



PP&L letter into the record
Clint Mcrae
to:
Vicki.Rutson
01/19/2015 10:54 PM
Hide Details
From: "Clint Mcrae" <ctmcrae@rangeweb.net>
To: <Vicki.Rutson@stb.dot.gov>
History: This message has been replied to and forwarded.

1 Attachment



PPL letter.doc

Vicki,

Attached, please find a letter that I believe needs to be entered into the record for the Tongue River Railroad issue. It is a request by PP&L Montana, a coal fired electrical generation company in my home town of Colstrip, Montana that has proposed to amend the Major facility Siting Act. The power plants burn coal mined exclusively from the Western Energy Rosebud Mine just west of Colstrip. PP&L is proposing to amend their permit to include new mining areas within the Rosebud mine. Of specific interest is within the second paragraph where it states that:

"Using coal from these additional areas of the mine is preferable to using coal from a source other than the Rosebud Mine."(emphasis added)

In other words, Otter Creek coal would not be the preferred coal source for the Colstrip power plants, even though Otter Creek coal could be transported, literally, in the shadows of the 4 coal fired power plants via the proposed and preferred Colstrip Alternative. Any claims made in official Tongue River Railroad documents that Otter Creek coal would or could be used in the Colstrip power plants should be disregarded.

Clint McRae
Forsyth, MT

PPL Montana, LLC
303 North Broadway
Suite 400
Billings, MT 59101
Tel. 406.237.6900
Fax. 406.237.6901



December 18, 2014

Mr. Wallace McRae
3607 Rosebud Creek Road
Forsyth, MT 59327-9411

Dear Mr. McRae:

This is an informational letter to notify you of our intention to amend the Colstrip Units 3&4 Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need to allow Colstrip Units 3&4 to consume coal from Rosebud Mine mining areas A, B, F, and G in addition to the currently permitted area C. The coals in areas A, B, F, and G are all from the same coal seam - the Rosebud - and based upon a comprehensive study, are of the same or better quality in terms of their effect on air or water environmental impacts from the plant. Further information can be found in our two submittals to the Montana Department of Environmental Quality: [December 19, 2014 Deminimis Notification – Future Rosebud Coal Consumption and December 19, 2014 Notice of Major Facility Siting Act Certificate Amendment for Colstrip Units 3 and 4 Consumption of Rosebud Mine Coal].

Consumption of Rosebud Seam coal from areas of the Rosebud Mine other than Areas C, D, and E will provide for the cost effective supply of reliable and needed electricity by Colstrip Units 3 and 4. Using coal from these additional areas of the mine is preferable to using coal from a source other than the Rosebud Mine. The continued consumption of coal from the Rosebud Mine will allow the plant to continue to operate as a low cost source of power, will continue the benefits provided to the local and state tax base, and will continue to provide jobs for the local community, while still protecting the environment to the current high degree. From an economic standpoint, Colstrip contributes an average of \$638 million annually in net output produced in Montana and is ultimately responsible for over 3,700 jobs in the state. See <http://www.colstripecconomicreport.com>.

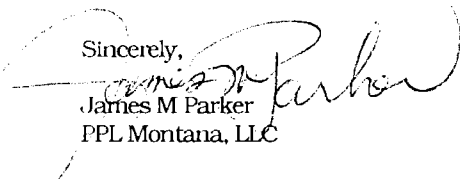
We have submitted application for this amendment to Montana Department of Environmental Quality and they will review the application under provisions of the Montana Major Facility Siting Act regarding amendments. Please feel free to contact the people listed below or me for more details or any questions you might have.

Neil Dennehy
Plant Manager
PPL Montana CSES
PO Box 38
Colstrip, MT 59323
406-748-5066

Gordon Criswell
Director, Environmental and Engineering Compliance
PPL Montana
303 N Broadway, Ste 400
Billings, MT 59101
406-237-6952

Heather McDowell
Associate Counsel
PPL Montana
303 N Broadway, Ste 400
Billings, MT 59101
406-237-6904

Sincerely,



James M Parker
PPL Montana, LLC