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ORIGINAL

TRINITY PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT
INTERCONNECTION PROJECT
PUBLIC HEARING

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Best Western Victorian Inn
1709 Main Street
Weaverville, California

Weaverville
Trinity County, California

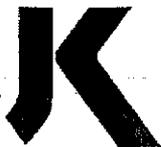
Tuesday, March 6, 2007

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1 APPEARANCES

2
3 FOR WESTERN AREA POWER ADMINISTRATION:

4 Western Area Power Administration
5 Office of General Counsel
6 Lakewood, Colorado
7 BY: Adam Arellano
8 Attorney at Law

9
10 NEPA DOCUMENT MANAGER:

11 BY: Mark Wieringa

12
13 NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGER:

14 BY: Steve Tuggle

15
16 WILDLIFE BIOLOGIST:

17 BY: John Bridges

18
19 PROJECT ENGINEER:

20 BY: Krishna Shah

21
22 SENIOR GIS SPECIALIST:

23 BY: Anton Kozhevnikov

24
25 BIOLOGIST:

BY: Ami Goerd

ARCHEOLOGIST:

BY: Cherie Johnston-Waldear

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1 WEAVERVILLE, CALIFORNIA; TUESDAY, MARCH 6 2007

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3 OPENING STATEMENT:

4 HEARING OFFICER: Good evening, everybody. If we
5 could get started.

6 My name is Adam Arellano. I'm an attorney with
7 Western Area Power District. On behalf of Western, I
8 would like to thank you all for being here.

9 Western, for those of you who don't know, is a
10 Federal Agency Department who markets Federal electric
11 power to municipalities, public utilities, and the
12 Native American tribes.

13 If anybody can't hear me, just let me know. I
14 just recently got over bronchitis.

15 The purpose of today's public hearing -- and I
16 hope nobody is disappointed about this. We're not giving
17 any presentation today. We're not here to speak -- the
18 purpose of the public hearing is to give an opportunity
19 for the public to give us comments on anything that is in
20 the Draft EIS.

21 It is a requirement under the National
22 Environmental Policy Act, which is known as NEPA, and
23 prior to the start of this meeting all the Western
24 representatives were available to answer any questions you
25 have. If you have any more, once this formal hearing is

1 over you can ask more questions or get contact information
2 for questions that might come up later.

3 For Western Area Power Administration today we
4 have Mark Wieringa. He's our NEPA Document Manager.
5 Steve Tuggle, he's our Natural Resources Manager.
6 John Bridges, he's in the back. He's our Wildlife
7 Biologist. Krishna Shah is here. He's our Project
8 Engineer. Anton is here. And I can't pronounce his last
9 name. He's our GIS Specialist. Ami Goerdts is here.
10 She's a biologist. And Cherie Johnston-Waldear, our
11 Archeologist is also here. So if you have any questions
12 after this formal hearing, you can go back and ask these
13 people questions.

14 Western proposes to construct, operate and
15 maintain transmission lines that's going to bring
16 electricity into Trinity County. Portions of the proposed
17 transmission lines would cross lands managed by the
18 U.S. Forest Service, the Bureau of Land Management, and
19 the Bureau of Reclamation. So all three of those agencies
20 are participating in the EIS. They all have decisions
21 that they have to make.

22 The objective of the project is to enhance the
23 reliability of service into Trinity County. And from what
24 I hear, you guys have had a couple of weeks of power
25 outages that have occurred. So I'm sure you guys all

1 understand how important reliable service is.

2 The major component of the proposed project is a
3 16-mile long 60kV overhead transmission line called the
4 Trinity Public Utility District Direct Interconnection.
5 The proposed Project would connect to Western's Trinity
6 Substitution at Trinity Power Plant. Approximately
7 5.3 miles of existing 12-kV distribution line will be
8 removed, and the project would require the construction of
9 a new tap structure and associated equipment, and a new
10 switchyard near Weaverville. About two miles of new
11 access roads will be needed. This would consist of short
12 spurs from existing logging and access road network to
13 various pole locations. And some exiting access roads
14 would need to be upgraded for the construction of the
15 project.

16 The proposed project right now is in Draft EIS,
17 and anybody who wants a copy of the Draft EIS, we have, I
18 believe, a few copies here. If not, I can get you
19 information to request those and get those out to you.

20 As I said before, the public hearing is to
21 receive formal comments from the public on the Proposed
22 Project and Draft EIS. There's other ways that you can
23 give us comments if you don't want to stand up and do it
24 right now.

