

Fran Swenningson  
4010 NE 136<sup>th</sup> Street,  
Vancouver, WA 9  
8686

Woodland Public School  
800 Third Street  
Woodland Washington 98674  
Attn: Mrs. Janice Watts  
School Board Member

Dear Mrs. Watts:

I had the pleasure of addressing the School Board Meeting on November 8<sup>th</sup>, 2010 regarding the proposed I-5 Corridor Reinforcement Project of the BPA. Since that time we have received a letter which I am pleased to share with you.

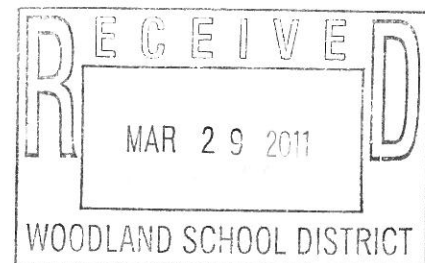
The Washington Education Association responded to our request for assistance in our fight to keep these 500 KV lines from neighborhoods and close proximity to schools. Our stated preference is to have the line run East through forest and public lands where it will harm no one and do no negative damage to the economy of this region.

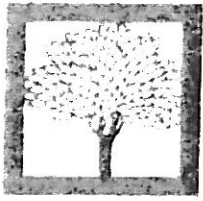
We once again ask you and your board members either as a group or individually to write to Steven Wright, the Administrator of Bonneville Power Association supporting that this line be situated in the east on unpopulated public land.

I sincerely thank you for your time,



Fran Swenningson, member  
Citizens Against the Towers Committee





**WEA**  
WASHINGTON  
EDUCATION  
ASSOCIATION

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December 3, 2010

Mr. Steven Wright, Administrator  
Bonneville Power Administration  
P.O. Box 3621  
Portland OR 97208-3621

Dear Mr. Wright:

As elected president of the Washington Education Association, I represent more than 80,000 public school employees in the state of Washington. At the WEA Representative Assembly in May 2010, a member expressed deep concern that BPA would place a 500-kilovolt transmission line near schools. In response, the delegates adopted a new business item regarding BPA's proposed new 500-kilovolt transmission line in southwest Washington. The new business item directed WEA to study the impact of high voltage lines on children's and school employee's health.

WEA's Indoor Environmental Quality work team reviewed scientific literature pertinent to this issue. One study, done in Australia in 2007 on a small number of participants, greatly influenced the work team. The Australian study tracked the delayed effect on adults of childhood exposure to magnetic fields of lines up to 220kv. It found a significant increase in lymph cancer occurrence rates for adults who had had residential exposure to such fields. Other studies have not demonstrated that low level exposure to electro magnetic fields is safe. There appears to be no scientific consensus that long term exposure to high voltage lines is not harmful to humans.

It would be wise to apply the precautionary principle in deciding where to place the new 500-kilovolt transmission line. This principle holds that if proposed action risks harm to public health, and science cannot demonstrate that the action is not harmful, the action should not be taken. An example of this precautionary principle is the state of California's School Site Selection and Approval Guide, which states that because EMF fields may or may not be

hazardous to human health, school districts should be conservative and not place new schools within 350 feet of 500kv lines.

Accordingly, the WEA requests that BPA place the new 500kv southwest Washington line in the east, on unpopulated public land, entirely away from homes and schools. If this is impossible, the new 500kv line should be placed far away from any existing schools or sites chosen for new schools on the date BPA finalizes the route. Children spend many hours a week at school, and children may stay in one school for 6 years; employees work in schools for longer hours and may stay 20 or more years at the same school. Adding exposure at school to residential exposure may be devastating the health of some individuals, particularly children. By siting its lines away from homes and schools, BPA can demonstrate its willingness to avoid an action that might adversely affect human health.

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mary Lindquist", written over a faint circular stamp or seal.

Mary Lindquist

C: Rae Ann Engdahl, Chair, IEQ Work Team