



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest  
Service

Hoosier National Forest  
Tell City Ranger District

248 15<sup>th</sup> Street  
Tell City, IN 47586  
Phone: 812-547-7051  
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File Code: 1950

Date: March 19, 2004

Greetings:

You are invited to comment on a proposal to grant Southern Indiana Rural Electric Cooperative (REC) an aerial power line right-of-way (ROW) permit. The REC has proposed to upgrade an existing single-phase line to a three-phase line. The existing single-phase line runs cross country between Uniontown and St. Croix. The single-phase line would be removed and replaced with a roadside three-phase line. The new three-phase line would be constructed along State Road 62 and would connect the existing three-phase line at Saint Croix with the Uniontown line to complete the three-phase grid.

This proposal is consistent with direction in the Hoosier National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan to combine utilities in corridors to reduce total forest impacts (Forest Plan, P 2-23). It is not practical to bury this line, as the majority of the line is on private land.

Comments must be received by April 20, 2004. If you do not comment on the proposed project, you will not be sent the decision document. The decision document will still be available on our website: [www.fs.fed.us/r9/hoosier](http://www.fs.fed.us/r9/hoosier).

The Forest proposes to grant an aerial power line ROW permit authorized by the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 for segments of Federal land administered by the USDA Forest Service. There is an existing permit for the single-phase line, so the existing permit would be amended to upgrade to a three-phase line along SR 62. The location is Sections 28 and 29 of T3S, R2W in Perry County, Indiana.

Currently, a cross-country, single-phase line connects the three-phase lines at Saint Croix and Uniontown. The distance is about 4.5 miles. The portion across Federal land administered by the Hoosier National Forest is about 1 mile. The cross-country line with roadside replacement will remove about one-half mile of line from Federal land and about 1 mile from private land. By locating the three-phase line along the road corridor, maintenance and service will be easier and safer. About 3 acres of Federal land will be affected in the 40-foot ROW. About 20 feet of this ROW are represented by the existing road opening, and the other 20 feet will require tree removal on the south side of SR 62 for about three-fourths of a mile or 1.3 acres. Trees would be removed between the road edge and an existing waterline ROW clearing. Between 500 and 550 trees would be removed – mostly less than 11 inches in diameter but some in the sawtimber size class. The proposal would result in a 40-foot clearing, including the road. This increased clearing width will also improve the melting of snow and ice on the highway, as the road is fully shaded along this east-west road.

You may contact Tom Krueger (812-547-7051) for more information.

Please mail your comments to: District Ranger Jim Denoncour, Hoosier National Forest, Tell City Ranger District, Attn: Southern Indiana REC Power Line Proposal; 248 15<sup>th</sup> Street, Tell City, IN 47586. Please include the following information when commenting.



1. Title of the document (Southern Indiana REC Power Line Proposal) on which the comment is being submitted (in the subject line for electronic comments).
2. Your name, address, telephone number, organization represented, and title.
3. Specific concerns, facts, and supporting reasons regarding your comments.

Thank you for your interest in the Hoosier National Forest.

Sincerely,

/s/ James E. Denoncour  
JAMES E. DENONCOUR  
Acting Forest Supervisor