

Conditional Use Permit Request #C-1252-15 and Land Use Decision #LUD-194-15, BayWa r.e. Wind, LLC

Teara Farrow Ferman <TearaFarrowFerman@ctuir.org>
To: "carol.johnson@umatillacounty.net" <carol.johnson@umatillacounty.net>

Thu, Jan 14, 2016 at 3:31 PM

Carol,

The Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation conducted the archaeological survey for this project and submitted the final report and recommendations to the Oregon State Historic Preservation Office. The recommendations were to have a cultural resources monitor be present during all ground disturbing activities. The CTUIR strongly recommends this be a condition within the conditional use permit.

Thank you,

TEARA FARROW FERMAN

Manager | Cultural Resources Protection Program

Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation

46411 Timíne Way | Pendleton | Oregon 97801

541.276.3447 Office | 541.429.7230 Fax

TearaFarrowFerman@ctuir.org

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UNATILLA CGUNTY PLANNING DEPARTMENT

The information in this e-mail may be confidential and intended only for the use and protection of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation. If you have received this email in error, please immediately notify me by return e-mail and delete this from your system. If you are not an authorized recipient for this information, then you are prohibited from any review, dissemination, forwarding or copying of this e-mail and its attachments. Thank you.



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UMATILLA COUNTY
PLANNING DEPARTMENT

E-mailed on January 18, 2016:

Dear Mr. Nerzig,

Thank you for your response to my previous letter regarding the request to put transmission lines underground.

More recently as stated by Carol Johnson (Umatilla County) and Granella Thompson, your firm agreed to put transmission lines underground instead of using above ground poles. That is very much appreciated by all of us affected by the planned installation of the transmission lines for the Chopin project. Thank you!

You may have already been contacted with regard to a request for putting transmission lines between the wind towers and York road via Ferguson road, in lieu of using Staggs road. There are several key reasons in favor of using Ferguson road as stated by Granella Thompson such as it being a more direct and closer route to the wind towers from York road. Ferguson road has already been widened and does not have high banks that will be created from widening Staggs road. Also, the Staggs road is used by four or more farmers to move their equipment, conflicting and presenting safety and economic issues with use of Staggs road for the Chopin project.

I support Granella Thompson's suggestions 100% as the Thompson family, who farm our property, has exceptional farming skills and experience to recognize the impact of the project on our farm and the other farms surrounding the wind tower project. Thank you for working with us on these issues!

Steve Thomason sdtniblick@gmail.com (253) 377-3622



Conditional Us Permit Request #C-1252-15

1 message

Charles Doughdrill <vp4cwd@msn.com>

Tue, Jan 19, 2016 at 4:10 PM

To: "carol.johnson@umatillacounty.net" <carol.johnson@umatillacounty.net>

Cc: "Nerzig@baywa-re.us" <nerzig@baywa-re.us>

Dear Carol,

Thank you for returning my call and for the notice of public hearing regarding this project. I would appreciate consideration by the Planning Committee of my comments and objections. First, let me say, that on balance, I favor green power and that I also support Smith Frozen Foods in their effort to utilize same.

While I do not object to this request per se, I do object to the route of the underground transmission line as proposed. Instead of the route proposed along Staggs Rd, I would suggest that:

the transmission line run from the last turbine site, across Ferguson land to the Southeast corner of Tax Lot 3100, thence, along the North side of Ferguson Rd to York Rd and then South along York Rd to the substation, located on Tax Lot 500.

I offer the following rationale.

Staggs Rd, although designated a county road, is in reality a dead-end access road for farm equipment to reach the farms lying along this road and is not maintained during the winter months. Ferguson Rd, on the other hand, is maintained throughout the year and very little improvement, if any, would be required to place the transmission line there.

The proposed transmission line, as proposed, will adversely affect ten landowners and, at least, four farm operators along Staggs Rd. The route I suggest along Ferguson Rd will only impact two landowners, Tax Lot 4500 and Tax Lot 4400. While it will require more of the transmission line to cross Ferguson land, I feel certain it can follow existing field roads and should not be objectionable to Ferguson Ranch because they are the beneficiaries of the project. Furthermore, the original Chopin Wind Project had turbine sites extending East to York/Ferguson Rd and should there be need for additional turbines, it would most likely be along this line. I am puzzled why the developer did not propose this route in the first place.

In making this proposal to use Ferguson Road for the transmission line instead of Staggs Rd, I would like to reiterate that I am not against the project. In fact, the land interest I represent, Tax Lot 4400, would have an increased exposure to the transmission line. Nevertheless, keeping Staggs Rd a farming access road is more important to me. I believe this proposal reduces the impact on those who have no vested interest in the project and allows the interested parties a reasonable means of completion.

Sincerely, Charles Doughdrill, Administrator Elsie M. Killgore Trust P.O. Box 1240 Fraser, CO 80442

JAN 1 9 2016

UMATILLA COMPLANNING DEPARTMENT

November 6, 2015



NOV 06 2015

Chopin Wind, LLC 4365 Executive Drive Suite 1470 San Diego, CA 92121

RE: Umatilla County farm land subject to potential power lines

Dear Chopin Wind, LLC:

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the planned installation of 69 kV transmission lines and poles. We, as owners of the farmland, would like to learn more about the installation and provide our comments and suggestions to you.

We do object to new infrastructure for means of alternative energy when it interferes with the existing source of revenue and raises environmental issues. Some of the issues and concern with poles and transmission lines associated with the Chopin wind project are as follows:

- Poles and lines across existing land used for production of crops, thereby affecting
 potential revenue from farming operations due to land being used for transmission lines
 and not available for farming.
- Poles and lines located along property lines of farmland thereby increasing expenses to farm the land due to dusting planes unable to treat land close to the poles and lines.
 Manual spraying is not effective due to lessening effect of spray caused by tractor kicking up dust covering on weeds.
- Foundations of poles on or along farmland property lines pose for the inevitable breaking of tines on the plows, thereby making it difficult to properly prepare ground near the poles for farming.
- The poles and lines affecting the "bird way". We understand the wind towers are killing high numbers of migrating birds.
- The beauty of the rolling farm land we have enjoyed over the years from before the homesteading of the land is destroyed with above ground poles and lines. The 60 foot poles and lines are an "eyesore".

The following are questions or requests for additional information:

- May we have a map showing the poles and lines relative to the property lines for the entire length of the planned installation from the wind towers to the sub-station? Also, please show and identify the existing "Public Right of Ways"?
- What is the time frame for installation and completion of the project?
- What are the negatives with regard to putting the lines underground in lieu of on 60 foot poles?

