

## **Appendix D**

### **Scoping Meeting Notes**

Bear River Ridge Scoping Meeting  
February 3, 2009

**Wharfinger Building, Eureka**

1. Kay Peake: Homeowner outside of Rio Dell; there are about 20 homeowners within a mile or two of Rio Dell, some 50-year owners, some only 20. We've put a lot into our properties, but the PG&E line goes right through our property. The current distribution lines are fairly small, and my deck is 15 feet from the lines. Another neighbor has a distribution line passing between two houses, within 15 feet of each. I don't see how anything larger could be put there. This continues along the road towards town; nearly every house is 15-25 feet from the existing PG&E line. My questions are: Based on the impact that the transmission line would have on this group of people – do you know the geology of the area? We had a geologist from San Jose come up, and moved our house onto an engineered pad because of the soil conditions – alluvial soil; Monument is not a mountain. I don't mind the construction on the ridge, but the impact of the transmission lines on our property is huge, and if they widen the easement, they would have to remove trees on my property. Secondly, our ground is unstable; Monument Road goes up past ranch entrance to a flat area, and the road is in constant movement. Any kind of earth movement, heavy rains, potholes are constantly being patched. If you were to fix the road up the hill, it would require stabilizing the banks on both sides. Another concern is that we have water from the city; their lines are along the road and are very vulnerable. We have outages when lines break due to earth movement. I don't see a problem with bringing equipment up the road if they're careful, but widening the road will be very expensive, and I don't want it on my property taxes. The concern of impact on our lives and properties; we have to put up with travel distance and intermittent water, but we made that choice. This could make a huge impact on our lives and homes, and that concerns us. You could use PL land going from not too far from the microwave down Morse Prairie to the river and Scotia; straight shot with no homes, and then a straight freeway shot to the substation. Rio Dell also wants the lines buried through town. Those are my concerns, and I would be happy to talk to anybody about it at any time. Any changes to the road on the flat area will affect our water service. (The transmission routing down Monument Road is our preferred alternative, but we are exploring 5 other alternative. It's not a guarantee that the line would travel down this ROW. PG&E is currently doing a facility study. Before we close that study, they must address this distribution/transmission line. We are still looking at feasibility; would involve higher poles with extra height. We do not expect that the easement would need to be widened. The things that you mentioned are being taken into consideration during the study. With respect to road improvements, we don't know what specific road improvements are required; we'll have a better idea by the end of this year what widening, setbacks will be needed. We pay for improvements that are required. We will consider water issues.)
2. How long are the items that would be moving? How long would the trucks have to be? (Length depends on the size of the turbine. When we do the transportation study, we're looking at specialty trucks and what improvements are needed. We're looking at Monument and Wildcat; both have challenges, and transportation will be one of the big challenges of this study.)
3. How much power would go through the lines? I am concerned about EMF – our houses are within 25 feet of the lines. (Would be 69 kV lines. We have looked at EMF – I don't have number on my head, but there is a discussion in the project description. Please read it, and if you have questions, please comment on it.)
4. I have had to deal with PG&E a lot. When they have done work on our properties, they have poles that are still kind of leaning. My distribution from the line arced in a high wind. If there was an accident,

would it be that much stronger? (I don't know about amperage. The new poles would be more steady in the ground. PG&E would be responsible for maintenance of the line.)

5. Susan Hagemann: I support wind energy, but as a landowner and homeowner, I see a lot of problems, including those raised by Kay. There are some other problems beyond those they've mentioned. I know that it's the preferred alternative and not set in stone, but I'm concerned about fire hazard –there are no hydrants or water up there. There's a concern that the lines through our property would reduce our property values and the uses of our property. This would have a profound and lasting impact, and the people on Monument Road would bear the brunt of this. (Environmental document will look at public health and safety, traffic, in detail.)
  