25 You can do it informally after the hearing. You

1 can come up to one of us, and we can help you get your
2 comments down. Another way is, of course, speaking here
3 today. We have some paper that we can receive comments in
4 writing here today. If you want to mail them in, you can
5 mail them in. They have to be postmarked by April 2nd,
6 2007 or they can be faxed or e-mailed to us by the same
7 date. Regardless of how we receive the comments they are
8 going to be given equal weight and consideration. They
9 all become part of the administrative record, and will be
10 considered in preparation of the Final EIS.

11 If you want to submit written comments later,
12 they are going to go to Steve Tuggle. He's our Natural
13 Resources Manager. That address would be Western Area
14 Power Administration, Sierra Nevada Region, 114 Parkshore
15 Drive, Folsom, California 95630-4710. The phone number is
16 (916) 353-4549. And the fax number is (916) 985-1935.
17 E-mail is trinityeis@wapa.gov.

18 As I told you guys before, the purpose for the
19 project is to improve the power system reliability, but
20 the Forest Service would need to issue a construction,
21 operation and maintenance plan. That would authorize the
22 construction, operation and maintenance of the utility
23 corridor for the new 60-kV transmission line. That's on
24 the National Forest System land. The Forest Service would
25 also need to authorize a timber sales contract for the

1 logs to be removed from the rights of way on Forest
2 Service land and issue a temporary construction permit.

3 BLM would have to issue a ROW to Western to
4 authorize the construction and maintenance of a
5 transmission line; and Reclamation would have to grant
6 Western permission to temporarily cross its lands located
7 near the Trinity and Lewiston Dams for construction of the
8 transmission line, and for long-term access for operation
9 and maintenance of the line.

10 As you guys entered, I hope that everybody was
11 asked to sign in. If you could, before you leave, maybe
12 put down your addresses as well, and we can keep you
13 updated on this project as it continues. Is that all
14 right?

15 And we also ask if you do want to speak, to put a
16 little check mark by your name. I don't think anybody has
17 done that yet. If you do want to speak, we'll pass that
18 around and you can check your name off.

19 Nobody has checked it off yet. Anybody plan to
20 make comments today? Okay.

21 The court reporter this evening is
22 Evangeline McGonegal with JV Killingsworth & Associates.
23 She's recording the comments this evening. And if you
24 wish a copy of the hearing transcript, you can contact her
25 at JV Killingsworth & Associates at 1422 Oregon Street, in

1 Redding, California 96001.

2 All the comments, all the substantive comments
3 received this evening and throughout the public comment
4 period will be addressed in the Final EIS. And public
5 comments on the Draft EIS, the comments assist the
6 decisionmakers by identifying the concerns and values of
7 interested parties and by pointing out any errors or
8 omissions in the Draft EIS. So it is important that we do
9 hear your comments, if you have them.

10 It is anticipated that the Final EIS will be
11 issued in June 2007. At that time the BLM, Forest
12 Service, and Reclamation, they issue a Record of Decision
13 on the decisions that they have to make. And then
14 following the issuance and filing it with the
15 U.S. Environmental Protection Agency there's a 30-day
16 waiting period, and then Western will issue its Record of
17 Decision.

18 So after this process is over we are going to be
19 available to answer any more questions that you have. At
20 this point I call upon our first speaker here. And I
21 think you are the only speaker, so you can say anything.

22 PUBLIC COMMENT:

23 MR. FRANK: My name is Jim Frank. And I was
24 wondering why you were installing wood poles versus steel
25 poles, single steel poles versus three wood ones, and

1 insulating it for 110kV versus 60kV for future growth in
2 Weaverville. So you only have to do this one time instead
3 of having to come back later on. And I know PG&E is
4 upgrading their systems all over. 60kV is old stuff. 110
5 or even 220 is a better conductor. You can have longer
6 spans between steel towers. I think it would be less
7 intrusive to the public.

8 Those are my comments.

9 HEARING OFFICER: As to your questions, I can't
10 answer those questions. And I know there's some people
11 here who can; but during the formal part we're just here
12 to take your comments. So the comments that you did make
13 are now on the record.

14 Anybody else have comments?

15 MR. QUAIL: Michael Quail.

16 I had some questions on the steel towers. How
17 tall would the steel towers be as opposed to the wood
18 structures.

19 MR. FRANK: Steel towers would be probably
20 110 foot. That's probably the standard. It would be a
21 lot less -- take up a lot less space than three wood poles
22 like the 60kV has now. And you would only have one
23 insulator per tower, and it would -- or three insulators
24 per tower with one cross arm.

