

Dear Sir,

Please have your environmental studies look at the following issues:

Our major concerns regarding the "proposed enhancement" deal with property rights, health risks and safety. Property rights are threatened because the proposed easement expansion from 80 to 125' (a 56% increase) significantly restricts lot use (the placement and size of septic fields, water wells, driveways, playgrounds, structures, trees and gardens, etc.). Several homes and other structures will require abandonment or moving and driveways may also have to be abandoned. In all, approximately 21 owner parcels have the easement going through, or partially on, their property. Proposed routing will also involve the encroachment of an additional parcel. Owners of parcels with wetlands or flood drainage areas may not be able to meet county driveway, building, septic and water well requirements; property use would certainly be precluded in many cases. Efforts to assess enhancement cost are underway, but more time will be needed to complete this effort.

Our property is located in a narrow part of the river valley and radio/TV signal strength is weak. Radio reception yields some background static and the local station is very weak. What would be the effect of higher voltage lines and, should interference be increased, what could be done to correct it?

Information provided to us or found on the internet states a concern for EMF radiation on health, especially childhood leukemia where further "long term multidisciplinary study" is advised. Other studies also stress the need for continued study and data collection. Why should our neighborhood, or any neighborhood, be forced to participate in such a study when available options exist to preclude risk or possible risk? Proposed easement widening is based on the reality that the highly probable 230 kV "option" involves significantly higher EMF levels. What provisions will BPA make to ensure the safety of children who will linger and play below the wires?

Power line breakage is a reality that our neighborhood (and we are sure other neighborhoods) knows well. Two years ago, a line break caused a fire in the subject easement about 300 yds from us. The fire was extinguished, but it was agreed by all concerned that were very lucky to avoid serious injury or worse. A year or so earlier, the same power line failed causing a fire in the wildlife area to the West of us. What urgencies exist to require continuation of this risk to a populated area?

Do plans exist to move the easement to the North to avoid running the lines over the frequently used boat ramp and fishing area, the Wildlife area entrance and school bus turn around area at the West end of the neighborhood? Why should neighborhoods be exposed (though an infrequent certainty) to deadly line failures?

A neighborhood committee has been striving to get needed information to assess the situation and make important input to the EIS. We have found that 8 absentee parcel owners have probably not yet received notice or information about the Proposed Enhancement. Envelopes with provided information and newspaper articles have recently been mailed to them, but it will probably be a matter of weeks before they can reasonably submit comments or questions. Members of the committee are also collecting other information on property rights issues, estimated costs, safety and environmental impacts. More time, probably another 30 days, will be needed to complete this work. We are not wasting time and it must be noted that our neighborhood of well over 62 impacted parcel owners (and we have heard of others who missed official notice as well) was somehow omitted from official notice and two public meetings. This resulted in our losing three to four months of time and we simply must ask to get 30 days back.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments and questions and for giving consideration to our request for additional information collection time.

Sincerely yours,
John and Margaret Smith