

Bonneville Power Administration  
Communications-DM-7  
PO Box 14428  
Portland, OR 97293-4428

Dear Sirs,

We retired and moved to Libby in 1992 from the flat lands of the Midwest. We chose the spot in Bighorn Terrace to build our home for two reasons, the trees and the wildlife. How sad, for us, when you get through clearing the trees out for not only will we no longer have the wonderful forest we built our home in but we will no longer have the birds and squirrels that make the trees their home and give us so many hours of pleasure. The osprey nest with its young every summer will no longer be there. The saltlick we keep on the hill in our back yard will not welcome the deer and big horn sheep that enjoy the saltlick in the shade of the trees. Without the welcome relief from the heat the salt will no longer entice the occasional mule and elk.

Aside from the aesthetic value of the trees and the pleasure that the wildlife bring, when the trees are cut down we will have erosion from the hill directly in our backyard. Of course since the dollar is important to us all the value of our home will be increasingly less. The average person spends a lifetime working and their biggest investment in that lifetime of work is their home. We built here with the understanding that the wires would be moved to a different location. Please consider these alternatives! This can't be that difficult for you.

Another great concern to us is what the wires will do to our health. The upgrade will bring those wires dangerously close to our home. Libby citizens were told by W. R. Grace that the mine they owned in the area was harmless and the dust it put off into the air would do no harm, "a nuisance dust". Yet today hundreds have died and are dying from the "nuisance dust". Why should we believe that your wires are "harmless"? Haven't the people of Libby suffered enough at the expense of "Big Business"?

You do have alternatives in this area. Maybe you haven't looked into them all. It is our home so isn't it understandable that we are concerned? Please consider every alternative and consider the lives you are affecting in our little valley with your decision.

Sincerely,

*Alfred J. Dearth*  
Alfred J. Dearth  
Wilberta Dearth

*Wilberta Dearth*

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