6. How much are you going to pay landowners for putting the windmills there, and are you going to pay people whose viewshed is obstructed or affected, and what's in it for the County as far as monetary rewards? (Commercial terms with landowners are confidential. On the second question, I'll answer it with a question. Do you get paid for cell towers and other visual problems? We know that visual impacts are a concern, and County will assess impacts on the viewshed. The County is charging Shell the cost of evaluating the project, including consultant costs for environmental document, standard costs for permit processing. I would imagine that construction activities will increase assessed value of property, and so property tax revenue would increase, and I imagine that Shell would compensate property owners for increased value from lease, but I don't know that. Shell would be responsible for the costs of improvements to County roads. There would be no net cost to the County associated with the improvements required. Road improvements and transmission improvements... existing roads are not reliable, and would be improved following project. Project would bring jobs; our preference is to hire local construction firms and suppliers. There's the benefit of green power with no emissions, and any projects that we do, we get involved with schools and local communities for sponsorships; in many cases we sponsor academic programs to train the technicians that will work on the project.) You're going to generate a lot of electricity, what's in it for me? Would I get cheaper electricity? (Shell is not a seller of power to consumers. We sell power to PG&E.)
  
7. Jack McBride: I have questions about longevity and aesthetics. If you sell this off to another company, will it be maintained? I would like to see these maintained in a pristine manner, lease could last for 50 years. (Blades are fiberglass, steel towers with rust resistance. When turbines are ordered, they are tailored to climate. These turbines have been placed in colder environments with stronger storms than in Bear River. We will make sure that the turbines that we use have the life to last on the ridge for 20 to 25 years. After that, things could change, including cheaper or more efficient turbines. Right now our expectation is that what we've planned will last for 25 years. We do have some experience with this – we can show that turbines have been kept in good condition during that time.) These things are known to catch fire -lots of video on YouTube. What is your plan for addressing that, including impacts on timber and grazing, including compensation? Future HCP? Will you have insurance to compensate? Will there be a plan in place? What if you transfer to another owner later? (Our main priority is safety, including community, staff. We do maintain our turbines, and fix them as they cause problems. If we disrupt or cause loss (for example, related to pipelines). If we do have incidents, we have a history of working with landowners to compensation. We would look at it on a case by case basis. We have not had this type of problem on our 11 wind farms. We are committed to social performance and making sure that our operations don't negatively impact their environment. If there was a change in ownership, we would make sure that stakeholders were comfortable with changes. USFWS HCP only covers the activities

outlined in the HCP, in this case, installation, operation, and decommissioning of the wind farm. It doesn't regulate or deal with anything else that would occur in relation to the wind farm. The plan that we're looking at that would be analyzed in the document would include 25 turbines. To expand that, the same process would have to be repeated; environmental review, new documents etc. Whether an expansion would be approved is unknown. If somebody else buys the project, HCP has not yet worked out details, but typically contains a clause saying that when the project transfers, HCP and incidental take permit goes with it, but criteria would have to be met, and USFWS would have to transfer permit. USFWS goal is to keep the plan identical, regardless of who the owner is. They will have to maintain the project to the same level specified in the original project document. There is an EIR/EIS section that analyzes agricultural and timber resources, and looks at impacts. If those impacts are found to be significant, mitigation measures would have to be developed. We are trying to take concerns into consideration.)

8. Jim Zoellick: I am interested in hearing concerns about this project. There are certainly potential impacts, and I think it's important that these concerns be raised, and that issues be addressed. Currently we are working with Redwood Coast Energy Authority with a grant from the State to develop a strategic energy plan for Humboldt County for developing renewable resources. There are potential concerns with this project for local landowners for aesthetics, murrelet, etc; as the project goes forward, decision will be made about whether it's a good idea. Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors will ultimately be making the decision. If impacts are not significant, this would be a positive thing for our area. There's another proposed project that would create energy from waves. The no project alternative is continued burning of fossil fuels. I think this is a good thing for our area, would make us more energy sustainable, create academic opportunities. As we develop our strategic plan, we want to get peoples' input, but this is the type of project that makes sense. Whether it's Shell, local community, or others, we shouldn't lose sight of benefits, but take a serious look at impacts.
9. What is the average life of a wind turbine? (Based on manufacturer, will last 20-25 years. At that point, site would be decommissioned, or replaced with new or improved technology. If a new turbine was needed, we'd have to go back through the environmental process again. These concerns that you are raising now are important, and will be considered in Hazards and possible Services section to evaluate response capabilities. Aesthetics concerns are also important; County needs enough information to characterize the impacts. Concerns that are raised here will be folded into a scoping report to determine whether additional information is required to adequately characterize impacts. Regarding the conditional use permit, Planning Commission can impose various conditions on the project. One condition would be proper maintenance, and the permit moves with the project. Buyer would be subject to the same conditions.)
10. Is there an estimated cost for cents per kilowatt on an average windmill site paid by PG&E? (I don't know at this point for this project. According to the California ISO, 2012 power price for renewable energy is 12-12.5 cents per kilowatt.
11. When you talk about decommissioning, what does that entail? Road constructed, overhead power lines... do those have to be restored to previous condition before project? (Decommissioning would include turbine removal, removal of foundation to 2-3 feet below grade, removal of roads, reclaim roads, substation removed, transmission lines back to PG&E tie-in would be removed. PG&E's action on their system is not under our control. They would probably leave wires (taken out of service), because

