



The Big Sky Country

MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

REPRESENTATIVE RALPH HEINERT
HOUSE DISTRICT 1

October 12, 2005

HELENA ADDRESS:
CAPITOL BUILDING
PO BOX 200400
HELENA, MONTANA 59620-0400
PHONE: (406) 444-4800

COMMITTEES:
BUSINESS & LABOR
NATURAL RESOURCES
AGRICULTURE

HOME ADDRESS:
P.O. BOX 577
LIBBY, MT 59923
PHONE: (406) 293-9843
E-MAIL: rheinert@link.com

Bonneville Power Administration
Communications-DM-7
PO Box 14428
Portland, OR 07293-4428

Subject: Proposed Rebuild of Libby to Troy Section of BPA's 115 KV Transmission Line

Dear Sirs:

I am writing this letter in support of my constituents that live adjacent to the existing right-of-way near Libby in the Bighorn Terrace area of the above proposed transmission line rework.

Your proposal includes a number of alternatives including a complete rebuild to increase the capacity of the transmission line to 230 KV. It does make sense to increase the capacity of the line during any reconstruction should you decide to proceed and I believe that most of the residents in the area would agree with that opinion. However, as I understand it, increasing the line capacity also means that a larger right-of-way will be required. Increasing the existing right-of-way will create a burden for many of those folks living adjacent to it. Those residents in the area purchased and improved the adjacent properties knowing that the existing right-of-way existed and were willing to live with that as it exists today. However, none of these folks ever anticipated nor could they have been expected to anticipate that they may lose additional property to a transmission line right-of-way sometime in the future. Therefore, rather than create a hardship and potential hazard for these residents, it also makes good sense to route the line around the Bighorn Terrace area to the north as provided in one of your options. There is good reason to reroute the line because the land for the right-of-way is available to the north, it will create no serious problems for the wildlife in the area once the line has been completed, it will not increase the costs appreciably and it is the right thing to do with respect to the people living in the area.

BPA 10/12/2005

I think it is extremely important to consider private property rights especially when other more viable options exist such as in this particular case.

I trust that you will give the residents of the area first consideration when deciding how to complete the Libby to Troy transmission line rebuild.

Thank you for considering my comments and for providing the additional time to comment.

Sincerely,



Ralph Heinert
State Representative HD-1

Cc. Karen Ross, Kootenai River Road
Bob Castaneda, Kootenai Forest Supervisor

UTS-043

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