

KNOLL Ellie * PUC

From: Marie Lyon <marie.lyon@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, August 10, 2022 10:29 AM
To: PUC PUC.FilingCenter * PUC
Subject: AR 626 Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity

Hello:

We are writing this objection to changing the rules and allowing the public utilities to condemn and take land prior to obtaining all the permits required.

We are in eastern Oregon and in the path of the Boardman to Hemingway proposed transmission line. Already we have had to hire an attorney because Idaho Power took us to court to demand that we allow access to our property for surveys (they never revealed all that involved). We have granted them access for habitat, wildlife and other studies. However, they also want to condemn and take our property for a construction and permanent access road through 3 of our parcels, though there are other access points on BLM land to the west of us. It is not at all necessary for them to cross our land to access the proposed line.

If they are allowed to condemn our property, the road they propose will tear up 3 of our agricultural parcels, come right next to our home, (within 20 feet), remove a greenhouse and garden, remove 300 feet of a line of mature trees that provide our cattle their only shade in the summer, run over 500 feet of our main irrigation line and cut into our irrigated fields and pasture. The route would also cause erosion of a side hill, which would increase the possibility of flooding our home in downpours. We already have to deal with some of the runoff when it rains hard. We understand that Oregon values agricultural land, but obviously no one is overseeing this plan.

If in fact, they are allowed to condemn our property prior to final permitting and that is never granted then who would reimburse us for the attorneys fees (which are already sizable and growing) we will have paid? And who will pay us for the reduced value of our entire farm because it has been condemned, seized, and bisected, by Idaho Power.

This would set a terrible precedent and give authority to a public utility with no oversight. We have spoken to our representatives and they just tell us it is in your hands, they have no say in the matter. We are having to rely on an attorney to try to negotiate with them to relocate their road to BLM property.

We don't have the funds, as we are a small landowner, to fight this powerful utility. Please assume some responsibility in protecting the public and not just granting the utilities the power to do as they please. And please consider the impact of allowing valuable agricultural land to be seized by this entity when other routes are available and final permits have not been put in place.

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