

April 4, 2023

Data Response to IPC from Wendy King

1. On page 8 of my rebuttal testimony, I testified to the damage caused by a fire ignited by a “Bonneville Power Administration maintenance worker” in Summer 2002.

a. **Please provide an exact date for this fire.** After repeated attempts to clarify the information of my source, Mr. Kaseberg, I was unable to determine the exact date of the fire. He had spoken with other farmers who thought it was in 1994, 1995, or 1996. Multiple attempts to clarify were made to North Sherman County Fire District through the director of Emergency Services, Dana Persley Hainer, who has been in her position for less than 5 years. Her records only go back 5 to 10 years. Some of the archived files are located at the court house and are not present at the fire hall. An inquiry to Kelly Miller from Bonneville Power Administration ended in a recommendation to request information through the Freedom of Information Act. That inquiry was completed, but the information will not be supplied in time to present in this data response.

I called the Times Journal newspaper from Condon, OR, and they could not supply information in time for this data response, since the papers from this time period have not been digitized, and extra time is required for the editor to search through the archives.

Calls were made to two other witnesses, Chris Moore and Bill Martin. They could not offer specific, exact information and preferred not to be involved.

b. **You testify that the referenced fire occurred in Sherman County between John Day and Buckley. Please provide the exact location of this fire.** My source, Mr. Kaseberg, shared that the BPA maintenance worker who started the fire was working at a BPA tower near Gordon Ridge and Harris Canyon in Sherman County.

c. **You testify the you obtained the information about this fire from Mr. Kaseberg. Did Mr. Kaseberg personally witness the fire?** Mr. Steve Kaseberg did witness the fire, along with Mr. Chris Moore, Mr. Bob Olsen, and the BPA worker, all of which who fought the fire.

i. **If Mr. Kaseberg did not personally witness the ignition, please provide a brief explanation of how Mr. Kaseberg learned of the ignition of this fire.** He did not witness the ignition, but he saw the smoke and stopped what he was doing and assisted in fighting the fire. In the conversations with the other witnesses at the time, he learned the fire was started by the welder.

d. **In regard to your testimony that this fire was caused by a BPA worker, did BPA or the Oregon State Fire Marshall issue any report or other documentation regarding the official cause of this fire?** I have requested information but have yet to receive any documentation from the BPA, North Sherman Co Fire District, Oregon State Fire Marshall, or The Times Journal for this fire.

i. **If yes, please provide any report or other documentation of these or other agencies.** I have no reports. However, with time, these documents may arrive to support my testimony. *See request documents

Notice of Correction: In reference to the Google Earth screen shot I provided in my Intervenor Cross-Answering and Rebuttal Testimony, dated March 20, 2023, the images were acquired in a timeline map search from an earlier phone conversation with Mr. Kaseberg. After further questioning, this specific image has been verified by Mr. Kaseberg as a fire ignited by a combine. There are multiple images of fire locations in Sherman County directly under High Voltage power lines & towers. It has been difficult to sort out which fires were ignited by what sources. The FOIA information that has been requested from BPA is expected to clarify where and when the BPA welder ignited fire took place but may take several weeks to arrive.

Sincerely,

Wendy King

Exhibit 1 Application FOIA to Bonneville Power Administration dated March 28, 2023

FOIA Request 657876

The following list contains the entire submission submitted March 28, 2023 04:40:12pm ET, and is formatted for ease of viewing and printing.

Contact information

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Last name myers

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Request

Request ID 657876

Confirmation ID 657336

Request description

** 10 year history of 500 Kv transmission Line

failures; tower and or conductor failures and faults.

2013- present.

** incident report from; July 12, 1998

conductor failure in north central Oregon. involving multiple structure fire.

** 10 year estimations for extreme wind speeds, impacting transmission lines. throughout central and eastern Oregon.

** BPA tower maintenance/ welder operator originated fire summer/fall 2002

Supporting documentation

Fees

Request category ID other

Fee waiver no

Explanation

information used is for the protection and consideration of the public safety. the Also within Oregon PUC to provide much needed content addressing the risks of current transmission line development.

Willing to pay 250.00

Expedited processing

Expedited Processing yes

Explanation

Currently we have a limited time to offer this valuable information to develop a much better perspective on the risks involved with transmission line use. including construction, operation and maintenance of transmission lines.

Exhibit 2. Reply email from BPA concerning FOIA

From: "King,James J (BPA) - CGI-7" <jjking@bpa.gov>

Date: April 4, 2023 at 8:21:52 AM PDT

To: sam.myers84@gmail.com

Subject: New FOIA request received: BPA-2023-00776-F - Sam Myers - transmission line failures

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Good morning, Sam,

The Bonneville Power Administration has received your recent Freedom of Information Act request. That request is attached for reference. BPA will track your new request as BPA-2023-00776-F.

New Request

You seek the following agency records:

• 10 year history of 500 Kv transmission Line failures; tower and or conductor failures and faults. 2013-Present.

Incident report from; July 12, 1998 conductor failure in north central Oregon. Involving multiple structure fire.

10 year estimations for extreme wind speeds, impacting transmission lines. Throughout central and eastern Oregon.

BPA tower maintenance / welder operator originated fire, summer/fall 2002. •

Your Clarifications Needed

Regarding your Item 1, above, we want to let you know ahead of our records search efforts that searching for and gathering and reviewing ten years of records might take several weeks (or longer). If you can offer any greater specificity on your Item 1, above, we can help you get your responsive records sooner. That said, if you do indeed seek that much volume, the FOIA requires the agency to search for that information set and provide it, which we will do for you. Please do share your interests and preference via reply email, if you can offer greater clarity.

Regarding your Item 3, above, we want to confirm that this element of your request also references a date range of "2013-Present". Please do share your confirmation here, via reply email, if you can offer greater clarity.

Regarding your Item 4, above, we seek your clarifications there, too. In re the incident from 2002, which specific agency records do you seek? E.g., accident reports, incident report, communications (i.e., emails, photos? Etc. Please do share your interests and preferences via reply email, if you can offer greater clarity.

Next Steps

We've placed your FOIA request ON HOLD, temporarily, until we get your feedback and guidance on the above open questions. That said, after we do hear back from you, you'll receive the agency's formal acknowledgment letter, as required by the FOIA, which will detail the response plan for your request, and provide a target date for the agency's response to you.

I will look for your feedback. You may contact me with any questions.

Best,

James

James King | FOIA Public Liaison | Bonneville Power Administration | 503-230-7621