

February 21, 2009

Judge Allan J. Arlow
Administrative Hearings Division
Oregon Public Utility Commission
550 Capitol Street N.E. Suite 215
Salem, Oregon 97308-2148

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FEB 25 2009

Public Utility Commission of Oregon
Administrative Hearings Division

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P.U.C.

Re: Idaho Power Company request to file an Addendum to their 2006 IRP

Dear Judge Arlow:

I am one of thousands of Malheur County citizens who are totally opposed to the huge Idaho Power 500,000 volt, 180 foot high transmission line that they want to construct through Malheur County Oregon. The very real citizen concerns involving health, environment, and aesthetic values, along with devaluation of our Exclusive Farm Use land and the prohibition of time honored farming practices, have all been the subjects of hundreds of letters to Governor Kulongoski, State Senator Ferrioli, U.S. Senator Ron Wyden, the Bureau of Land Management, the Oregon Department of Energy, and many other agencies. Idaho Power has been provided with over eleven hundred signatures asking that they route the huge towers and lines onto public property and away from Malheur County's agricultural valley floors and away from the incorporated cities view sheds.

I fully realize that it is not the Oregon Public Utilities Commission responsibility to determine route, rather it is the responsibility of the OPUC to determine the **need** for such a massive project through the heart of the only populated area of Malheur County. Our County certainly is not in **need** of the power as its growth has been measured and slow and will continue to be so because of the protection of its land through the Exclusive Farm Use zoning laws.

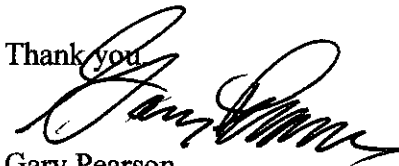
After I attended an Integrated Resources Planning meeting in Boise on February 3, 2009, I was under the impression that Idaho Power was going to be filing a new 2009 Integrated Resource Plan in June. So why are they now (February) suddenly filing a 2009 addendum to their 2008 Upgraded Integrated Resource Plan which was attached to the original Integrated Resource Plan of 2006. The change of circumstances that are taking place in reference to green energy supplies, government mandates, and our slowed down economy make the 2006 Integrated Resource Plan totally outdated and unreliable. How can one integrate an addendum to a plan that is as woefully outdated as to the current situation?

It appears to the citizens of Malheur County that perhaps the Oregon Public Utilities Commission lacks jurisdiction to accept a 2009 addendum to be integrated into the original 2006 Integrated Resource Plan for a number of reasons:

- The changes in the political, social, and economic winds over the last 12 months have been more than dynamic. This country is in a financial crisis and Corporate America is right in the middle of it. Does Idaho Power currently have the resources to complete such a giant project? The public needs to know and that should be part of their 2009 Integrated Resources Plan.
- We know that there are many "green projects" currently being planned or are in operation in Eastern Oregon. We wonder if these green projects involving wind, geothermal, and solar would supply the necessary power needed for future growth of the Boise area and circumvent the need for a 500,000 volt 300 mile transmission line across Oregon. Idaho Power already has a 138,000 volt line along Interstate 84 that could possibly handle the additional "green power". If not, it could probably be retro fitted to handle a 230,000 volt system that could handle any additional load that Idaho Power needed to power up Southern Idaho. As I previously stated, Malheur County certainly does not need the power and its growth patterns for the next 20 years or more will not change that fact.
- The Oregon Department of Energy issued a Project Order to Idaho Power in January of 2009 outlining applicable statutes, rules, and ordinances. That Order outlined two alternate routes that Idaho Power must review and comment upon. One of those routes keeps the project in Idaho rather than running over Malheur County Exclusive Farm Use land. It is our understanding that the recent Integrated Resource Plan addendum that Idaho Power is asking the OPUC to approve, does not contain any acknowledgement or plans to study the two alternate routes mandated by the Oregon Department of Energy. If so, it seems to us that the addendum should be rejected.
- Idaho Power has previously indicated that they would be filing a full and complete 2009 Integrated Resources Plan in the summer of 2009. Why are they now filing an addendum to the 2006 Plan? Because of the above issues and the fact that we need to see a full and complete updated 2009 plan, we believe that the OPUC lacks jurisdiction to accept the plan and we respectfully ask that you reject it.

In short, the citizens of Malheur County deserve to see an updated Integrated Resources Plan for 2009 and to attend public hearings before any hastily filed "addendum" to an outdated plan is accepted by the Oregon Public Utilities Commission.

Thank you



Gary Pearson
654 King Avenue
Ontario, Oregon 97914
Gary6707@msn.com

541-889-3541

CC

Governor Ted Kulongoski
160 State Capitol
900 Court Street
Salem, Oregon
97301-4047

United States Senator Ron Wyden
230 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington D.C.
20510-3703

Matthew J Muldoon
Oregon Public Utilities Commission
550 Capitol Street NE
Suite 215
Salem, Oregon 97301-2551

Oregon Department of Energy
Attention: Adam Bless
625 Marion Street N.E.
Salem, Oregon 97301

Senator Ted Ferrioli
900 Court Street N.E.
S-223
Salem, Oregon 97301

Lucas Lucero
Bureau of Land Management
4701 N. Torrey Pines Drive
Las Vegas, Nevada 89130