Please provide information on future plans, i.e. additional wind towers, etc.... Thank you!

Sincerely,

Steve Thomason, (253) 377-3622 sdtniblick@gmail.com Staggs-Thomason, LLC M/A: 7383 SW View Park Rd, Port Orchard, WA

CC: Gary Edwards, gary@renuexec@gmail.com
Carole Johnson, Umatilla Planning Dept. Carol.johnson@Umatillacounty.net
Scott Thomason, sthomason@momentumautogroup.com
Grannella Thompson, Jessgranthompson@gmail.com

Jun 11-2016

I am in tolal agreement en all efforts of developing energy that is safer for the planet. With that said the approval that I gave to glowing the line along our property also approves the Usering of thes land ease Gloria Fronklin permit.



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UMATILLA COUNTY PLANNING DEPARTMENT



Parks and Recreation Department

State Historic Preservation Office 7.25 Summer St NF Str-U Salem, OR 97301 1266 Phone (503) 986-0690 Fax (503) 986-0793 www.oregonheritage.org



January 20, 2016

Ms. Carol Johnson Umatilla County Dept of Land Use Planning 216 SE 4th St Pendleton, OR 97801

RE: SHPO Case No. 16-0030 Umatilla County, C-1252-15 & LUD-194-15, BayWa r.e. Wind, LLC 10 MW Wind Project (5N 35) (4N 35E 15)

Dear Ms. Johnson:

Our office recently received a request to review your application for the project referenced above. In checking our statewide archaeological database, it appears that there have been no previous surveys completed near the proposed project area. However, the project area lies within an area generally perceived to have a high probability for possessing archaeological sites and/or buried human remains. In the absence of sufficient knowledge to predict the location of cultural resources within the project area, extreme caution is recommended during project related ground disturbing activities. Under state law (ORS 358,905 and ORS 97.74) archaeological sites, objects and human remains are protected on both state public and private lands in Oregon. If archaeological objects or sites are discovered during construction, all activities should cease immediately until a professional archaeologist can evaluate the discovery. If you have not already done so, be sure to consult with all appropriate Indian tribes regarding your proposed project. If the project has a federal nexus (i.e., federal funding, permitting, or oversight) please coordinate with the appropriate lead federal agency representative regarding compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). If you have any questions about the above comments or would like additional information, please feel free to contact our office at your convenience. In order to help us track your project accurately, please reference the SHPO case number above in all correspondence.

Sincerely,

Dennis Griffin, Ph.D., RPA

State Archaeologist

(503) 986-0674

dennis.griffin@oregon.gov

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UMATILLA COUNTY PLANNING DEPARTMENT



JAN 2 2 2016

January 22, 2016

UMATILLA COUNTY
PLANNING DEPARTMENT

To: Umatilla County Planning Commission

From: John and Deborah Lee

Re: Proposed windmill project near Dry Creek Oregon # C~1252-15; #LUD~194-15

We want to go on record as being emphatically opposed to the proposed windmill project near Dry Creek and Pine Creeks outside our home near Milton-Freewater, Oregon. We find this project to be offensive and hazardous on numerous levels. We are concerned about the long term affects it will have on our family's health now and in the future, the noise and light pollution it will create, our local wildlife and the Golden Eagles in the area, as well as the preposterous destruction of one of the most beautiful views in Oregon, an area rich in history that is very significant to our area.

Recently, we have turned our Oregon Century Farm over to the fifth and sixth generations of Lees. Our family has been farming our farm since 1868 and we are very proud of the fact that it remains in the custody of our family as we try to be good stewards of the land for generations to come. (In fact, we have just had a new Oregon Century Farm sign produced to declare the significance of this event of the transfer of responsibility of such on in our family.) We do not take this responsibility lightly.

We have all heard and read about the farce of the many foreign wind energy companies coming into our area with huge promises and what has transpired is that the tax payers of Oregon are subsidizing these giant corporations. Have you checked and/or tracked your power bills from PP and L and other providers since this effort began? Increases are not just small percent increases....We have seen increases of 16% to 24% in one year. How can a farm stay in business when you are paying for power that should be reasonable? Read the papers, talk to your legislators, this is the direct result of wind energy being subsidized by the people of Oregon. Each time we see such monstrosities along the most beautiful scenic areas of Oregon, this fact reemerges and we are reminded of how we all have been misled in many ways by the promises of foreign corporations, their lawyers and their agents.

We are also opposed to the questionable project management tactics exhibited by foreign corporations who have seized the opportunity to use Oregon funds for projects that only benefit power users in other states and a few farmers while calling it "economic development". This corporation has not been open and transparent with all residents in the area about the project—initially several years ago, we were not notified even though the proposed windmills will directly affect us. They have been underhanded in the manner they have gathered their "impartial" information, they have slanted the data to only show their side, they have minimized the effects this project will have on the health of the citizens who live in the area, they are proposing to build this project on unstable ground and they have ignored the fact that they are destroying a beautiful view in a historic region for the benefit of their pocket books. Not only that, they have

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misrepresented their supposed support by local agencies in a marketing campaign to local land owners and area citizens and have overlooked several important planning points that we will explain below. It is interesting that in the years after this first wave of "getting on the bandwagon" to a big money kind of promotion to area landowners, many have confessed to us that had this company been truthful and upfront about what would transpire, they would have never signed on. It is now like they don't even have a say to parts of their land and how you can operate on it, the wind company does!

We feel we have strong credibility in opposing this windmill project because our family has lived on Dry Creek longer than any other family. One branch of the Lee Family, the Bades homesteaded on the next place down the creek in 1867. The rest of the family came to Dry Creek in 1868 and the homestead was proved up in 1871. Our home was built by the Lees in 1873 and the farm received the honor of being designated an Oregon Century Farm in 1973 and in 2023, we will travel to Salem to be designated as an Oregon Sesquicentennial Farm, a farm that has been held by an Oregon family for 150 years. That is something!

This farm is our life and our elected lifestyle... We choose to endure a sometimes problematic existence in the country as a conscious choice. While we no longer live at Dry Creek, we are eight miles away and spend a lot of time there helping farm and enjoying our family times. We like to gaze at the stars at night with no light pollution, we love to listen to the quiet of the land and sweet sounds of the animals who co-exist with us, the appeal of the land's aroma after a dry spell from a fresh coat of rain, or the soil when it is turned or the wheat chaff during harvest. Only a country person would know and revere these things. We chose this lifestyle with all its trials, tribulations and inconveniences because the country life is highly valued by all of us in our family.