distribution lines would use the same pole. I don't know if we could force PG&E to remove the wires. Decommissioning plan would become part of Conditional Use Permit. Subsequent owners would be subject to the same decommissioning plan. Staff will analyze plan, and Planning Commission could add to the plan, as well.)

12. Is there a Shell solar division, or is alternative energy generation strictly wind? If not, why? We installed solar panels that generate nearly all of the energy we use, even in foggy Trinidad. Instead of spending all of this money, time, and energy on this type of project, why can't we just put solar panels on everybody's house? (Our focus is on biofuels and wind. Over the past five years, Shell has invested nearly \$2billion on renewable, with a focus on wind and biofuels, including CO<sub>2</sub> capture. I can't really talk about solar, but it does sound good from a personal standpoint. Solar generation would require a similar process, with the exception of panels on individual homes.)
13. How much will this project cost Shell? This is a huge investment. What kind of profit comes out of this? What is the payback period? (We don't know what the specific cost here will be. Typically, construction ranges between \$2million and \$2.5million per MW. So, \$100-150million on this project. Profit is hard to tell; we generate and sell to utility; we don't know what the differential would be at this point. Typically, 7-10 years to recoup costs; depends on a range of factors.)

Written Comment: Alyson Hunter, Assoc. Transportation Planner Caltrans – 441-4542 – Alyson\_hunter@dot.ca.gov, PO Box 3700, Eureka, CA 95502. Caltrans is interested in knowing the length and weight of the +/- 850 large trucks traveling on US101 & SR211 from Eureka to US alternative to Monument, Ferndale. Extra-weight/length transportation permits will be required & encroachment permits for any work in state hwy right of way.

Written Comment: Andrea Cross HSO, Arcata, CA 95521. What is the “acceptable take” for murrelets? Have population viability analysis been conducted to see long-term effects of increased mortality? If the turbines lead to mortality beyond the take-limit will the operation be decommissioned? How fast will the response be? What sort of monitoring will be in place once the field is constructed? How often/intense will surveys be?

Written Comment: Monument Road Resident. A resident of monument road raised concerns regarding the upgrade from distributor to transmission line – especially regarding widths of easements, on changes to the road/removal of trees along Monument Rd. (Verbal comment to Drew Sutton, AECOM.

Written Comment: David & Susan Hagemann, 2020 Monument Rd., Rio Dell, CA 95502. Please see enclosed letter that we wish to be included in the consideration for the draft EIR/EIS. Thank you.

