

Move MSTI



WHO IS MOVE MSTI

- Our organization has been informing the public about the 500kV line being routed through southwest Montana. The route proposed by NorthWestern Energy is to be built on hundreds of acres of **private property**.
- *Our goal is to move MSTI and future transmission lines from private land to public land.*



Move MSTI

- To date: there have been 10 public meetings organized by the Move MSTI group; with over 1,000 citizens attending.
- The Move MSTI Group has collected over 1,500 signatures on a petition that protests the routes that have been sited on private property.
- Concerns and comments that have been repeatedly voiced are as follows:

Citizen Concerns

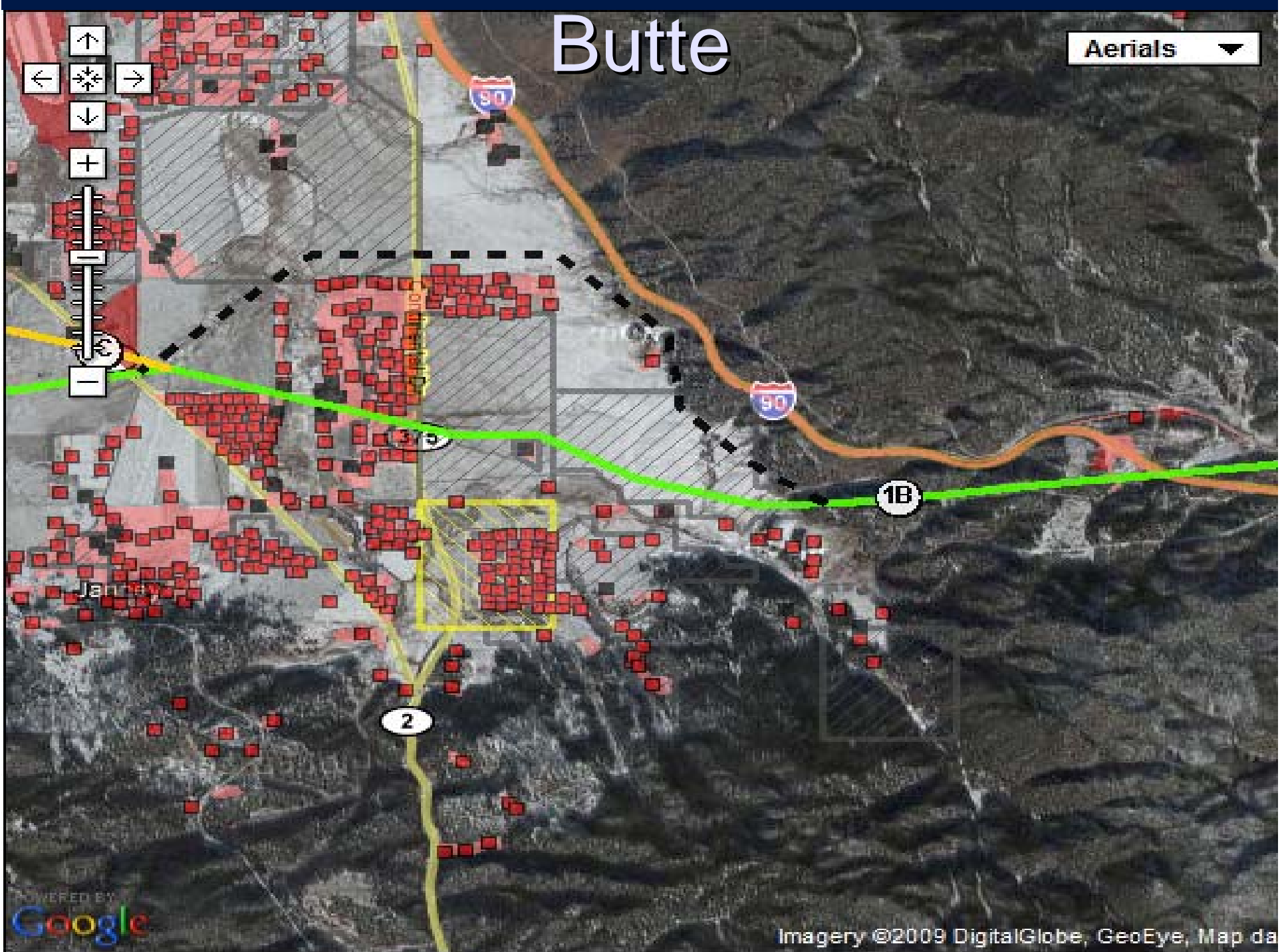
- Not being notified.
- Concerns about the health effects from the Electromagnetic Fields (EMF) that will be produced from the 500kV transmission line.
- Loss of property use where the towers are located (physical structures and Right-of-Ways).
- Devaluation of Property Values.
- Visual impacts.
- All electrical power will be shipped out of state to Nevada and California.
- Noxious Weeds.

Citizen Concerns (cont.)

- Fire Prevention and Fire Fighting Hazards
- Emergency Communications Systems interference
- Why is NWE Industry MORE important than Local Industry (i.e. ranching)?
- Why does NWE rights outweigh Citizens Rights?
- The siting submitted in NWE application does not include three distinctly different alternative routes
- Alternative routes are sited on miles of private property: residential, subdivisions, grazing land, hay ground

Butte

Aerials ▼



Obstacles Encountered

- Public concerns and opinions disregarded.
 - at the first open house meetings officials refused to answer citizens questions.
 - handed Eminent Domain booklets at the beginning of open house.