Now, a foreign company, who does not understand or value any of this, a corporation who will not have to live in the path of the destruction they will impose to our Dry Creek area, our health, our wildlife and one of the most famous mountain and valley views; desires to trash our lifestyle for the sake of money and profit. Once this project is complete, they will leave for other lands to destroy for the sake of the same. How can we even consider this monstrous proposal AGAIN? Do we value only money in our society anymore??? Has our civilization come to this??? We refuse to accept the "Pave paradise and put up a parking lot" mentality that is part of this project, and others like it, just for the promise of a short term financial gain! It is so selfish and this outlook does not look to the future and what new generations of citizens will want to enjoy. This will mar our area forever.

Once again, even though we own the land that is farmed at Dry Creek, we were not notified of this new effort. (Not only the residents but the landowners should be notified, when will this deception ever stop?) We have only had days to prepare our arguments as to why this venture is a dangerous threat and has no merit. Our only notice that this venture would impact our farm was because our son, wife and family received notice. Once again, we are not impressed with the notification process.

We are also concerned about numerous other issues:

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- The Walla Walla Watershed was mentioned as being one of the supporters of this project. However, at a former hearing, Brian Wolcott of the Walla Walla Watershed Council said emphatically that he had never been contacted by the managers of the windmill project. How many other agencies listed as supporting this project were never contacted as well? We want to see a list of the agencies supposedly contacted, who they talked with and when. We doubt that a governmental or tribal agency would give approval and support of a project before it was approved by the people. Let's see their call lists and who, what, where and when!! What agreements and signatures were issued?? Using false information to market a project is unethical.
- Golden Eagles have been spotted in the area of these proposed windmills by numerous bird watchers. A large population of other wildlife and birds has been sighted, concentrated in the Dry Creek area since the windmills to the west have been put in. We think there are probably laws protecting these birds and animals and we need to make sure we have a strong understanding of the rules regarding their destruction by mechanical means. We don't know about anyone else, but we think that the destruction of our national bird is probably a crime, and if it is not, it should be.

We are not wildlife biologists but we have friends who are. They are concerned about the many documented incidents of birds flying into the bases and blades of these giant windmills and so are we. They are concerned about how the constant noise vibrations from these machines seem to confuse and distress wildlife. Just two weeks ago, the staff of Blue Mountain Wildlife who provide rehabilitation and physical therapy to injured birds of prey, visited our local Rotary Club. They told us of several incidents of birds flying into windmills and dying as well as many they have rescued from these areas. They commented that, "We never hesitate to ask for donations from the windmill companies to our non-profit." Why would they say that if the blame for much of this destruction is not on the windmills? It was very clear to many of us Rotarians.

- Earthquakes—We wonder if the windmill company has conducted any research on the fact that they are sighting the windmills on earthquake fault lines. Until 1984, there was a seismograph operated by the University of Washington, just feet from our house on Dry Creek. It was the only such seismograph in our area of Oregon because there is an ongoing concern for earthquakes in the area. We had a terrible earthquake on Dry Creek in 1936 and three more since 1976 when we moved to Dry Creek. We understand that the windmills go down to the bedrock and vibrate 24/7. What will this vibration do if it is imbedded into basalt on a fault line??? Just go online and you will be surprised of the information regarding research and tracking about earthquakes on Dry Creek and in the Pine Creek areas.
- Noise—Have there been studies conducted on the effect of the vibrations and noise from the windmills on infants, toddlers and children? How do they affect the growth patterns and auditory development of young children? We frequently have our grandchildren and others at our place and we do not want to damage their health—or ours for that matter—with the windmills too close to our home. It appears that two of the windmills are not up to the county's standards for proximity to our house.

- Noise tests—We understand that for these noise tests to be valid, they need to be conducted over at least a year's time, in various locations and seasons in the proposed development areas. Dry Creek is dry for over six months a year, it is quiet, yet the tests that were conducted where done so over three days during one of the noisiest times of the year when the creek was flowing from heavy rain and melting snow. We have the data on this fact. How will they mitigate in a timely fashion higher noise levels during the quiet times of spring, summer and fall? These problems will need to be corrected and we want to know their plans for doing so over the years. If their corporation goes bankrupt or is sold to some other company, will the land owners pick up the cost and/or the purchasing corporation?
- The noise and health danger caused from magnetic fields and induced current through the high powered transmission lines. We know there are studies of the adverse effects of high voltage power lines near people and livestock. In fact, one of our friends lost their family dairy to this very issue. By the time they discovered that the power lines were causing their cows to lower milk production, their family farm was already out of business. We also know this is not healthy for humans. Will the windmill company and the land owners pay for our certain long term health expenses for each member of our family? We need to know where to send those bills.
- The scenic view of Highway 204—Famous photos of this region have been published in nature books and tourism publications. All of us look at this view each and every day, numerous times a day. It is beautiful to us...and apparently to many other people as well. From the curves of the highway descending from the mountains to the beginnings of the Walla Walla Valley, on some days you can see Mount Hood, Mount Adams and Mount Rainer with the Columbia River in the distant foreground. The view of the Walla Walla Valley is breathtaking without the mar from transmission lines, white blades and blinking red lights. It is clean and pure and it was the same view along the Oregon Trail that our ancestors saw from their covered wagons as they fell in love with this area and decided to settle here. It is a view of value, a view of the pioneers as they made their way down Dry Creek to the Whitman Mission. How could anyone consider destroying such a treasured vista in an area of such historical significance?
 - Right to farm. You will not find stronger advocates for farming in Oregon as our farm family. They have been farming since 1868 and before that in Illinois and Virginia. That is what we do. As long as folks conform to the laws and regulations of the Oregon and US Departments of Agriculture, our land use laws, and state and local laws, we have no quarrel. However, when opportunists begin to use rhetoric like "wind farms" in farm territory when it is actually industrial development on farm lands, we are not swayed. It is not the proper use for farm land near people because it causes disputes like this. Farmers who want windmills on their land say that they have a right to make money on their land....well, we do too. We had plans for our place once we retired that had to do with agri-tourism. It was a way to use our farm to promote agriculture and tourism through events and activities at our farm. To do this, our area needs to have the viewscape we have now, not something from an industrial wasteland. This will eliminate our dream to generate value added income from our farm in the future and it will devalue our farm property. It works both ways, folks. Sometimes history, beauty and quiet are an economic draw.