Bear River Ridge Scoping Meeting  
February 2, 2009

**Fortuna River Lodge**

1. Charll Stoneman: Would transmission line along Monument Road follow existing PG&E Easement? Would line be aboveground, and how would it compare to the existing overhead line? On Monument Road itself, would improvements be made to provide access for construction? (Line would be built on existing line, no additional ROW would be required. Existing poles would be upgraded. Intent is to use existing pole and line locations. Size: Existing line is 3 wires, single phase. New line would be three wires above that. Pole height would be increased, slightly larger pole diameter. Poles would be wood or metal. Transportation study identified need for improvements on Monument Road, but detailed modifications are not known yet. Shell will identify problem corners, and County would specify improvements to corners and to the roadway itself.) Is there a deeded easement all the way up the road? (No, a lot of it is by right. To the extent that the improvements would go beyond existing footprint, Shell and County would need to work with property owners for appropriate rights.)
2. Susan Hagemann: When are Shell and the County going to start looking at specifics about roads, and timeframe? How will communication happen? (No specifics yet on improvements; as preliminary designs are developed, it will be Shell's responsibility to work with the County and landowners. But first, we must identify where the improvements are needed.) Could the lines be buried along the entire alignment, rather than put overhead? (PG&E will maintain ownership of line, and it will remain aboveground. Two transportation analyses so far are "fatal flaw." This year, more specific details will be developed regarding specific improvements. We are currently narrowing alternatives. Could be Wildcat or Monument Road for access). Who is the point of contact, or who will be contacting us? (For environmental review, John Miller at County is the contact. As environmental review progresses, the project description will expand to include more road improvement details. Within the next year, more will be known, and County public works will be the lead agency for roadway improvements. The burden of cost for improvements and costs associated with additional ROW will be Shell's.)
3. Kirby Bay: Noise pollution from the blades? (Noise is a topic which must be analyzed in the EIR. Noise from similar wind turbines is not louder than a commercial refrigerator. Construction noise will also be analyzed in the EIR, including number of trucks, receptors, etc.)
4. Loren Miller: Is there currently a need within the County for additional energy? Who is the customer? Will energy be consumed out of the area? (Currently, Humboldt County imports electric power. Once the project would be implemented, the power could be sold elsewhere, but that is separate from the actual electricity. ISO coordinates power distribution. Demand in San Francisco may be served by generation here, but the transmission of power is minimized to the extent possible. If there is still a higher demand locally than generation, power will probably stay here.)
5. Frank Benko: A lot of people live in the area, who have lived here for a long time, and have settled on what they like and do not like. Issues of privacy and security are important. Security issues related to people on ridge – hunting, guns, dogs... would the project restrict their daily lives and routines? Besides environmental issues. How will security be handled? (No specifics right now. Similar scenarios at other wind farms, and we work with land owners to understand how best to provide security and continue

existing operations. Hunting leases are available around turbines at WV sites. Where fence lines are broken, gates and cattle guards are installed.)

6. Peggy Morrison: From an emotional point of view, this is one of the most beautiful places in the world, and it would be forever changed. It would be hard to see so many turbines in such a pristine area.
7. (Unknown): Shell is a huge corporation. How is Shell placed in the hierarchy of energy companies, and how long is this system projected to be profitable and operable without disaster? Finally, this is a unique site, unlike any other project site... seismic, geologic. Unique considerations? (Turbines will be designed to meet seismic and geological conditions. There aren't many energy companies that actually have turbines in the ground... BP, Chevron, and Duke Energy are the others doing wind. In the grand scheme of things, wind is a small portion of their portfolios. We are industry veterans, because it's a small industry. Other companies develop but do not operate wind farms, but we actually operate the turbines. This is a lifecycle project. The typical operational cycle is 30+ years, and design considers the needs of this lifecycle. Generator failure, ice storms, climate factors are considered. It's hard to say what is the life of the project; wind farms do not have that much history, so it is difficult to say it will last 50 to 100 years. Our initial estimate is that they would last for 25 years, and technology may have improved at that point.)
8. Carrie \_\_: I've heard several people express concerns about how the project would look. I share those concerns, but that balances with the need for renewable energy. What kind of plans do you have for community outreach on renewable energy, and the need for energy conservation. (As we develop projects, we try to understand stakeholders and their needs. We do educational outreach, locally, focused on younger children. Work with schools and technical schools in TX and WV to develop technical wind programs so that we can provide jobs for people in the community, although technical training is needed to operate the equipment. We make contributions to school districts as part of agreements as part of our ongoing outreach. We participate in green jobs summits; great interest in renewable energy, and both non-technical and technical opportunities are available. Locally, we have provided sponsorship to the Lost Coast bicycle race, have been approached by College of the Redwoods, and we can work with local groups in collaboration. At this point we would like to progress to a point of greater certainty. When we are doing external stakeholder outreach, we receive these requests, and make strategic decisions about how to positively affect the community. In addition to this type of scoping meeting, we do local studies; interview elected officials, public safety, educators, seeking ideas for analysis and project components.)
9. Loren Miller: There is a lot of land identified on the map, but only a small area affected by the string proposed. Are there plans for future expansions, where we might have 300 windmills rather than 30? (Area considered is about 30,000 acres. We have looked at logistical challenges, and we think our best option is along the Bear River Ridge. Because of the transmission restrictions, we scaled down the project size to 50 MW. There are some project components where we could consider expansion, but not to 300; maybe an additional 50 MW would be possible, but that would be a separate process and a separate approval from County.)
10. (Unknown): What is considered "allowable take" for an endangered species? (USFWS looks at the level of the impact and the size of the species, and evaluates whether the take would affect the health of the species. We'll look at the final project description and total level of impact on which species, and

