

3. Public Health and Safety Impact

There has been scientific documentation and litigation related to human health hazards where shared environments of high voltage and human habitation are in close proximity. Many people cannot tolerate being in a high voltage atmosphere because their neurophysiology has been damaged to the degree that even short duration exposure can trigger cognitive impairment and other neurological consequences.

It is well documented that people near powerlines are at greater risk for experiencing Alzheimer's. Given this, we have concerns about long-term projections for our property and the health of our community if this 500 kV powerline is located in our area. As far as we know, there is currently no technology that fully insulates and protects power passing through the lines from creating a field effect and therefore there is no way to eliminate health effects on humans, animals and crop productivity.

Question: If individuals with health issues cannot tolerate short duration exposure to high voltage transmission lines, what will be the long-term impact on the health of permanent residents of our area?

Solution:

- a. **Solution #1: Select the No Action Alternative** which was not considered in the DEIS. This will ensure that we will not have to deal with any health effects from a 500kV line.
- a. **Solution #2: If the 500kV transmission has to be built at all, place it on the Central Oregon Utility Corridor.** This will ensure that we will not have to deal with any health effects from a 500kV line.
- b. **Solution #3: If the route has to come through Baker County, then locate it on the proposed Virtue Flat route.** It is away from the valley's viewshed, behind NHOTIC, and a distance from interference with humans, cattle, and machines.

Very few places have two outstanding mountain ranges surrounding a valley unimpeded by invasive industrial zones and it should be protected. The so called wind farm (it should be classified an Industrial Zone) named the Elkhorn Project is an eyesore (on the slopes of the Eagle Cap mountains not the Elkhorn mountains within Union County.) We the people of Baker County were not informed of the decision to allow that to happen. The red lights and height of these monsters cannot be ignored. We do not need more of the same, especially since there is not a need for more power through this corridor.

Respectfully submitted,

Sincerely



Linda Hudson
390 College
Baker City, OR 97814

541.523.4275 H
541-403-0549 C