

**Libby (FEC) to Troy  
Public Scoping Comments  
June 13, 2005**

**Comments from a public scoping meeting on May 19, 2005 in Helena, Mont. at 7 p.m.**

**Comments, Questions and Answers:**

1. Will you use Shepherds road? A-Most likely. If so will you tear it up? A-No. measures will be taken to protect the road. Will access to it be changed? A-Not significantly
2. There is a wild turkey flock located about three miles down River Road from highway turnoff.
3. Show state, Kootenai National Forest and private resident boundaries on the final EIS map.
4. Will BPA use ATVs for access to the site?  
A-For a limited amount of time only.
5. Learn from history of Kalispell (North) to Hamilton (south) RE: In flow of people.
6. The 230 kV alternative sounds good. Not a big enough financial difference doing a cost comparison of alternatives.
7. There is growth near Troy (land is being sold for subdivisions) therefore you need to build the maximum alternative. Lots of land west of the Cabinets and south of Libby that is being subdivided for homes.
8. Re Route from 17/4 – to existing reroute at 17/14 (Pipe Creek area) A-We will investigate.
9. Jim Erickson – The line is near his property, he isn't concerned if we don't move the location. He doesn't understand why we wouldn't build out to the maximum (230-kV) now.
10. Continue fiber optics on towers. A-We will look into the possibility of putting fiber on this line.
11. John Desch (FEC) suggests just coming through once and build the line for the future.
12. Landowner concerned about possible re-route near Troy Substation, he has property close by.  
A-The state has withdrawn its suggested route alternative near Troy Substation.
13. What is the appraisal method for property? Fair market value or same as MDOT? A-Fair market value with government appraisals.
14. May I have a list of line contractors? Terry Leir – need to get back to him. See Michael Hoffman.
15. Since there are access problems to the line, BPA should build to 230 kV so they don't need to come back.
16. The dark gray may be a better choice of color for poles.
17. It would be a good idea to expedite the project due to the urgency of the condition.
18. How would the mine on the west side of the cabinet mountains get power? A-If you mean the Montanore Mine, from BPA's Libby-Noxon line.
19. It would be great to move the line up the hill above Quartz Creek. A-We are looking into that state suggested route alternative.
20. Will fiber optics be on the rebuilt line? A-We will look into putting fiber on the line.
21. The Troy area is expected to grow in population substantially in near future. Plum creek is selling to developers.
22. Fiber exists to Troy. Need Fiber from Troy to Libby.
23. Is this project associated with the Montanore Mine? A-No.
24. Park at Big Horn Est. 100' to 20/5.

25. What is a driving factor for the final decision? (Environmental impacts, cost, need, not any one thing?) A-All of those considerations.
26. View shed is important. How soon after the rebuild will old post be taken out?  
A-Old poles will be taken out during construction.
27. Does BPA have a preferred alternative?  
A-No, we are entering into the environmental analysis stages where we consider all the alternatives.
28. What is the maximum alternative potential? A-230-kV?  
Yes, that would buy us beyond 30-40 years into the future.
29. Are those cost spread through out the system?  
A-Yes. It will not just impact Libby.
30. Does this rebuild factor in the potential new generation at Libby Dam?  
A-No. It's not in the scope of the project. We would have to build a 230 kV line from Libby to Spokane to be able to handle the increased generation.
31. Do you already have 230 capabilities at the Dam?  
A-Yes.
32. Why not move the river crossing east more? There are a lot of physical obstacles to moving the crossing farther to the east.
33. Are the reroutes proposed or if you rebuild the line are they a guarantee.  
A-They are considered along with everything else, nothing is final.
34. Will the new towers be above the treetops?  
A-In some places.
35. Are there significant environmental impacts between structure types? A-There are plus's and minus's to all of the structure types being considered as alternatives.
36. What is the length of construction?  
A-A final ROD in Spring 2007, with road construction in 07 and line construction in 08.
37. What is the economic impact to Troy and Libby? A-Will be discussed at length in the DEIS.
38. Potential jobs. We might need up to 20 local contractors.
39. Are you projecting the town will grow?  
A BPA's planning estimates are based on electrical load and demand, not necessarily the population.
40. Can we use multi-color poles to match the changing environmental backdrop? A-Possibly.
41. Consider crossing the Kootenai River as far east as possible.
42. China rapids is a popular fishing spot. – Consider that when re routing the line.
43. The Kootenai River crossing is not visible now – how visible will it be with the new crossing from the highway? The crossing itself may not be more visible, but for a crossing alternative further to the east than the present crossing, the line is anticipated to follow the highway for a half-mile or more on the north side of the highway before crossing the highway and rejoining the existing alignment.
44. Leaving the route where it is now makes sense.
45. Take another look at Quartz Creek potential re route.
46. There is unstable ground at Bobtail Road.
47. Bird collisions – the higher the pole, the more the collisions?
48. At the river crossing, will it have to be marked for air traffic? Possibly.
49. The county says the alignment further up Quartz creek (north) behind Big Horn Terrace would be more expensive. We think that is probably the case.