact on people's lives; destruction of our beloved scenic vistas; and endangerment of the local residents. I am not against wind turbine electrical power production. I have worked in Power Plant Operations for 30 years. However, Oregon Department of Energy needs to adopt wind turbine site restrictions of at least 1 1/2 miles from people's homes, and never site wind turbines where they are visible from our beloved Columbia Gorge National Scenic and Recreation areas. I believe the proposed UPC Cascade Wind Project is bad for Oregon and a disaster for the residents of our rural Seven Mile Community. The Department of Energy has the power to stop this project and initiate wise siting standards.

Please do not let this happen to our rural community and spoil the views of the Columbia Gorge National Scenic Area.

Please feel free to contact me by e-mail or telephone to discuss this matter further.

Sincerely,

William Simpson