
Sent: Friday, August 10, 2007 12:17 PM
To: BPA Public Involvement
Subject: Comments on Cascade Wind farm

To: Bonneville Power Administration
RE: UPC Cascade Wind Project application

I am writing to request that you deny support for UPC to construct an industrial wind energy generation facility with approximately 40 towers of approximately 400 feet in height adjacent to the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic area. I am a proponent of renewable energy and specifically wind power -- I pay extra each month for PGE's 100% renewable energy program and even promote it on the footer of every email I send out. But wind power generation facilities should be sited in appropriate locations, far away from residences and other areas where they have immense detrimental impact.

My concerns include:

Land Use

An immense, noisy, industrial site is incompatible with the surrounding land uses, including residential neighborhoods and some of the most protected sections of the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic area. Fire is another danger that will be exacerbated by such an operation, since wind towers have caught on fire in other locations. At the Public Information Meeting on July 26, the attorney for Friends of the Columbia Gorge cited numerous violations against state laws, county ordinances and Gorge Special Management Areas.

Vegetation and Wildlife

UPC has not produced any report that shows that they will not detrimentally affect vegetation and wildlife. At the meeting there was testimony by a wildlife biologist on the impacts to the area's oak habitat, and that the proposed area is home to some "species of concern." Another person testified that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has "considerable uncertainties" about locating the facility here, and that studies made were in wheat fields and not in comparable habitat. In East Haven, Vermont, a UPC proposed wind facility was denied because they did not demonstrate that the operation would not have an undue, adverse effect on birds and bats.

Health and Safety

There have been numerous concerns about the effects of "flicker" on human neurological systems. In one location, a huge turbine blade flew off and landed on adjacent property, endangering human lives.

Soil and Geology

No proof has been supplied by UPC that they will not cause undue erosion in the construction of this operation. In Ma'alaea, Hawaii, UPC was fined \$17,000 for serious erosion problems. There was testimony on July 26th about the soil being bedrock and that UPC misrepresented construction capabilities. Numerous concerns were mentioned about the potential effects on residents' wells.

Visual Resources

The visual impacts of this proposed operation will be horrendous, both to neighbors and to anyone hoping to enjoy the beauty of the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic area. At the meeting, maps were brought out that demonstrated how these towers would be highly visible over 35 miles of the 70-mile national scenic area. UPC has not provided appropriate visual documentation of the effect of these towers throughout the region.

Noise

In Mars Hill, Maine, neighbors were told by UPC that there would not be any noise disturbance. Instead, the residents there have experienced constant loud noise described as "profoundly disruptive" One resident wrote, "We have found, now that the mills are running, that UPC Wind Company has misstated and mislead us as to the effects of the turbines. We were told there would be no noise!! That statement was on their website. Sometimes the noise from the turbines is loud enough to hear in the house! It has been described like sneakers in a dryer. Other times it sounds like a plane engine over the house. This is a constant drone that is always there in varying degrees." The noise levels there were found to be out of compliance with Maine's Department of Environmental Protection.

Sincerely,

Donna Matrazzo