

June 12, 2005

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PUBLIC SERVICE  
COMMISSION

RE: Please consider below as official public comment on the proposed Rowan transmission line, case number 2005-00089.

I am against alternate A as the route for the proposed Rowan transmission line. There are already two transmission lines that traverse this section of the forest. It would make much more sense to utilize existing paths and lines and share the load. Alternate D, which parallels I-64, cuts through the perimeter of the forest, and then connects to an existing power line through the Rodburn area, seems to be the most logical and least destructive option.

The Big Perry section of the forest is a large, intact block of woodland that does not need further negative impact from construction projects. Power transmission lines, while absolutely necessary for society to function, are nevertheless unsightly and invasive by nature. Trying to hide them by running them through stretches of relatively undisturbed forest is not the answer.

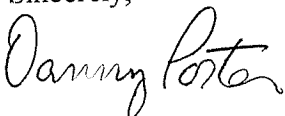
While the PSC maintains that it will observe the highest standards of environmental protection during and after the construction of the transmission lines, they cannot possibly improve on existing habitat. Cutting a wide, linear swath of trees, planting natural grasses, digging numerous "artificial" ponds, erecting dozens of bird and bat houses—while noble in its intent—in my mind does not improve upon what is already there. Option A is more of a disruption to the ecosystem than it would be an improvement.

It would be nice to see another powerful, mega-corporation act in an environmentally responsible way even if it didn't have to. Choosing the least environmentally destructive option would soften PSC's image as just another greedy profit driven entity that runs rough shod over the landscape with no regard for nature or the citizens it serves.

In that the Forest Service is not the lead agency in this project, nor are they particularly interested in listening to public opinion on projects that damage our National Forests, I am asking the PSC to please reject alternate A and reconsider alternate D as the route for the new transmission line.

Though alternate D may be more expensive in the short term, the benefits of preserving what little remains of our wild, undeveloped areas is substantially more rewarding in the long term from an economic as well as an environmental standpoint.

Sincerely,



Danny Porter