Finally, we just cannot help but say "Shame on Oregon" for opening the door to these windmill companies to ruin the beauty of some of the most revered areas of Oregon for the sake of economic development. Even with all the press about what a bad deal wind energy projects are for Oregon taxpayers in the years past the time this company initially tried to set up windmills in this area we are back at this again??? Each time we travel to Portland, we gasp in disappointment at the irreparable damage to the views along the Columbia River Gorge. Why is it that Oregon is only considered beautiful from The Dalles west, and not east??? Open land and water with mountain backdrops is beautiful anywhere and we have not been thinking straight. Here is our chance to do something about it. Let's take a stand and stop one more windmill development in a historic and beautiful viewscape of our county! Let's start thinking with our long term benefits brain instead of with short term benefits greed of a corporation and a few land owners, many from out-of-state or out of our area.

We urge you to give further careful study to these issues before taking action. We have heard way too often the rhetoric about moving ahead without thorough study by all parties for other economic development projects. Talk like, "That train has already left the station" and "that horse is already out of the barn", etc. have been used in the past to move projects forward. Instead of cutsie comments in an excuse to quickly sign off without proper study or consideration for the viewpoints of the folks who actually live in the area and make a living from it, we need to change our thinking and practices. We need to think before we act and act with responsibility to <u>all</u> parties, not just the out-of-state corporations. We owe this to ourselves and our future generations.

Let us "put this horse back in the barn" and send the "train back to the station" so that better solutions can be designed to support Oregon's economy. Windmills next to people and population centers, and windmills that destroy the beauty of Oregon, don't make sense. Let's keep Oregon Green, Keep Oregon Beautiful and use good sense. This project does not!

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Respectfully submitted,

John and Deborah Lee

85045 Hawthorne Lane

Milton-Freewater, Oregon 97862



7.71,

JAN 2 5 2016

Nathan Lee and Nika Carter-Lee 81356 Lower Dry Creek Road Milton-Freewater, OR 97862

UNATILLA COUNTY
PLANNING DEPARTMENT

To: Umatilla County Planning Commission

From: Nathan Lee and Nika Carter-Lee

Re: Proposed windmill project near Dry and Pine Creeks, Milton-Freewater, Oregon.

#C-1252-15 and #LUD-194-15

Friday, January 22, 2016

To Whom It May Concern:

I am voicing my concerns about the proposed windmill project near Dry and Pine Creeks, Milton-Freewater, Oregon. I feel that there are numerous long-term negative impacts that far outweigh any short-term residual monetary benefits that would occur.

My concerns are as follows:

- Noise
- Health impacts
- Destruction of the view shed from Highway 204
- Impact to local wildlife and the Golden Eagles in the area
- Windmills on an earthquake fault line
- Industrial development on Agriculture only zone land

We live on Dry Creek and have three young boys and we are concerned that the noise and vibrations will cause adverse health effects. Have there been studies done on how the windmills affect the growth patterns, equilibrium balance, and auditory development of young children? Also what about high-powered transmission lines, are there studies in place that explain the health impacts related to living in close proximity? Will the wind company and/or landowners be held 100% responsible for any adverse health issues?

With regards to the noise, has the wind company performed their study? I would like to recommend the study includes summer samples in the population when no water is running in creeks to be statistically valid. Anyone who has taken a statistics class knows that you must get a representative sample of the population in order to make assumptions based off of the data. What happens when the noise pollution from the windmills exceeds the recommended level? Are there going to be sound tests taken throughout the year that are paid for by the wind company and/or landowners to evaluate if the windmills are in violation of the noise levels? Will the wind company and/or landowners be held 100% responsible for noise violations and what will be the penalty? Will all the homeowners receive compensation anytime the windmills are in noise violation? During wind storms at our Dry Creek home as a direct result of the current windmills and test towers installed we hear buzzing noises and have concluded it is the wind equipment that has been installed.

Under the law from the 1970's the way it is written there cannot be any destruction to the view shed from Highway 204 at any point on the road. The windmills are a clear violation of the law and the project should not be allowed to move forward just based on this law alone. We enjoy driving on Highway 204 and now every time we are traveling down the mountain right at dusk it saddens us to see a multitude of blinking red lights already in place. Please do not allow this project to move forward further destroying the beautiful wide-open vistas we all currently enjoy in the Walla Walla Valley.

We enjoy hiking and driving in the Blue Mountains and have seen on many different occasions Golden Eagles. We are worried about migratory impacts on all birds in addition to the eagles that will be harmed or killed by the windmills. Please don't allow the windmills to harm our wildlife as we have seen an uptick in the amount of wildlife that is present at my family's farm on Dry Creek as we believe the animals are trying to move away from the other windmill projects that are already in place.

Our house at dry creek sits on an earthquake fault line and we am worried that the windmills will possibly cause an earthquake due to the vibrations. Has there been an earthquake study done or an analysis of how the windmills will affect the fault line? Will the wind company be held 100% finically responsible both presently and in the future for anything that happens?

Finally, we am disappointed with our governance; Windmill project installation(s) are very apparently industrial developments on land that is zoned agricultural use only. How can they circumvent our county land use laws based on windmills being green energy? When this loophole is closed will the wind company and landowners be held 100% finically responsible both presently and in the future for illegal use of the land?

Make no mistake that we am opposed to the proposed windmill project near Dry and Pine Creeks, Milton-Freewater, Oregon. I, Nathan Lee and Nika Carter-Lee would like to have our concerns documented and recorded.

Sincerely,

Nathan Lee and Nika Cater-Lee

Nika Caner-lee

Note Ja

Friday, January 22, 2016



Public Hearing relating to wind project on Ferguson Ranch land

1 message

ROSSOW Paul <paul.rossow@state.or.us>

Mon, Jan 25, 2016 at 1:36 PM

To: "carol.johnson@umatillacounty.net" <carol.johnson@umatillacounty.net>

Hello Carol Johnson,

I am sending this E-Mail in receipt of the Umatilla County Department of Land Use Planning notice of Public Hearing (notice) regarding conditional use permit request, #C-1252-15 and land use decision, #LUD-194-15. Though the notice does not specifically state why the Public Utility Commission was provided a copy of the notice, I am letting you know that I am responsible for issues involving electric service territory. My findings confirm that with the information provided, all five proposed wind turbines and proposed substation are within Pacific Power's electric service territory.

