

✓ Gen. Ack
sent 4/23/08

✓ T. AV.

✓ To Comms.
JH

Debra S. Jensen, C.P.A., M.B.A.

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RECEIVED

08 APR 28 AM 8:30

IDAHO PUBLIC
UTILITIES COMMISSION

Idaho Public Utilities Commission
P.O. Box 83720
Boise, ID 83720-0074

April 20, 2008

Subject: Case No. PAC-E-08-03

Dear Sirs;

You have been copied a letter I wrote to Governor Otter dated April 15, 2008 detailing numerous questions and concerns regarding Rocky Mountain Power's proposed Populus substation and the associated new transmission lines. In addition to that letter, I have some specific comments regarding the filings made on this case.

The testimony of Sharon L. Seppi is misleading at best and untrue in some areas. The comments on page 2 regarding the factors considered in identifying the route for the Transmission Line Project are not true. They did not consider the environmental impact on wildlife, specifically the deer, elk and sharp tailed grouse in their route selection. Idaho Fish and Game (IDFG) is on record as having specific concerns about the impact on the winter and transitional ranges of deer and elk in both Oneida and Bannock Counties. IDFG also has provided numerous studies citing the impact of new roads on deer and elk habitat, as well as sharp tailed grouse leks. To date, RMP has failed to address these concerns. Recreation, specifically hunting, is a large part of the income to Idaho. Failing to adequately protect our wildlife has a lasting impact on the entire state.

Also on page 2, she states that impacts on local communities and landowners were considered. I do not believe this to be the case given the total failure to communicate with any landowners in Downey or Malad until after the project route was selected and surveying had begun.

On page 3 of her testimony she states that utilizing existing corridors where feasible was considered. The initial descriptions of the project, as found on the Internet, show the transmission line going from the Treasureton substation to Utah through the existing Franklin County corridor. This first option was abandoned and we have been unable to get any explanations or reasons.

Also on page 3 is the question regarding the public involvement in selecting the route for the Transmission Project. Her testimony is misleading and untrue. While RMP did meet with the Mayor of the City of Downey in July 2007, they **FAILED** to notify most of the affected landowners in Oneida County and Bannock County. RMP started dealing with the landowners in Oneida County in January, and stated that they learned from their communication failures. However, they continued to follow the same flawed path in dealing with Bannock County residents. The public meeting held in Downey in January was nothing short of an industry secret. They had 5 people in attendance and no one else in the area knew about the meeting or the project. Landowners received no notices of the meeting. The City of Downey office and the Bannock County Planning and Development office both have copies that were received well after the scheduled meeting time. These are the only two notices that were received in Bannock County.

My husband and I found out about the project after our neighbor caught a surveyor trespassing on her property setting out markers the first week of April. She contacted us after finding out that transmission lines were going to be placed on her farm. I called a meeting of area residents, attended by the Bannock County Commissioners, Idaho Fish and Game, ECI, 2 Rocky Mountain Power representatives and over 60 residents. This was with 4 days notice of the meeting. Rocky Mountain Power at first declined to attend citing short notice of the meeting and prior commitments. I appealed to Karen Gilmore, VP at RMP and she sent two representatives, however they were not members of the Project Team and could not answer any specific questions regarding the project. They made a list of the specific questions and promised to get the answers. It has been two weeks since the meeting and I have not received any answers.

My personal frustration is that our home and two parcels of our land are directly affected by this project and the only contact we have had with RMP has been initiated by us, not them. We received no notices, letters, calls or any other attempts to include us in the process. In fact, despite assurances at our meeting that communication will improve and the trespassing would stop, I caught surveyors trespassing on our property last Friday with no prior communication with us. And we still have not had any communication from RMP about their intentions regarding our land. If we were the only example of this failure to communicate, I might believe that they tried, but we are an example of the rule not the exception. None of the affected property owners, except the three owners of the land selected for the actual Populus site, have been contacted timely about anything related to the project. They keep stating that they received a mailing list from the County Assessor, and I can guarantee that our property tax notices arrive every year. So, was the failure to notify us intentional? I believe it was. Keep in mind that RMP was surveying the route when we found out about this project, not looking for public involvement in the route selection.