DEQ Guiding Principles

- **WORKING WITH THE PUBLIC**

- We respect the public and recognize the value it places on the environment and its interest in the work of DEQ. Therefore, we encourage public input to our analyses, decision making and all other aspects of DEQ's work. We will provide the public with our analyses and the implications of DEQ's decisions and any other information the citizens want within legal constraints. We will encourage and consider public input in our decision making processes and make open decisions that are clear, understandable, and accessible to the public.

Obstacles Encountered

- Not being respectfully and properly notified.
 - Landowners should have received personal letters of notification the same as did the federal and state agencies, legislative representatives, and environmental groups



Transmission Alignment



Montana Law

- **75-20-211. Application -- filing and contents -- proof of service and notice.**
- (4) An application must also be accompanied by proof that public notice of the application was given to persons residing in the county in which any portion of the proposed facility is proposed or is alternatively proposed to be located, by publication of a summary of the application in those newspapers that will substantially inform those persons of the application.

Obstacles Encountered (cont.)

- The power companies, federal agencies, DEQ and environmental groups devise plans of what they are going to do to private property without the input of landowners.
 - Landowners are the last to know
 - Citizens only have one month to comment after the application is considered complete by DEQ whereas other entities have over three years to comment.

Obstacles Encountered (cont.)

- Landowners are alone in their plight to save their property (DEQ works closely with the power company but not the landowner).
- Public cannot be included in any negotiations of route changes with DEQ and the agencies.
- You don't know who to turn to for help.



Obstacles Encountered (cont.)

- Transmission lines that are for the public good should be sited onto public land.
 - Public land is more appropriate because the beneficiaries of the power at least have some ownership stake in the impacted public land.
- **Public Projects should be on Public Lands**



Montana Law

MCA 75-20-301

- ... *“that the use of public lands for location of the facility was evaluated and public lands were selected whenever their use is as economically practicable as the use of private lands.”*
 - This law puts a legal constraint upon the DEQ that they choose private property over public land if the construction of the route is more costly to the power company.
 - This conflicts with other Montana laws that protect Montana citizens and their private land holdings.

Montana Law

MCA 75-1-103

The legislature recognizes that each person is entitled to a healthful environment, that each person is entitled to use and enjoy that person's private property free of undue government regulation, that each person has the right to pursue life's basic necessities, and that each person has a responsibility to contribute to the preservation and enhancement of the environment. The implementation of these rights requires the balancing of the competing interests associated with the rights by the legislature in order to protect the public health, safety, and welfare.

Obstacles Encountered (cont.)

- When siting on private lands for these export transmission lines is a necessity, eminent domain should not be used
 - The government should stand up and protect it's citizens and private property rights.
 - Legislation is already in place to provide these protections. It simply needs to be enforced.



Montana Law

MCA 70-30-110

- *“Survey and location of property to be taken – greatest public good – LEAST PRIVATE INJURY”*



Montana Law

MCA 90-4-1001

- *“to promote energy efficiency, conservation, production, and consumption of a reliable and efficient mix of energy sources that represent the least social, environmental, and economic cost and the greatest long-term benefits to MONTANA CITIZENS”.*





EMFs

- 1989 – Dept of Energy – “It has now become generally accepted that there are, indeed, biological effects due to field exposure.”



EMFs

- 2001 – a Working Group of the NIEHS with the support of the EMF Research and Public Information Dissemination Program classified EMF as a Group 2B, “possible carcinogen”. The full International Agency for Research on Cancer validated that classification that same year. Most governments restrict human access to substances similarly classified.

EMFs

- The World Health Organization in an Oct, 2001 Fact Sheet recommends that power line “siting decisions should also consider ways to reduce peoples’ exposure in addition to considering aesthetics and people’s sensibilities.”



EMFs

- 2005 – Draper – pooled data from 1962-1995 – 29,081 matched case-control pairs (9700 for leukemia) – 70% increase in childhood leukemia for those living within 200 m (656 ft) of an overhead transmission line and a 23% increase for those living between 200 m and 600m (1969 ft).
- St Jude’s Children’s Hospital – one of the first questions asked of new cancer patients – “Do you live near a power line?”

EMFs

- EPA warns “There is reason for concern”
- Martin Halper, EPA’s Director of Analysis and Support says “I have never seen a set of epidemiological studies that remotely approached the weight of evidence that we’re seeing with EMFs. Clearly there is something there.”



EMFs

- NWE and PBS&J hired Mike Silva, an expert in EMF exposure assessment on epidemiology studies. In e-mail communication he said that there is a small but real positive association between EMF exposure and childhood leukemia in the pooled analysis studies, and that he would not try to convince me otherwise.



EMFs

- Robert Becker, MD, author of *Cross Currents*, who has studied the subject since the 1960s, warns, “EMFs could turn out to be a far worse environmental disaster, affecting far more people, than toxic waste, radiation or asbestos.”



EMFs

- Decision Points Litigation Library
- Many litigators have been quoted as predicting that lawsuits over the issue of EMFs will make EMF the “next asbestos” in the civil court system.





Aristide Economopoulos/The Star-Ledger

Fredon School students running around outside during gym class today. The school board announced will be closed Oct. 1 due to high electromagnetic levels being emanated from power lines near the playground.

The tall orange pole shows MSTI route



*We don't inherit the land from our fathers
We borrow it from our children*



Conclusion

- While there is the promise of additional tax revenue, it will come as a detriment to the people living along this proposed transmission line.
- People living and working where this line passes will **ultimately pay for this** through adverse health effects, decreased property value, loss of property use and enjoyment, impacts on ranching operations, spread of noxious weeds.

**IF IT'S FOR
PUBLIC 'GOOD'**

**PUT IT ON
PUBLIC LAND!!!**