25 MR. QUAIL: Thank you.

1 I was just kind of curious -- because they are
2 real close to the buildings that we have -- if that type
3 of a tower would be tall or, you know, obstructing views
4 in our area.

5 We live on the backside of Lewiston where the
6 junction is going to come across.

7 MR. FRANK: If I can make one more comment:
8 You can get those towers in green. They can paint them
9 green so you don't see them. They are not silver or
10 bright and shiney. You can get them -- if you have ever
11 been down to Napa County, they have them running through
12 that county, and they painted them all green, and they
13 blend in real well.

14 MR. QUAIL: Thank you.

15 HEARING OFFICER: All right. Anybody else have
16 any more comments?

17 MR. QUAIL: Like I said, the reason I asked about
18 these towers is because we have a couple of questions on a
19 couple of poles going in on our property. They are
20 putting a major three pole on a corner on our property
21 areas; but I have spoken with Mark and introduced myself
22 to Steve about the issues we have about moving these
23 possible towers just to a different spot. Because right
24 now their tentative is to put it in our future building
25 site, so we did have that concern. But I'm assured they

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will work with us on that.

HEARING OFFICER: Okay. Well, if there's no more comments, I guess we can break and go back to the informal questions and answers. It seems you would probably be better served that way.

MR. TUGGLE: Thank you.

(The Hearing was concluded at 7:19 p.m.)

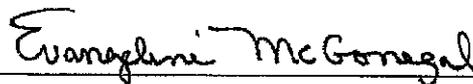
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CERTIFICATE OF CERTIFIED SHORTHAND REPORTER

I, EVANGELINE MCGONEGAL, hereby certify that I am a Certified Shorthand Reporter of the State of California, in and for the County of Shasta, and that I took down verbatim in stenographic writing all of the testimony given and all of the proceedings had in the above-entitled matter fully, truly, and correctly, according to the best of my ability.

That my said stenographic writing contains a full, true, and correct record of all said testimony and proceedings; that I have caused my stenographic writing to be transcribed into typewriting; and that the foregoing pages constitute my said transcription of all such stenographic writing; and that the same is a full, true, accurate, and verbatim statement of all such testimony and proceedings had.

WITNESS MY HAND this 7th day of March, 2007.



EVANGELINE MCGONEGAL, CSR #5511



WRITTEN COMMENT SHEET

TRINITY COUNTY PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT
DIRECT INTERCONNECTION PROJECT EIS



If you have any issues, concerns, or questions that you would like addressed in the Trinity County Public Utility District Direct Interconnection Project Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), please complete this response sheet.

We Have concerns About Poles 5/2 & 5/4
Being on one of our Building sights And I
Have talked with Steve & in length with Mark
Wieringa ~~And~~ and Request A walk through to see
About Moving these poles to A Different Location
Thank you for All the info

Michael Quail
5589 Harvard Dr
San Jose Ca 95118
408-723-4805

Stan Quail
1793 Chetamon Ct
Sunnyvale Ca 94087
408-245-2491

Please hand in your completed comment sheet today to ensure your input is considered, or if you would like to mail your comments, please use the address below.

Western Area Power Administration
Trinity EIS
P.O. Box 281213
12155 West Alameda Parkway
Lakewood, Colorado 80228-8213

If you prefer, give us a call at 1-800.336-7288 or e-mail trinityeis@wapa.gov

Thank you for your interest and participation!



WRITTEN COMMENT SHEET

TRINITY COUNTY PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT
DIRECT INTERCONNECTION PROJECT EIS



If you have any issues, concerns, or questions that you would like addressed in the Trinity County Public Utility District Direct Interconnection Project Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), please complete this response sheet.

The access roads from the Trinity Tie at Lewiston all the way to the Weaverville switch yard need to have a rock surface of sufficient depth to allow utility truck access in wet weather without causing rutting or surface erosion. These roads are located on erosive soils, Decomposed Granite that is readily transported to watercourses. The watersheds are utilized by Coho salmon, a federally listed species. Rocking access roads is the only reasonable mitigation to reduce potential significant adverse impacts.

Please hand in your completed comment sheet today to ensure your input is considered, or if you would like to mail your comments, please use the address below.

Western Area Power Administration
Trinity EIS
P.O. Box 281213
12155 West Alameda Parkway
Lakewood, Colorado 80228-8213

If you prefer, give us a call at 1-800.336-7288 or e-mail trinityeis@wapa.gov

Thank you for your interest and participation!