Paul Rossow Utility Analyst Energy Resources and Planning 503-378-6917



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UMATILIA CO 1837 PLANNING DEPARTMENT

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January 22, 2016

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UMATILLA COUNTY
PLANNING DEPARTMENT

To: Umatilla County Planning Commission

From: John and Deborah Lee

Re: Proposed windmill project near Dry Creek Oregon C-1252 -15 LUD -194-15

I want to go on record as being emphatically opposed to the proposed windmill project near Dry Creek and Pine Creek outside our home near Milton-Freewater, Oregon. I find this project to be offensive and hazardous on numerous levels, we were doing just fine and well off before they came along. We are concerned about the long term affects it will have on our family's health now and in the future, the noise and light pollution it will create, our local wildlife and the Golden Eagles in the area, as well as the preposterous destruction of one of the most beautiful views in Oregon, an area rich in history that is very significant to our area.

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My family and I have all heard and read about the farce of the many foreign wind energy companies coming into our area with huge promises and what has transpired is that the tax payers of Oregon are subsidizing these giant corporations. Have you checked and/or tracked your power bills from PP and L and other providers since this effort began? Increases are not just small percent increases....We have seen increases of 16% to 24% in one year. How can a farm stay in business when you are paying for power that should be reasonable? Read the papers, talk to your legislators, this is the direct result of wind energy being subsidized by the people of Oregon. Each time we see such monstrosities along the most beautiful scenic areas of Oregon, this fact reemerges and we are reminded of how we all have been misled in many ways by the promises of foreign corporations, their lawyers and their agents.

We are also opposed to the questionable project management tactics exhibited by foreign corporations who have seized the opportunity to use Oregon funds for projects that only benefit power users in other states and a few farmers while calling it "economic development". This corporation has not been open and transparent with all residents in the area about the project—initially several years ago, we were not notified even though the proposed windmills will directly affect us. They have been underhanded in the manner they have gathered their "impartial" information, they have slanted the data to only show their side, they have minimized the effects this project will have on the health of the citizens who live in the area, they are proposing to build this project on unstable ground and they have ignored the fact that they are destroying a beautiful view in a historic region for the benefit of their pocket books. Not only that, they have misrepresented their supposed support by local agencies in a marketing campaign to local land owners and area citizens and have overlooked several important planning points that we will explain below. It is interesting that in the years after this first wave of "getting on the bandwagon" to a big money kind of promotion to area landowners, many have confessed to us that had this company been truthful and upfront about what would transpire, they would have never signed on. It is now like they don't even have a say to parts of their land and how you can operate on it, the wind company does!

We feel we have strong credibility in opposing this windmill project because our family has lived on Dry Creek longer than any other family. One branch of the Lee Family, the Bade's homesteaded on the next place down the creek in 1867. The rest of the family came to Dry Creek in 1868 and the homestead was proved up in 1871. Our home was built by the Lees in 1873 and the farm received the honor of being designated an Oregon Century Farm in 197 and in 2023, we will travel to Salem to be designated as an Oregon Sesquicentennial Farm, a farm that has been held by an Oregon family for 150 years. That is something!

This farm is our life and our elected lifestyle... We choose to endure a sometimes problematic existence in the country as a conscious choice. While I no longer live at Dry Creek, I am 200 miles away and spend a lot of



time there helping farm and enjoying our family times and would like my 4 year old son to enjoy it without degrading windmills. I grew up farming the land all through high school and part of college from the age of eight and enjoyed it thoroughly while looking at the beauty of our valley without having ruined and desecrated thanks to a bunch of foreigners trying to get rich off ruining our environment.

Now, a foreign company, who does not understand or value any of this, a corporation who will not have to live in the path of the destruction they will impose to our Dry Creek area, our health, our wildlife and one of the most famous mountain and valley views; desires to trash our lifestyle for the sake of money and profit. Once this project is complete, they will leave for other lands to destroy for the sake of the same. How can we even consider this monstrous proposal AGAIN? Do we value only money in our society anymore??? Has our civilization come to this??? We refuse to accept the "Pave paradise and put up a parking lot" mentality that is part of this project, and others like it, just for the promise of a short term financial gain! It is so selfish and this outlook does not look to the future and what new generations of citizens will want to enjoy. This will mar our area forever.

Once again, even though we own the land that is farmed at Dry Creek, we were not notified of this new effort. (Not only the residents but the landowners should be notified, when will this deception ever stop?) We have only had days to prepare our arguments as to why this venture is a dangerous threat and has no merit. Our only notice that this venture would impact our farm was because our son, wife and family received notice. Once again, we are not impressed with the notification process.

We are also concerned about numerous other issues:

- The Walla Walla Watershed was mentioned as being one of the supporters of this project. However, at a former hearing, Brian Wolcott of the Walla Walla Watershed Council said emphatically that he had never been contacted by the managers of the windmill project. How many other agencies listed as supporting this project were never contacted as well? We want to see a list of the agencies supposedly contacted, who they talked with and when. We doubt that a governmental or tribal agency would give approval and support of a project before it was approved by the people. Let's see their call lists and who, what, where and when!! What agreements and signatures were issued?? Using false information to market a project is unethical.
- Golden Eagles have been spotted in the area of these proposed windmills by numerous bird watchers. A large population of other wildlife and birds has been sighted, concentrated in the Dry Creek area since the windmills to the west have been put in. We think there are probably laws protecting these birds and animals and we need to make sure we have a strong understanding of the rules regarding their destruction by mechanical means. We don't know about anyone else, but we think that the destruction of our national bird is probably a crime, and if it is not, it should be.

We are not wildlife biologists but we have friends who are. They are concerned about the many documented incidents of birds flying into the bases and blades of these giant windmills and so are we. They are concerned about how the constant noise vibrations from these machines seem to confuse and distress wildlife. Just two weeks ago, the staff of Blue Mountain Wildlife who provide rehabilitation and physical therapy to injured birds of prey, visited our local Rotary Club. They told us of several incidents of birds flying into windmills and dying as well as many they have rescued from these areas. They commented that, "We never hesitate to ask for donations from the windmill companies to our non-profit." Why would they say that if the blame for much of this destruction is not on the windmills? It was very clear to many of us Rotarians.

• Earthquakes—We wonder if the windmill company has conducted any research on the fact that they are sighting the windmills on earthquake fault lines. Until 1984, there was a seismograph operated by the University of Washington, just feet from our house on Dry Creek. It was the only such seismograph in our area of Oregon because there is an ongoing concern for earthquakes in the area. We had a terrible earthquake on Dry Creek in 1936 and three more since 1976 when we moved to Dry Creek. We understand that the windmills go down to the bedrock and vibrate 24/7. What will this vibration do if it is imbedded into basalt on a fault line??? Just go online and you will be surprised of the information regarding research and tracking about earthquakes on Dry Creek and in the Pine Creek areas.

