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Subject: Comment on Cascade Wind Interconnection Project

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Peter Wright

To: BPA From: Peter and Barbara Wright

We bought my property in 1996 and checked with Wasco Planning before our purchase. We have built our retirement dream home here after serving the public as a firefighter and registered nurse. We were told that the Kortege "ranch" property was zoned farm use and could not be developed. Of course we were thinking residential homes not some industrial project in our back yard. The proposed Cascade Wind project was a complete shock to us. Since finding out about it (by a neighbor, not by notification from Wasco planning) we were very shocked that they would even consider a permit for such an inappropriate industrial project within feet of our beautiful Colombia River National Scenic Area. The Scenic Area literally wraps around the proposed area. This is also a residential area with many homes within a half mile (some less than even a quarter mile) from the wind towers. We have been told they will be 438' tall. I urge you all to put that in perspective to the surrounding area. We have been forced to fight this and as a result have learned many interesting facts about UPC and wind power in general. I was a proponent of wind power before this, now I'm not so sure. I could flood you with information about wind power but I know you are busy people and have many others to listen to. I feel I need to at least point out some of the more disturbing facts or lack of them in some instances. We all know what a huge visual impact they will have from key Scenic area view points and also our residences but there are also health risks to humans living in such close proximity. Wind power is relatively new and studies are still going on. Dr. Keith J. Stelzer has written a letter to Adam Bless of Oregon Dept. of Energy which I am attaching. Basically it suggests health risks to humans when in close proximity to wind turbines. Please read it. Dr. Stelzer is not some "quack" but the Chair of the Cancer Committee at Mid-Columbia Medical Center. Certainly our county does not want to take on the possible health care costs of residents exposed to this by allowing it. It also makes sense that these same problems will affect wildlife in this very sensitive area. UPC's application is incomplete concerning wildlife. Another major concern is the traffic nightmare this will cause in Mosier, State Rd., Sevenmile Rd., The Dalles, Chenowith Rd.. These oversize trucks (average 50 per day for 9 months according to UPC) will be coming right through the quiet town of Mosier although no plan has been prepared with their city engineer or Wasco Co. road division (per Marty Matherly, Roadmaster for Wasco Co.) I talked with the Mayor of Mosier, Mark Barry, and he has not been involved in this process so far. Mosier elementary school will be greatly impacted with all this truck traffic. Certainly the children's safety should be a major concern to us all. We all accept the inconvenience of following a school bus up State Rd. that goes slowly up the hill and stops often so our children will be safe. This only happens occasionally at set times of the day. Imagine trying to go up or down State or Sevenmile Rd. with an average of six trucks per hour! Chance are very good we will be following these very large

and slow trucks every time we travel these roads. Chenoweth School will also be impacted this way. I also point out that these are school bus routes. Winter travel on these roads would be very hazardous for all of us. Fire! Yes the conflagration that is ever present in our area should also be a major concern. ODF supervisor David Jacobs has not been officially contacted and ODF has jurisdiction in much of the area. I went to Mid-Columbia Fire and Rescue and talked with Jay Wood, Fire Marshall and he has concerns and is looking into it. This whole area has been classified as "Extreme" fire hazard by the committee serving the State for SB 360. Wind Turbines do catch on fire. Imagine a fireball 300' in the air burning out of control with no way to put it out. I am a retired firefighter with 30 yrs. experience and without a built in fire extinguishing system these fires will keep on burning until they burn themselves out. Meanwhile a shower of flaming debris will be blown across the surrounding area. Most of these fires are from overheating which generally happens when the wind is blowing hardest. I assume you all know what high wind does to spread fire. Yes, The Dalles is just downwind of all this potential not to mention all the residences within 1/2 mile. It won't just take the turbine to catch fire either. Construction will be another high risk adventure. Remember, much of this construction will have to be done in the good weather months. ODF won't even allow us to use weed whackers or chainsaws in the fire season because of possible sparks. This project would require many tools of much greater potential. Water use is estimated to be up to 5000 gallons per day by UPC once construction is completed. This will be provided by wells. The Water Master told me several years ago that the aquifer is dropping dramatically in the Seven mile area and neighbors around here have had to drill hundreds of feet deeper for water. Because of the rapid processing of this permit I have not been able to talk with him recently. Please bring yourselves up to speed on this problem in our area. If you would like to take the time to read hundreds of pages of information on UPC's other projects and the problems arising from Wind Power in residential areas I will be glad to provide you with them. I am including testimony from Wendy Todd (hopefully you have already read this). She is a resident of Mars Hill in Maine. This is the location of the UPC Wind farm started up this past year. Noise is the major issue but light flicker, strobe lights and flashing lights are also a big problem. Health issues unfortunately will not be known until it is too late. They are 3000' away. Many residents will be living (or trying to) within this distance of the Cascade Wind project. Please take the time to read her testimony. Mars Hill wind farm is very similar to the proposed Cascade wind farm on Sevenmile Hill. A lot can be learned from just this one example of wind power gone wrong. Property values will decline. This is only a matter of how much. Residents here are already getting property value appraisals done to document them for possible future litigation. Tax base will suffer from this also. I guess I won't complain though if you lower my taxes. (a little humor at this point is probably needed) The proposed project is also right under or should I say "in" a military flight corridor used for low level radar avoidance training. Yes that means flying "nap of the earth", a very low 500'. We see all types of aircraft come through including refueling tankers. UPC's application is almost 900 pages long and I am sure there are many other issues to be raised but given the limited time to comment I can't possibly analyse it all in the very short time I have to comment. Also the Substantive Criteria presented by Todd at the hearing, although well presented by him, is also quite long. Time doesn't permit me to go over it efficiently. I am rushing right now to get this to you before the deadline this afternoon. Please strongly consider the health, safety and happiness of the residents of Sevenmile Hill. This is one of most beautiful areas in our great country. Next door sits a National treasure. Wildlife abounds and life here right now is as good as it gets. Please help us to keep it that way. Very sincerely,
Peter and Barbara Wright