Letter I191

Anita N. Horner
1235 Riverside Drive
Rio Dell, CA 95562
(707) 498-0467

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Elizabeth Burks
County of Humboldt
Planning and Building Department
3015 "H" Street
Eureka, CA 95501

Dear Ms. Burks:

I am a resident of Rio Dell and have lived here since 1970. I have concerns regarding the Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for the Humboldt Wind Energy Project. I do not object to solar or wind generated power; however, there are several areas of concern with the current project and the lack of detailed pre-planning that need to be addressed before approval for installation. I191-1

1. I only became aware of this recently when I received a post card from Terra Gen about a meeting concerning this project. **The time limit for input is short.** Thankfully it was extended. There is a lot of information to be examined carefully.

2. **Fire Danger from exposed lines and from the equipment itself.** What specifically is planned to provide protection from wildfires? The recent Camp Fire and other catastrophic fires makes this planning more critical than ever. Mitigation Measure 3.13-2a requires the preparation and implementation of a Fire Safety and Management Plan. I feel that this study cannot be deferred and should be available for study and inspection prior to approval of the project. A technical report provided by the Imperial College London, the University of Edinburgh and SP Technical Research Institute of Sweden, states that fire is the second leading cause of accidents in wind turbines. How will this be addressed, specifically? I191-2

3. The sixty 650-foot-tall wind turbines will need to be lit during the day and at night to be seen by **aircraft operating in the area**. When fires are being fought, Rohnerville airport is where the planes take off and land. The air can become congested. Also, when conditions are foggy and the towers are not clearly visible, will that be safe? When navigation systems fail, smaller planes follow the Eel River into Rohnerville airport. These towers seem dangerously close to the river. Has this project been reviewed and approved by aviation authorities? I191-3

4. I have other concerns as well: the impact on our water quality for the City of Rio Dell, grading of the land and roads, impact upon wildlife, the plan to remove the structures when they are decommissioned and no longer function, etc. While wind energy has advantages, this proposed development is not ready for approval. There are too many questions. Too much is at stake. I191-4

Sincerely,

Anita N. Horner