



Department of Energy

Bonneville Power Administration
P.O. Box 3621
Portland, Oregon 97208-3621

ENVIRONMENT, FISH AND WILDLIFE

November 5, 2001

Reply to: KEC-4

To: People Interested in the Mint Farm Generation Project Interconnection

Mint Farm Generation LLC (MFG) has requested that the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) provide transmission services to integrate their proposed Mint Farm Generation Project into the Federal Columbia River Transmission System (FCRTS). You are invited to attend an upcoming public meeting to learn more about the proposal and submit comments. If you cannot attend this meeting, other ways to be involved and provide input are described below.

Background

As background, the proposed Mint Farm Generation Project involves construction and operation of a 319-megawatt (MW) natural gas-fired combined cycle combustion turbine within the Mint Farm Industrial Park located in Longview, Washington. The City of Longview already has performed an environmental review of the Mint Farm Generation Project in accordance with the Washington State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA), and has issued a Mitigated Determination of Nonsignificance for the Project's original 248-MW proposal. Subsequently, MFG will submit an addendum or supplemental application addressing modifications associated with development of the project as a 319-MW facility. These changes will undergo SEPA review.

Proposal

Power generated at the Mint Farm Generation Project would be delivered to the transmission grid via a proposed 230-kilovolt transmission line that would connect the generation facility to BPA's Longview Substation. The transmission line would be approximately 0.25-mile long and would be owned and operated by BPA. **This transmission line interconnection would be the extent of BPA's involvement in this project. Therefore, you are invited to comment on what BPA should consider related to its decision to interconnect the proposed project and the proposed 0.25-mile transmission line.**

Because of the demand for electricity, a number of new generating resources are being proposed to meet the regional energy need. BPA is being asked to integrate many of these resources into the FCRTS. Since the majority of these resources are combustion turbines, BPA initiated its Regional Air Quality Modeling Study¹ (Air Study) to address concern over regional air quality. The study area included proposed power plants in Washington, the northern half of Oregon, and the Idaho panhandle. The air

¹ Regional Air Quality Modeling Study, Bonneville Power Administration, July 2001. The Air Study can be found at <http://www.efw.bpa.gov/cgi-bin/PSA/NEPA/SUMMARIES/air2>

quality impacts of more than 45 natural-gas-fired combustion turbines, representing more than 24,000 MW in capacity, were evaluated.

Phase I of the Air Study found that the power plants would not cause a notable deterioration of air quality as characterized by SO₂, NO_x, and PM₁₀, but suggested that the proposed combustion turbines have the potential to degrade visibility. Although visibility is not regulated, it is an area of concern. Phase II of the Air Study looked at the potential contribution of the Mint Farm Generation Project to affect visibility and determined that the Project would not significantly contribute to regional haze within sensitive areas, including the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area.

Public Participation

If you would like to comment on BPA's decision whether to interconnect the proposed Mint Farm Generation Project, please either:

- Call me toll-free at 1-800-282-3713, ask for extension 3294, or call direct at 503-230-3294;
- Send an e-mail to: comment@bpa.gov;
- Send regular mail to: Bonneville Power Administration
Communications - KC-7
P.O. Box 12999
Portland, Oregon 97212
- Send a FAX to 503-230-5699; or
- Attend an open house on:

November 28, 2001
4:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.
Cowlitz County PUD Building
961 12th Ave
Longview, Washington

Residents can stop by the open house any time between 4:00 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. to review project information, talk with the project team, and submit comments. **BPA will be accepting comments through December 6, 2001. Please reference the Mint Farm Generation Project Interconnection in all communications.**

Thank you for your interest in this project.

Sincerely,

Philip W. Smith
Environmental Project Manager