



REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

MEMBERS
Jim Newberg, Chair
Florence 'Marge' Frandsen, Vice-chair
Scott Barnes
Todd Brabbin
Kendall Mattina
Christy Magers
Marvin Moss
Dennis Romeo
William Weber
Rosanna Coombes, Interim Director

MINUTES
REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION (RPC)
REGIONAL UTILITY CORRIDOR REPORT (RUCR) SUBCOMMITTEE
Monday, April 9, 2007, 12:00 p.m.

The Regional Planning Commission RUCR Subcommittee met in the City of Reno Council Chambers, One East First Street, Reno, Nevada and conducted the following business:

The meeting was called to order by Chair Mattina at 12:00 p.m.

1. ROLL CALL

The clerk called the roll and the following Commissioners were present: Kendall Mattina, Dennis Romeo, and William Weber.

Truckee Meadows Regional Planning Agency (TMRPA) staff present: Rosanna Coombes, Interim Director; and Phil Caterino.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

This agenda item was not addressed.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. November 20, 2006

COMMISSIONER WEBER MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE NOVEMBER 20, 2006, RPC RUCR SUBCOMMITTEE MINUTES, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER ROMEO. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY WITH THREE (3) MEMBERS PRESENT.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

5. BUSINESS OF THE DAY

A. Presentation by Enertech Consultants: Topic, "Review of Current Electric and Magnetic Field (EMF) Standards and Issues"

Phil Caterino, Senior Planner, introduced Michael Silva with Enertech Consultants. Mr. Caterino stated that the meeting packet includes the whitepaper prepared by Regional Planning staff.

Mr. Silva gave a presentation on EMF and an overview of EMF issues.

Chair Mattina asked if there is a way to insulate wires to reduce EMF. Mr. Silva responded that the wires are insulated by air and that adding a coating to wires will not reduce the magnetic field.

Chair Mattina asked if the reason for the distance left between wires is to prevent arcing. Mr. Silva responded that is one of the reasons. All of the reasons for the distance between wires have to do with keeping them from touching each other.

Mr. Caterino reviewed the near-term issues that need to be addressed and asked for direction from the subcommittee.

Public Comments

Barron Caronite asked the subcommittee to consider the issues of efficient land use and visual impact that setting aside corridors that are three times the national average would create.

Laura Granier read the current setback requirements in the RUCR and stated that no modifications are necessary. Ms. Granier expressed concern regarding the impacts associated with decreasing the setback requirements. Ms. Granier asked that if the subcommittee recommends decreasing the setback requirement, that they apply only to future projects that have not already received government approvals.

Chris Benna stated that developers would like to see a minimum setback that would be a safe distance. Mr. Benna expressed concern regarding the affect on future development of property that has existing transmission lines.

Mark Sullivan, Sierra Pacific Power Company (SPPC), talked about the issues of visual impact, safety, and health and stated that this issue is urgent because there are projects coming through. Mr. Sullivan asked the Subcommittee to recognize that the setbacks are more than what they need to be.

Lory Kohlmoos stated that the proposal of a 300 foot easement will have a tremendous impact on her property where the current easement is 85 feet and expressed concern regarding how to justify easements that were given when purchasing property together with new rules which do not have a lot of substantiated evidence.

Bill Bennett, SPPC, stated that all of their transmission equipment is designed according to low EMF design. The phrase no net increase in EMF exposure is used in the RUCR and the SPPC proposal several years ago was to change that to low EMF designs that are economically feasible.

Chair Mattina stated that all written comments submitted will be included in the file.

Mr. Caterino stated that he received comments by phone that will be submitted in writing and included in the file.

End of Public Comments

Commissioner Weber asked how the proposed standards compare with adjacent counties. Mr. Caterino responded that he looked at it compared to national standards and not adjacent counties.

Commissioner Weber asked SPPC to comment on adjacent counties. Mr. Bennett responded that most of the counties that he works with do not have a formal plan like the RUCR.

Commissioner Weber asked Mr. Bennett if their proposal is to grandfather in the Tracy Power Line Project because it was approved under the old guidelines. Mr. Bennett responded yes and

stated that they would like to get the separation distances reduced to a more workable level instead of the extreme distances.

Mr. Sullivan clarified that he asked that the proposal would go in place and apply to any project that has not been built yet.

Mr. Caterino stated that Regional Planning staff is looking for direction and asked if the Subcommittee would like staff to present a revised setback document.

Chair Mattina asked if this is going to the RPC next. Ms. Coombes responded that the Subcommittee will provide a recommendation to the RPC and then it will go to the RPGB.

Commissioner Weber stated that this should be heard by regional and that he would make a motion.

Ms. Coombes stated that Regional Planning staff will work with SPPC and can bring back a revised version of the RUCR including the map so the Sub-committee can review and agree on what they are recommending to the RPC. Chair Mattina stated that is a good idea.

COMMISSIONER WEBER MADE A MOTION TO FORWARD THE RECOMMENDED ENGINEERING STANDARDS AND THE SETBACK PROPOSED BY SPPC TO THE RPGB FOR A VOTE, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER ROMEO. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY WITH THREE (3) MEMBERS PRESENT.

B. Review and possible action on pending requests to update the RUCR

Ms. Coombes reviewed a list of recommended items for discussion by the RUCR in future meetings. The subcommittee gave direction to continue on with those items.

6. MEETING SCHEDULE REQUESTS FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Mr. Caterino led discussion on a schedule for future meetings. It was decided to meet next at 5:30 p.m. prior to the RPC meeting on April 25.

7. WRITTEN CORRESPONDENCE

None

8. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 1:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Christine Birmingham.

Reviewed by:

Approved by:

Rosanna Coombes, Interim Director
Truckee Meadows Regional Planning Agency

Kendall Mattina, Chair
RPC RUCR Subcommittee

RPC RUCR SUBCOMMITTEE

APRIL 9, 2007

Page 4

APPROVED BY THE RPC RUCR SUBCOMMITTEE IN SESSION ON _____, 2007.