

Additional Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for Sumas Energy 2

By Connie Hoag

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I have not had an opportunity to thoroughly review the DEIS, however I have some further observations which are not included in my first comments.

P. 3.12-8 states that "at distances of 60 feet or more from the line, the maximum EMF levels would be lower than the existing single-phase distribution lines." This does not appear to make sense. Could you please explain? It also states that "the nearest residence to either line ROW edge would be approximately 75 feet." This is blatantly untrue. There are residences where the lines will be 20 feet from their front window, and 40 feet from a child's bedroom.

The review of the power lines is very deficient. It does not adequately address EMF, nor does it adequately analyze interference with cell phones, radios, and TV reception. It does not adequately address noise generated by the lines, hazards from falling poles and lines, effects on dairies from stray voltage, or decreased property values from these lines. It also does not display an adequate diagram of what the new poles would look like. The configuration they have described would have large cables, in pairs, on each of the insulators. The distances required by the load will mandate poles up to 90 feet high. A diagram should show this in the DEIS, rather than the bare poles, only 75 feet high.

I have only had a brief glance at the air information, because of the other items on the plate of any members of the public who have been trying to respond to this project. The ambient air information seems out of date, since the IKO plant was added in 1998. The location of the air monitor in Abbotsford up till September of 1998 was southwest of Highway 1. Because the prevailing winds in this area are from the Southwest, this will not even pick up the pollution from the highway, and directly southwest of the monitor there is only about 2 city blocks, and then open farmland. This also will not reflect the current emissions from industry in Sumas, as this monitor is west of Sumas.

I am very concerned about the impacts of the oil burning in winter, and do not feel they are adequately addressed in the DEIS. The coldest weather we get here is during Northeasters, and the very strong winds associated with them will bring toxins down to the ground, rather than allowing the type of dispersion they are relying on in their analysis. These winds will be blowing directly over Whatcom County.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide additional comments.

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