Branum, Sarah T - KEC-4

From: Paul Boynton [boynton@u.washington.edu]
Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2002 1:34 PM
To: stbranum@bpa.gov
Cc: rdnewman@uci.edu; roy.gephart@pnl.gov
Subject: Maiden wind farm impact study

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Due By: Friday, July 19, 2002 5:00 PM
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RECEIPT DATE: SEP 03 2002

Dear Ms. Branum

Thank you for informing Roy Gephart of Dr. Robert Schofield's draft report "Seismic Measurements at the Stateline Wind Project."

We expected a study that would fulfill BPA's intention to determine the possible impacts of the proposed Maiden Wind Farm on BOTH the LIGO Hanford and our facility, the Battelle Gravitation Physics Laboratory (BGPL - mistakenly referred to as BGRO in the DEIS). Completion of that study would comply with the statement made in Ch. 3 (page 106) of the DEIS:
". . . further studies will be conducted in consultation with the facilities [LIGO and BGPL] to determine whether operation of the proposed project would disrupt the research facilities . . ."

Upon reading the report, we find that Dr. Schofield's methodology was constructed to investigate exclusively the impact on LIGO operations, and bears only indirectly on possible impacts on our research. Some major differences between the two facilities are:

1. The ambient seismic background at our facility is measurably quieter than at LIGO and is more strongly coupled to the basalt substructure that also extends below the proposed wind farm.
2. Our facility is significantly closer to the location of the proposed farm than LIGO.
3. We are susceptible to broadband and narrowband noise, not just narrowband noise (as is the case with LIGO).

We look forward to being consulted by BPA regarding a second study that focuses upon our unique seismic noise issues. This is critical to our multi-year physics research programs and would fulfill the BPA commitment to study the potential "Moderate to High" (page S-7) impact of the Maiden Wind Farm on the BGRO and LIGO facilities.

Sincerely,

Paul Boynton
Professor of Physics
University of Washington
206-543-8967

Riley Newman
Professor of Physics
University of California Irvine
949-824-7209

WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF
Natural Resources

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PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT
LOG#: MWDEIS-035
RECEIPT DATE: SEP 03 2002

July 10, 2002

Sarah T. Branum
Environmental Specialist – KEC-4
Bonneville Power Administration
P.O. Box 3621
Portland, OR 97208-3621

Terry A. Marden, Director
Benton County Planning/Building Department
P. O. Box 910
Prosser, WA 99350

RE: Washington Winds/Maiden Wind Farm Proposal
Draft NEPA/SEPA Environmental Impact Statement DOE//EIS;
DNS and Request for Comments on Scope of EIS. File No. EA 01-28;
Conditional Use Permit 01-11/9A 01-28

Dear Ms. Branum and Mr. Marden:

Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) supports the Maiden Wind Farm Proposal as a viable power source. DNR is currently working with the applicant to lease portions of state owned lands located in Sections 16 and 36, Township 11, Range 24 East W. M. These two sections could be incorporated into the overall wind farm project and are included in the environmental reviews in process.

DNR's lease agreement will address issues, such as site reclamation, weed control, rights of way, road construction and use, wildfire prevention and planning, among other site specific issues. Since the DNR parcels are a portion of the overall wind project, the departments plan is to have the SEPA process for state lands conducted through the county; with Benton County acting as Lead Agency on this action.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this proposal.

Sincerely,

Milton D Johnston

Milton D. Johnston
Assistant Region Manager
Southeast Region

c: Rick S. Koebbe, Washington Winds

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