- Noise—Have there been studies conducted on the effect of the vibrations and noise from the windmills on infants, toddlers and children? How do they affect the growth patterns and auditory development of young children? We frequently have our grandchildren and others at our place and we do not want to damage their health—or ours for that matter—with the windmills too close to our home. It appears that two of the windmills are not up to the county's standards for proximity to our house.
- Noise tests—We understand that for these noise tests to be valid, they need to be conducted over at least a year's time, in various locations and seasons in the proposed development areas. Dry Creek is dry for over six months a year, it is quiet, yet the tests that were conducted where done so over three days during one of the noisiest times of the year when the creek was flowing from heavy rain and melting snow. We have the data on this fact. How will they mitigate in a timely fashion higher noise levels during the quiet times of spring, summer and fall? These problems will need to be corrected and we want to know their plans for doing so over the years. If their corporation goes bankrupt or is sold to some other company, will the land owners pick up the cost and/or the purchasing corporation?
- The noise and health danger caused from magnetic fields and induced current through the high powered transmission lines. We know there are studies of the adverse effects of high voltage power lines near people and livestock. In fact, one of our friends lost their family dairy to this very issue. By the time they discovered that the power lines were causing their cows to lower milk production, their family farm was already out of business. We also know this is not healthy for humans. Will the windmill company and the land owners pay for our certain long term health expenses for each member of our family? We need to know where to send those bills.
- The scenic view of Highway 204—Famous photos of this region have been published in nature books and tourism publications. All of us look at this view each and every day, numerous times a day. It is beautiful to us...and apparently to many other people as well. From the curves of the highway descending from the mountains to the beginnings of the Walla Walla Valley, on some days you can see Mount Hood, Mount Adams and Mount Rainer with the Columbia River in the distant foreground. The view of the Walla Walla Valley is breathtaking without the mar from transmission lines, white blades and blinking red lights. It is clean and pure and it was the same view along the Oregon Trail that our ancestors saw from their covered wagons as they fell in love with this area and decided to settle here. It is a view of value, a view of the pioneers as they made their way down Dry Creek to the Whitman Mission. How could anyone consider destroying such a treasured vista in an area of such historical significance?
 - Right to farm. You will not find stronger advocates for farming in Oregon as our farm family. They have been farming since 1868 and before that in Illinois and Virginia. That is what we do. As long as folks conform to the laws and regulations of the Oregon and US Departments of Agriculture, our land use laws, and state and local laws, we have no quarrel. However, when opportunists begin to use rhetoric like "wind farms" in farm territory when it is actually industrial development on farm lands, we are not swayed. It is not the proper use for farm land near people because it causes disputes like this. Farmers who want windmills on their land say that they have a right to make money on their land....well, we do too. We had plans for our place once we retired that had to do with agri-tourism. It was a way to use our farm to promote agriculture and tourism through events and activities at our farm. To do this, our area needs to have the viewscape we have now, not something from an industrial wasteland. This will eliminate our dream to generate value added income from our farm in the future and it will devalue our farm property. It works both ways, folks. Sometimes history, beauty and quiet are an economic draw.

Finally, we just cannot help but say "Shame on Oregon" for opening the door to these windmill companies to ruin the beauty of some of the most revered areas of Oregon for the sake of economic development. Even with all the press about what a bad deal wind energy projects are for Oregon taxpayers in the years past the time this company initially tried to set up windmills in this area we are back at this again??? Each time we travel to Portland, we gasp in disappointment at the irreparable damage to the views along the Columbia River Gorge. Why is it that Oregon is only considered beautiful from The Dalles west, and not east??? Open land and water with mountain backdrops is beautiful anywhere and we have not been thinking straight. Here is our chance to do something about it. Let's take a stand and stop one more windmill development in a historic and beautiful viewscape of our county! Let's start thinking with our long term benefits brain instead of with short term benefits greed of a corporation and a few land owners, many from out-of-state or out of our area.

We urge you to give further careful study to these issues before taking action. We have heard way too often the rhetoric about moving ahead without thorough study by all parties for other economic development projects. Talk like, "That train has already left the station" and "that horse is already out of the barn", etc. have been used in the past to move projects forward. Instead of cutsie comments in an excuse to quickly sign off without proper study or consideration for the viewpoints of the folks who actually live in the area and make a living from it, we need to change our thinking and practices. We need to think before we act and act with responsibility to all parties, not just the out-of-state corporations. We owe this to ourselves and our future generations.

Let us "put this horse back in the barn" and send the "train back to the station" so that better solutions can be designed to support Oregon's economy. Windmills next to people and population centers, and windmills that destroy the beauty of Oregon, don't make sense. Let's keep Oregon Green, Keep Oregon Beautiful and use good sense. This project does not!

Andrew Lee

3212 Tempest Drive

Lake Oswego, OR 97035

4/53



Parks and Recreation Department

State Historic Preservation Office 725 Summer St NE Ste C Salem, OR 97301-1266 Phane (203) 986-0690 Fax (503) 986-0793 www.oreconheritage.org



January 27, 2016

Mr. Micah Engum Alexander Protective Services PO Box 669 Pendleton, OR 97801

RE: SHPO Case No. 11-0378

Chopin Wind Project

CRS/site records

Multiple legals, Umatilla County

Dear Mr. Engum:

Our office recently received your letter regarding the above proposed project and the changes in scope and size that have transpired since the initial application was received by our office in 2011. I have compared the new project map to the lands that had been earlier surveyed and find that the 2011 report (SHPO Report# 24140) is sufficient to address the current project lands. No additional survey is needed by our office. We have reviewed the earlier report and concur that a good faith effort has been implemented and the project will likely have no effect on any significant archaeological objects or sites. Based on the information provided, additional archaeological research is not anticipated for this project. In the unlikely event an archaeological object or site (i.e., historic or prehistoric) is encountered during project implementation, all ground disturbance at the location should cease immediately until a professional archaeologist can be contacted to evaluate the discovery. Under state law (ORS 358.905-955 & ORS 97.740) archaeological sites, objects and human remains are protected on both public and private land in Oregon. If you have not already done so, be sure to consult with all appropriate Indian tribes regarding your proposed project. If you have any questions regarding any future discovery or this letter, feel free to contact me at your convenience.

Sincerely,

Dennis Griffin, Ph.D., RPA

Enne Inflor

State Archaeologist (503) 986-0674

dennis.griffin@oregon.gov

RECEIVED

JAN 2 7 2016

UMATILLA COUNTY
PLANNING DEPARTMENT



Wind

1 message

Britt Johnson

 brittjohnson22@msn.com>

To: "carol.johnson@umatillacounty.net" <carol.johnson@umatillacounty.net>

Wed, Jan 27, 2016 at 7:29 AM

As a land owner bordering staggs road. On the record I believe the access to the wind farm should be on ferguson road, as it only harms and benefits only one farm operation, and does not impede the farm operations of the 3 farmer on staggs road.