RMP behavior has been arrogant and very disrespectful. They have decided the routes and failed to get any input or consider any local concerns. They did not want to consider public comment and are still attempting to push this project forward without giving area residents answers to questions and concerns. This project is much larger than RMP wants us to believe. I have spent time researching and I have found the proposed Populus **transmission hub** and multiple lines slated for Downey. RMP wants us to believe that Populus is a 60-acre substation located on 320 acres for a "buffer zone". This is not true;

the entire 320 acres will be filled with substation. The area residents and our State deserve to know the actual depth of this project, not be blindsided by a line here and then a line there until Downey looks like the center of a spider web and new transmission corridors are criss-crossing our state

RMP has also run into significant resistance in Utah. Box Elder County also wants the transmission lines to follow the existing corridor out of Franklin County, not to have a new corridor created. They also protest the proximity of the proposed transmission line to a new business and industrial park in Tremonton, Utah. RMP failed to consider the impact of the proposed line and also failed to communicate with the residents of Box Elder County.

In the testimony of John Cupparo on page 2, he states that Populus will be configured to facilitate the addition of planned 345 kV and 500 kV transmission lines. This is a direct conflict from the statements made by RMC representatives at our meeting in Downey. The statement of Vaughn Rasmussen was that Populus was a 60-acre substation on a 320-acre parcel to allow for transmission line jump off points. It is obvious from the plans submitted to Bannock County Planning & Development that Populus is much more than a 60-acre substation. The **ENTIRE** 320 acres is developed with structures. Again, RMP is not being accurate with information given to the public.

I agree that a comprehensive plan needs to be created for delivery of power to Idaho; however, most of the proposed transmission lines are to deliver power to other states. Idaho should not be turned into a mass of transmission lines and power generation plants to service other states. The State and various counties receive very little economic benefit from these structures to provide power to other states and it is our backyards that are marred by these structures. The citizens of Idaho need to be afforded the opportunity to participate in this process that will affect the area that we live in.

Rocky Mountain Power should not be allowed to proceed with this project until they actually have public involvement in the selection of the route. They have tried to sneak this project into Southeast Idaho with a consistent pattern of withholding information, lies and a misguided belief that there is no opposition. There is significant opposition to their route selection for many valid reasons. This opposition is uniform and extends into Utah. The residents of our area deserve to be heard before a final route is selected or any IPUC approvals are given.

Sincerely,



Debra S. Jensen, CPA, MBA

✓ Ken Acke
sent 4/28/08

✓ To AV

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Jean Jewell

From: dsjensencpa@msn.com
Sent: Saturday, April 19, 2008 5:57 PM
To: Tonya Clark; Jean Jewell; Beverly Barker; Gene Fadness; Ed Howell
Subject: PUC Comment Form

A Comment from Debra Jensen follows:

Case Number: PAC-E-08-03
Name: Debra Jensen
Address: 3883 E Elison Road
City: Downey
State: ID
Zip: 83234
Daytime Telephone: 208 897 5279
Contact E-Mail: dsjensencpa@msn.com
Name of Utility Company: Rocky Mountain Power Add to Mailing List: yes

Please describe your comment briefly:

I have copied IPUC with a letter to Gov. Otter regarding this project and specific questions regarding RMP conduct. I specifically want to dispute the testimony of Sharon Seppi. I do not believe that they have considered environmental impacts or impact on local communities and landowners in route selection. They have not utilized existing corridors and have failed to answer questions about the relocation of the original line from the Franklin County corridor to Oneida County.

I also dispute all of the public involvement statements included in her testimony. They DID NOT inform the affected landowners in the Downey area, (I am one of them) and the notice of their public meetings was non-existent. They had 5 people at the Downey public meeting in January. When I found out about this project I set up a public meeting and had over 60 people in attendance with only 4 days notice. RMP did not send any of the Project Team to this meeting, they sent two representatives to answer general questions and take notes on specific questions to be answered by the Team. It has been two weeks since the meeting and no answers have been received. There is considerable public concern in both Bannock and Oneida Counties. We have all not been notified and only realized the project was going on AFTER surveyors trespassed on our properties. RMP's conduct has been disgusting and this testimony is NOT accurate. I will be sending a more formal letter to address these issues.

The form submitted on <http://www.puc.idaho.gov/forms/ipuc1/ipuc.html>
IP address is 164.165.217.253
