



LTS-013

JUN 09 2005

Montana Department of  
**ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY**

Brian Schweitzer, Governor

P.O. Box 200901 • Helena, MT 59620-0901 • (406) 444-2544 • [www.deq.state.mt.us](http://www.deq.state.mt.us)

June 8, 2005

Bonneville Power Administration  
P.O. Box 14428  
Portland, OR 97293-4428

**RE: Scoping comments for "Libby (FEC) to Troy Proposed Rebuild"**

To Whom It May Concern:

The Department of Environmental Quality submits the following comments for the Libby (FEC) to Troy Proposed Rebuild.

The EIS for the Libby –Troy project should disclose possible effects of human and animal exposure to electric and magnetic fields (EMF) as well other shock and induced current effects for each alternative. The discussion in BPA's Grand Coulee – Bell environmental impact statement would be a good starting point but it needs to be updated.

**Highway safety**

Please work with Montana Department of Transportation to determine the safe zone parallel to Highway 2 along the new alignment for crossing the Kootenai River.

**Aeronautical safety markings**

Please contact the Montana Department of Transportation Aeronautics Division and air ambulance services operating in the area to determine whether any special marking beyond FAA requirements would be appropriate for the proposed line.

**Alternatives**

In the discussion of alignments eliminated from detailed consideration, alignments north of the Kootenai River that were considered during the previous review for the Libby-Bonnors Ferry line (early 1990s) should be discussed.

**Biological resources**

Please identify the need for any construction timing restrictions to protect sensitive wildlife species.

Please identify the potential for avian collisions at crossings of the Kootenai River and near wetlands.

The EIS should include a plan for reclaiming areas disturbed by construction and a plan for weed control during operation.

#### Aesthetics

Please describe likely noise impacts from each of the proposed designs. Please describe visual impacts of the alternative designs and alignments.

#### Land Use

Please describe possible effects on property values of each alternative design and alternative location. This discussion should describe the factors recognized in the literature that influence property values. Are there ways to avoid adversely affecting property values?

The EIS should describe any additional restrictions that would be placed on use of private property as a result of an expanded right-of-way.

#### Project Need and commitments to future courses of action

The EIS should include a thorough description of need for the project including a discussion of current and long-term need for both 115-kV and 230-kV options. The EIS should describe what future commitments would be made to build other lines to 230-kV standards by building an isolated Libby to Troy segment to 230-kV standards at this time. These other lines or upgrades to existing lines would be in areas not addressed in this EIS.

Lastly, we have not yet received a memorandum of understanding (MOU) for DEQ involvement as a cooperating agency on this EIS. Although a formal agreement is not yet signed, we will continue to work cooperatively with BPA to identify and address issues for this proposed transmission line rebuild.

Sincerely,



Warren McCullough  
Bureau Chief  
Environmental Management Bureau  
Montana Department of Environmental Quality

Cc: Steve Welch, Division Administrator  
Permitting & Compliance Division  
Montana Department of Environmental Quality