Britt Johnson 884 Angus Lane Terrebonne Or

Sent from my iPad

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JAN 2 7 2016

UMATILLA COUNTY
PLANNING DEPARTMENT



Conditional Use Permit #c-1252-15

1 message

To: carol.johnson@umatillacounty.net

Cc: Mark Johnson <mdjohnson47@gmail.com>, trudyjohnson@q.com

Dear Carol,

Wed Jan 27, 2016 at 8:16 PM

JAN 2 8 2016

UMATILLA COUNTY PLANNING DEPARTMENT

I would like to comment on the conditional use permit #c-1252-15 that is before the Planning Commission, and ask it be put in the record.

As a landowner on York and Staggs Road, this project will negatively impact the operations needed to farm the land. The effect is especially troublesome on Staggs Road, where 5 farmers farming for 10 landowners will be challenged all summer through every phase of their needed operations by torn up roads, blocked roads, excessive traffic. My field can only be accessed via Staggs Road. Let me take you on a brief trip through what normally happens on our farm.

May-July: Farmers spray to kill volunteer and weeds, spring tooth after it is dead, and if there is rain to bring weeds before July, rod weed the summer fallow. Fertilizing summer fallow for the fall planting of next year's crop also happens in the early summer, with tractors, applicators, and trucks. From May through fall, the farmer comes out about once a week to spot spray and check the wheat for pests using a utility vehicle with a spray tank on it.

According to the schedule in the application, road building is to begin, rebuilding and widening Staggs Road and building access roads in the fields to the tower site. Staggs and York Roads will see heavy equipment, and Staggs Road will be blocked at times making it difficult for the farmer to get to the field. It is possible York road corner with Johnson Road will be widened, which is also my field.

July -August: Farmers harvest wheat, hauling it out to Athena for storage, needing to travel along York and Staggs roads every 20-30 minutes. With moving a large combine, fire fighting equipment, and 3 trucks to each field, they do not need additional large vehicles on the road. After wheat is harvested, balers come in to bale the straw, bringing in swathers, balers, service trucks, stackers.

Towers will move to the construction site using Staggs Road, large trucks, long trailers, completely filling the road even when widened.

September-Nov: Rod weeding usually at least once on each summer fallow field depending on how much rain has fallen to sprout weeds. Sometimes morning glory needs to be sprayed. Seeding of the next summer's wheat takes place in October. Semi trucks with trailers sometimes begin to remove stack of straw from the fields.

At some point, the digging of the ditch for the power line with markers to mark the line, and probably a booster station or placing underground relay stations with subsurface covers rated for vehicles and equipment crossings are will result in equipment in the road, the edges of the fields dug up.

In addition to these conflicts, there will be all the other farmers coming in with all their equipment. One farmer raises peas and will need to prepare ground and seed in April. There will be pea combines and lots of trucks in June. The 5 farmers get along just fine on this road, but this additional activity sure looks like a lot of congestion.

We anticipate York Road will be torn up and have to be resurfaced due to lots of potholes, as it is not any more of a road than a basic tar and gravel country road. Staggs road is a dead-end access road for farm equipment to reach the farms lying along it, and is not maintained during the winter months. I think it best left that way.

Ferguson Road is necessary access for only 1 farmer, a no-till operation that does not need to access the road other than spray. This farmer has no wheat along Ferguson Road and then seed in the fall, unlike many of the farmers on Staggs Road. The road is wider to begin with, does not drift with snow in the winter as Staggs Road does. There is already a field access road leading from near Ferguson's barn lot along the fence line to the area where the towers will be built that can be improved with no impediment to anyone other than the beneficiary to this project. The towers are closer to Ferguson Road than Staggs Road. Ferguson ranch is all adjacent to their barn lot and equipment, and they haul wheat to grain bins on their place, so they don't need to move along Ferguson Road for their farming operation.

Thank you for considering the challenges this project presents to our farm.

Trudy G. Johnson





Testimony for the 1/28/16 Hearing on #C-1252-15 and Land Use Decision, #LUD-194-15, BayWa r.e. Wind, LLC, Chopin Project

1 message

Seth & Anne Johnson < sethannej86@gmail.com>

To: carol.johnson@umatillacounty.net

Thu, Jan 28, 2016 at 8:18 AM

Good morning, Carol.

JAN **2 8** 2016

UMATILLA COUNTY

I was just made aware of the BayWa RE Wind, LLC's Chopin Wind Project that will affect farm property I own near Weston. I would like to request that the following testimony be submitted to the Planning Commission's hearing on Thursday evening, January 28th, regarding this wind farm project. This project is going to affect some of the most productive dryland wheat ground in Umatilla County.

I am a land owner of property on York and Staggs Roads north of Weston (I've attached a map highlighting the tax lots in yellow). Our land is now farmed by Jesse & Granella Thompson who also own land next to ours. The Project proposal indicates that the company is planning to utilize Staggs Road to access the wind project. It also indicates that they will have to widen the roads to twice their width to haul the turbines and equipment to the project at Ferguson Ranch.

The Thompsons planted winter wheat last fall in our field bordering York Road next to the house (tax lot 2801) and will need to prepare the other fields, including tax lot 4700, which is accessed by Staggs Road this summer to ready them for planting this fall.

I would like to request that the company access the project via Ferguson Road instead of Staggs road for the following reasons:

- 1. The Fergusons, who are the beneficiaries of this project, live and farm off of Ferguson Road. They already have a road that extends beyond their house down the property line to the project, while Staggs Rd. is a dead-end that would have to be extended. By using Ferguson Road the beneficiary of the project will be the primary ones affected by the project vs. their neighbors.
- 2. Our field in Tax Lot 4700 (and several other farmer's fields) is accessed via Staggs Road. If the width of Staggs Road is doubled it will be difficult, or impossible, to access the fields when they need to be sprayed, fertilized and tilled this summer to get the ground ready for planting next fall, which has the potential to reduce income at a time when income already promises to be short due to depressed grain prices.
- 3. Staggs Road has a higher bank than Ferguson Road. To double the width of the road, all the dirt from taking the banks down will have to be moved somewhere, which will make it harder or impossible to spray, till or harvest when necessary. Plus, in the winter because of the banks, the snow blows and drifts on this road. If maintenance on the wind project were required, the snow plows would have to push the snow onto the wheat fields, which could bury and damage the crop.

