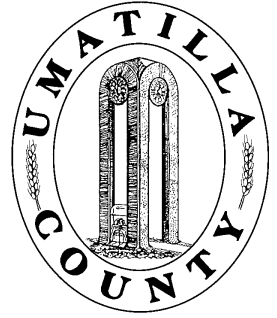


Umatilla County

Department of Land Use Planning



Director
Tamra Mabbott

November 10, 2011

Land Use
Planning
Division:
541-278-6252

CODE
ENFORCEMENT
541-278-6300

Emergency
Management
Division:

EMERGENCY
MANAGEMENT
541-966-3700

CHEMICAL
STOCKPILE
EMERGENCY
PREPAREDNESS
PROGRAM
(CSEPP)
541-966-3700
1-877-367-2737

MEMO

TO: Planning Commission
FROM: Tamra Mabbott
RE: WKN Chopin, LLC Application

The November 17th agenda includes the continuation of your review of the WKN Chopin, LLC Transmission Line Application #LUD-138-11.

WKN provided a summary of their efforts to co-locate with an existing transmission line. Please see the attached email from WKN and add this to your notebooks for the LUD application.

The scope of your review is the existing transmission line. The WKN email describes a change in the routing, from public right-of-way to private property, for a section of the line along Kinnear Road. While that change may be possible, and may be a preferred routing, that alternative was presented just yesterday and there was not adequate time to formally modify the application. A formal modification would require notification of property owners and adjacent property owners and verification of consent of the effected landowners.

Staff advised WKN representatives of this limitation and they requested that the November 17th hearing continue.

Subject: Fwd: RE: WKN trans line
From: Tamra Mabbott <Tamra.Mabbott@ucem.us>
Date: 11/10/2011 3:05 PM
To: Richard Jennings <richardj@co.umatilla.or.us>

----- Original Message -----

Subject: RE: WKN trans line
Date: Wed, 9 Nov 2011 19:25:02 +0000
From: Eric Johnston <Johnston@wknusa.com>
To: Tamra Mabbott <Tamra.Mabbott@ucem.us>, Carol Johnson <carol@co.umatilla.or.us>
CC: Tamra Mabbott <tamra@co.umatilla.or.us>, Chris Copeland <Copeland@wknusa.com>, Steve Corey <Corey@mail.corey-byler.com>, Connie Hendrickson <connieh@umatillacounty.net>, Micah Engum <mje@flaggedtree.com>, 'Bill Alexander' <baf@flaggedtree.com>

Tamra and Carol,

Thank you for your patience with us as we have worked on alternatives to our proposed transmission line. We have been pushing for alternatives with the utilities right up to this morning. The short answer is, we simply can't make any of the existing transmission pathways in the area work for our project, for the following reasons:

Umatilla Electric Cooperative: We met with the transmission path team from the Umatilla Electric Cooperative, and spent the day with them at their offices and in the field looking at their line. Using the UEC line would force us to use the 204 Highway as our transmission pathway, and we already know the level of sensitivity of this highway to the citizens. In addition, we would have to travel deep into the timber-wooded areas of the Blue Mountains to connect to the 230kV PacifiCorp line, rebuilding/upgrading the small UEC line as we went, causing considerable visual and construction disturbance to the pine forest portion of the Blue Mountains and all of Highway 204 along the route. Our original LUD proposal goes adjacent to local, non-scenic highway roads bordered by existing agricultural areas, and never proposed to go into the wooded areas of the Blue Mountains.

PacifiCorp: PacifiCorp's existing 69kV line near our project is an old single-copper (1/0) line carrying power flows Walla Walla to Weston and can physically not carry any further loads. Our discussions with PacifiCorp revealed this line is unsuitable for an upgrade, and cannot handle power flows back to Walla Walla. Beyond that, PacifiCorp indicated the line was put in a long time ago, and in some areas they don't even have records of easements for the private property they are crossing.

Bonneville Power Association: As we discussed previously, Bonneville Power Association already has a surplus of non-firm renewable energy in its portfolio. BPA is also currently being sued by eight wind companies for curtailment of wind energy power in favor of BPA's own hydro power this spring. BPA has expressed no desire to take on existing any additional wind resources, and is not soliciting for any additional resources.

The result of the investigations above leaves WKN with our original proposed route, however, WKN has made progress and significant concessions, resulting in our original transmission line route having measurably less impact:

- WKN has decided to downsize the project transmission line from 230kV to 69kV. This will result in significantly smaller pole structures necessary to support the significantly smaller transmission line. This downsizing creates two negatives for WKN, which WKN is willing to bear:
 - WKN will need to build a second substation for the project on the five acres where it connects to the PacifiCorp 230 kV line at Linton Mountain, instead of a simple point of interconnect structure. This represents a serious cost increase to WKN;
 - WKN will be precluded from ever expanding the Project Chopin, since a 69kV line will not be sufficiently sized for additional power input.
- WKN has been able to negotiate with four landowners for transmission easements across their property that adjoins Kinnear Road, removing nearly three miles of line from the public right of way path we originally proposed. That's over a 25% reduction in transmission line located in public right of way along the transmission

route. We have attached a modified Exhibit B that depicts this new route.

Based on all of this research, work and concessions on the part of WKN, we request to have our LUD hearing for the Project Chopin transmission line next Thursday, November 17th, as originally planned, with the now-69kV transmission pathway to be located in the public right of way, with the exception for the areas where we are securing the private property easements, as depicted on the attached a modified Exhibit B. We'll deliver to you a cleaned up version of the exhibit tomorrow.

Thank you for your help and understanding in this matter.

Sincerely,

Eric Johnston | WKN USA, LLC
Project Manager

4365 Executive Drive #1470 | San Diego, CA 92121
T: 858.450.6800 | C: 619.756.8085 | F: 858.450.6801
johnston@wknusa.com



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Fr

— Attachments: —

WKN Chopin - Exhibit_B_LUD_map (DRAFT).pdf

1.2 MB