determine whether it would jeopardize that population. If the population would be jeopardized, no take permit would be issued.)

11. (Unknown): Is this going to restrict public access to Monument Road or Bear River Ridge Road once the turbines are complete? (No. There would be restrictions during construction, but there would be no restrictions on public roads once construction is complete. New private roads would be restricted access, but existing roads would be returned to public access. Shell would file encroachment permits with the County to describe access during construction. Environmental document looks at recreation and aesthetic resources.)
12. Frank Benko: We do not want people accessing private property; in the winter, people go to existing antennae; we don't want more of that; we enjoy our seclusion, and wish to maintain it.
13. David Hagemann: Has Shell considered an alternative for the transmission lines other than along the lower part of Monument Road? One ridge over, there are two landowners rather than 30 or 40 along Monument Road. (We looked at several alternative routes, and we have not settled on one particular route; we have talked to Humboldt Redwood, have considered going directly across from Rio Dell substation. Working with PG&E, they have the existing ROW, and with the overbuild, we were looking at a smaller impact because of existing lines. PG&E line is preferred alternative.)
14. Charll Stoneman: Another minor issue: approach on Monument Road, and landslides along grade up from Rio Dell. When that road goes out, landowners must go over Bear River Ridge for access to Eureka and other areas. You may not be able to block Bear Ridge Road during the wintertime.

Written Comment: Alan Fox, 549 Maya Ln, Fortuna 95540. I am entirely in favor of this wind farm project. I will be able to see the wind turbines on the far away ridge from my residences, but that is no problem. I will encourage the City of Fortuna to purchase electricity from this project and/or otherwise support it. Shell has selected an excellent site, meteorologically and climatologically. This is a good contribution, among many other renewable projects to national security and economy, and reducing reliance on foreign oil. I really want to see this project succeed here. There is significant year round potential for wind exceeding the minimum thresholds. The larger fans that move slowly would be safer for birds.

Written Comment: David Hagemann, 2020 Monument Rd., Rio Dell, CA. Transmission line down Monument Rd – what about an alternative down Humboldt Redwood land – Existing PG& E lines serve residential – Not clearance etc. etc. for this project.

Written Comment: Eric Nelson USFWS. Does Shell Wind have any planning in place to make sure construction vehicles, equipment, etc. are coming into the project area weed (including seeds) free?

Written Comment: James Robinson, Humboldt State University, Arcata, CA 95521. There are many, many pristine and beautiful areas all over the world that are detrimented by non-renewable energy sources. For all of us in this world that still want access to electricity in their home, some residents in pristine areas will need to sacrifice minimally for the good of the many. The human race will have to come to accept this.

Written Comment: Alan Fox, Fox Weather, LLC, 549 Maya Ln., Fortuna, CA 95540. I am entirely in favor of this wind farm project. I will be able to see the wind turbines on the far away ridge, from my residence, but that is no problem. I will encourage the city of Fortuna to purchase electricity from this project and/or otherwise support it. Shell has selected an excellent site, meteorologically and climatologically. This is a good contribution, among many other renewable projects to national security and economy, and reducing reliance on foreign oil. I really

want to see this project succeed here. There is significant \_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_ potential for wind exceeding the minimum thresholds. The large fans that move more slowly would be safe for birds.