The plan indicates that the transmission lines, once the project is complete, will follow Staggs Road and York

Roads to the highway to get to the proposed substation.

I would like to request that the transmission lines jog east at Watts Road to the railroad right-of-way and follow the tracks to the lot where the substation will be located. The reasons are:

1. The railroad right-of-way is already graded and wide and goes past the lot of the proposed substation, so the company wouldn't have to go under the tracks and it wouldn't disturb productive crop ground when digging the trench to install the buried transmission lines.

- 2. The railroad right-of-way already has an access road that could be used for maintenance on the lines.
- 3. York Road has hills and swales, which are going to make digging a flat trench more difficult.
- 4. Digging through highly productive farm ground the majority of the distance from the access road affects many farmers negatively and any access ports or line markers will permanently take crop ground out of production.
- 5. Smith Frozen Foods, another beneficiary of the project, owns Tax Lot 502 which has a center pivot on it. The project will disturb fewer productive acres if the line follows the Watts Road extension to the railroad and follow the railroad right-of-way to the substation. Also, it won't disturb the crop under Smith's pivot.

The plan also indicates that the corner of York & Johnson road will need to be changed to allow the turbines to traverse the corner. Will this be a permanent change to the road? We own the lot on the corner and it appears that the change to the curve will affect our tillable acreage as well as the Price's across the road.

1. As with the land off of Staggs Road, this tax lot will need to be accessed for rod-weeding, fertilizing and tilled for seeding this fall.

Lastly, I would like to know how the farmers and owners will be compensated for the loss of wheat that is already in the ground along York Road and the access road, if the company requires that it be widened to twice its width.

I appreciate the opportunity to voice my concerns for the hearing. This land, as well as that owned by Mark, Trudy and Jon Johnson and Karina Siger, has been in my family for more than 100 years. It is important to me to keep their legacy protected... it is my history. Please ask the commission and BayWa to consider the above as they make decisions on this project.

Respectfully,

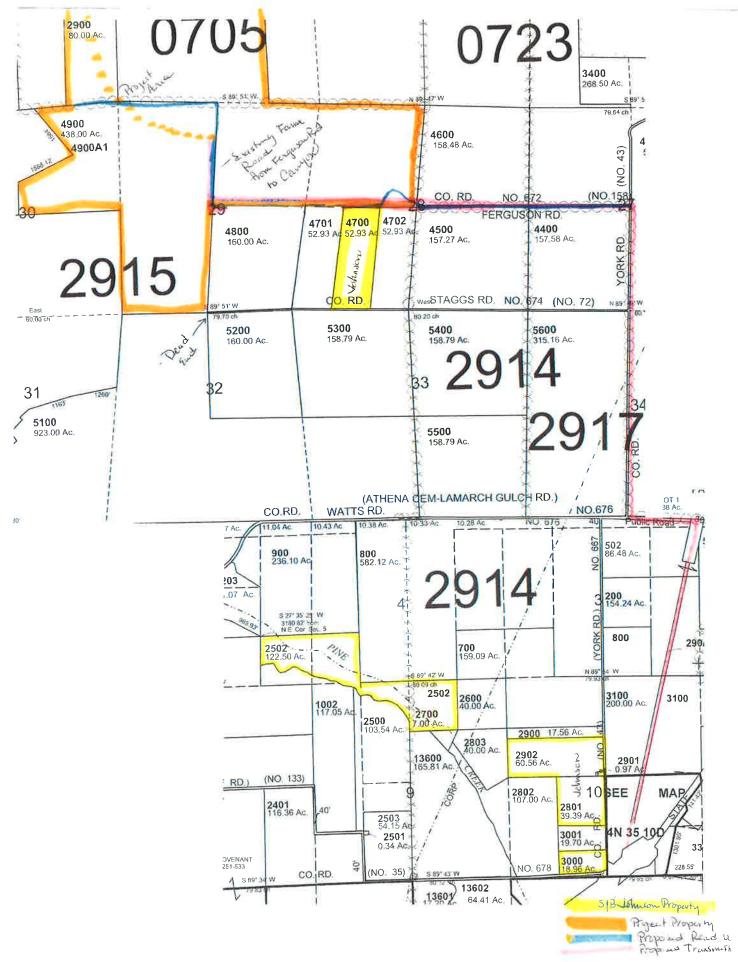
Seth Johnson

3033 SW Isaac

Pendleton, OR 97801

541-276-7153







BayWa r.e. Wind Conditional Use Permit

Meenaghan, **Kevin G CIV NAVFAC NW**, **AM** <kevin.meenaghan@navy.mil> To: "carol.johnson@umatillacounty.net" <carol.johnson@umatillacounty.net>

Thu, Jan 28, 2016 at 12:41 PM

Cc: Tamra Mabbott <tamra.mabbott@umatillacounty.net>

Hi Carol,

I received the notice of public hearing before the Umatilla County Planning Commission this evening regarding the subject wind project.

The Navy has no objections to the project.

Of note:

- A military training route (MTR) crosses SE to NW in the vicinity. It is the IR-343. Fortunately, the MTR altitude along this section of the route is 8,000 feet MSL, well above the terrain, which appears to be at ~2,000 feet MSL therefore, there is no conflict.
- There looks to be a private airfield in the vicinity and the owner should be contacted (hopefully that person will comment, or is at least aware).
- The wind farm looks to be in close proximity to a known Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) flight zone around Pendleton, so that should be a consideration.

We cannot thank you enough for contacting us and are very appreciative of the opportunity to comment.

Best regards, Kevin

Kevin Meenaghan NW Training Range Complex Community Planning & Liaison Officer ofc (360) 257-1413 cell (360) 391-2846

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UMATILLA COUNTY
PLANNING DEPARTMENT

\Box	smime.p	7s
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114 East Main PO Box 579 Weston, OR 97886 Tel* (541) 566-3313) *Fax (541 566-2792)

russ01@qwestoffice.net

Mayor Duane Thul; Councilors: Jennifer Spurgeon Tim Crampton, & Rick Stephens "This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer"

January 20, 2016

RE: Chopin Wind LLC

Dear Umatilla County Planning Commission,

Representative of Chopin Wind, LLC, appeared before the City of Weston Planning Commission on January 4, 2016 and before the City of Weston Council on January 13, 2016, the City has had the opportunity to review the matter and has no comment on Chopin Wind, LLC application.

Thank You Debi Russell City Recorder

Weston, OR 97886

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JAN 2 8 2016

UMATILLA COUNTY
PLANNING DEPARTMENT