

# Northern Mid-Columbia Joint Project Public Scoping Comment Summary

For the full text of comments see the project webpage at:

<http://www.bpa.gov/applications/publiccomments/CommentList.aspx?ID=173>

## Summary of Comment Topics:

- Need for effective and adequate public involvement process, including holding meetings in Rock Island
- Describe project purpose and need in the context of the energy market the project would serve
- Support for the project proposal from Chelan County PUD
- Need to select a range of feasible alternatives that consider environmental effects and consider how to avoid or minimize impacts
- Eight comments expressed a preference for the West Route and one comment expressed a preference for the East Route
- Comments supporting routing the proposed line within existing utility corridors
- Recommendation to underground transmission facility in the city of Rock Island
- Suggested changes to the location of East Route alternatives
- Various impacts to land use within the City of Rock Island
- Land use impacts to public uses, recreation, and agricultural areas
- Various comments related to compliance with the requirements of local, state, and federal agencies
- DNR and BLM both commented about procedures related to siting a transmission line on their lands
- Socioeconomic impacts to the City of Rock Island, including tax base and property values, and concerns about how it affect the development potential within the city
- Socioeconomic impacts to a cherry orchard along the West Route including concerns about the loss of the value of the orchard if helicopters could no longer be used in management
- Positive socioeconomic benefits including short-term benefits from construction and long-term benefits to local PUDs
- Impacts to low income and minority residents in the project area, particularly in Rock Island
- Impacts to soils from construction activities
- Concerns about noxious weed introduction, spread, and control
- Impacts to native plant communities and wildlife habitat
- Impacts to federal and state special status plant and animal species and their habitats
- Impacts to bird species, including migratory birds and bald and golden eagles
- Impacts to aquatic species and their habitats
- Impacts to water resources, including springs, wetlands, streams, rivers, riparian areas, floodplains, groundwater, source water protection areas, and 303(d) listed water bodies
- Impacts to cultural resources and tribal consultation responsibilities
- Impacts to visuals and the aesthetics of the project area, especially to areas where there is currently no utility corridors
- Impacts to public health and safety, including noise, health effects from electromagnetic frequency generated by the transmission line and potential fire danger, and airspace and traffic hazards
- Impacts to air quality
- Importance of appropriate mitigation, including avoidance through siting and design, and minimization of unavoidable impacts
- Contribution of the project to climate change through emission of greenhouse gases
- Need to analyze cumulative and indirect impacts in the NEPA document