

Meenderinck Dairy LLC

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To whom it may concern at the BLM,

This letter is in concern of the B2H power transmission lines, in particular the longhorn alternative route, and what the impacts would be to Meenderinck Dairy LLC financially, mentally, and to address the first in time, first in right philosophy.

Pete and Tressa Meenderinck bought the farm location in Hermiston, Oregon back in the year of 1999, with the goal of constructing a healthy, thriving dairy. With the land's isolated location, abundant feed, and minimal amount of dairy cows in the area, it fit the needs of such construction wholly. Due to the volatility in the price of milk, we have had to invest a hefty amount of our life savings into this project. With the various trials, tribulations, and amount of time it takes to construct a dairy farm, it wasn't until 2012 we were able to get the dairy farm up and running.

With so much of our time and money invested into the dairy farm the concerns of the power lines is obvious. The impacts of having power lines go over top our living, breathing animals would be catastrophic to Meenderinck Dairy LLC. In comparison, would you want such power lines to place strain on your own cultivated land, affecting not only your property but also any living creatures residing there as well?

The environmental impacts on Meenderinck Dairy would have an everlasting effect on both the land and the ground water that resides underneath the property.

With such power lines crossing over Meenderinck Dairy, Meenderinck Dairy would be forced into breaking federal environmental confined animal feeding operation, national pollutant discharge elimination system permit PO161636cati and general permit number 01-2009. This will happen in a twofold way. In order to properly use all of the area waste in our permit, we need all of our land to properly discharge dairy waste and keep nutrients in the top feet of our spill profile. In doing so we avoid breaking federal laws and having the nutrients leak in the critical ground water that resides underneath the dairy. This permit, if broken, has federal charges that can be brought against me personally.

Another concern with the construction of power lines being raised above our dairy farm is that the land would be broken up into cookie cutter type sections, creating a dead zones underneath the power lines where pests, bugs, and diseases can easily start and in turn have ill effects on the crops growing near those dead zones. So as you can see, environmentally, these power lines will not only cause federal laws to be broken, but the moral laws of being a good steward of the land and to people that receive drinking water from below the dairy to be broken as well.

Rights

Meenderinck Dairy LLC was conceived back in 1999 with the purpose of feeding a hungry world with Nature's most perfect protein, milk. Meenderinck Dairy will continue to contribute more financially, socially, and environmentally to the eastern Oregon infrastructure than any power lines ever could. Financially, I've paid 134% more in property taxes than we did when it was a farm, as well as contributing over \$300,000 a month to the local economy. Socially, we have made it one of our top priorities to provide a safe, high-quality work environment for the dozen or so workers we employ at the dairy, making their lives better and environmentally by using the most organic source of water and turning it into fertilizer.

I would like to close with this in mind, Pete and Tressa Meenderinck's dairy was there first and the power lines second. First in time, first in right. The power lines foot print needs to go somewhere else for the benefit of Meenderinck Dairy and for the B2H project.