

BEFORE THE HEARINGS OFFICER  
KLAMATH COUNTY, OREGONIN THE MATTER OF CUP 49-90 FOR  
PACIFIC POWER TO LOCATE A RESIDENCE NOT ORDER  
IN CONJUNCTION WITH FOREST USE1. NATURE OF THE REQUEST:

The applicant wishes to establish a single family residence not in conjunction with forest use on 219.80 acres m/l west of the Topsy Grade at the J.C. Boyle Damsite on the Klamath River.

The request was heard by the Hearings Officer September 7, 1990 pursuant to Ordinances 44 and 45. The request was reviewed for conformance with Land Development Code Section 51.020 D 4.

2. NAMES OF THOSE WHO PARTICIPATED:

The Hearings Officer in review of this application was Neil D. Smith. The applicant appeared, represented by Mr. Hightower, and offered testimony in support of the application. The Planning Department was represented by Kim Lundahl, Senior Planner. The recording secretary was Karen Burg. No opposition was offered to this application.

3. LEGAL DESCRIPTION:

The subject property is a 219 acre rectangle located in Section 6, T 40S R7E. Generally located south of the Greensprings Dr. and east of the Klamath River. T.A. 4007-6-300.

4. RELEVANT FACTS:

A. ACCESS: The property is 1/4 mlie west of Topsy Grade, a public road. Alternaqtive access exists from the west through Pacific Power built/maintained roads.

B. FIRE PROTECTION: The property is within the Keno Rural Fire District and is approximately seven miles from the nearest responding station. That distance represents a response time of 20-30 minutes. The applicant has also agreed to fuel breaks (required by L.D.C. sec 51.020 G) around the residence to reduce the potential of a structural fire spreading to the lands to the north, south, east and west.

C. LAND USE: The property is a parcel of approximately 219 acres. The site for the proposed residence is adjacent to an existing shop/office/residence compound developed in conjunction with the J.C. Boyle hydroelectric project on the Klamath River 1/8 mile to the north of the compound. The site was logged long ago and has very little or no healthy second volunteer growth. The adjacent lands to the north, south, east and west are found devoted to forestry and public utility uses.

D. SEWERAGE: The applicant has selected a septic installation location in the southeast of the proposed residence. Site specific site evaluation has been accomplished and a clearance letter dated 7-20-90 issued.

E. SLOPE: Available topographic mapping and site inspection indicates slopes of 0-10% predominate the site.

F. SOILS: Available mapping of the site indicates a land capability classification of VI and a timber site rating of VI.

G. WATER: well

H. PLAN/ZONING: The plan/zone designation of the project site and properties to the north, south, east and west is Forestry/Forestry.

5. RELEVANT CRITERIA:

The standards and criteria relevant to this application are found in the

Klamath County Comprehensive Plan (Goal 4) and the Klamath County Land Development Code, specifically Section 44.003, Section 51.020 and Article 69.

6. FINDINGS:

All evidence submitted as the staff report, exhibits b-e, and offered testimony were considered in this Order.

6.1 Goal Findings: With regard to the Statewide Planning Goals and the Klamath County Comprehensive Plan, the Hearings Officer makes the following findings:

A. The goal of the Forest Lands Element is to conserve forest lands for the production of wood fiber and other forest uses, protect forest lands from incompatible uses, and to ensure a continued yield of forest products and values.

B. Forest Uses are defined by Statewide Planning Goal 4 and the Comprehensive Plan to include:

1. The production of trees and forest products;
2. Watershed protection and wildlife and fisheries habitat;
3. Soil protection from wind and water;
4. Grazing of livestock;
5. Maintenance of clean air and water;
6. Outdoor recreational activities
7. Open space, buffers from noise, and visual separation of conflicting uses.

FINDING: The Hearings Officer finds that dwellings are not included in the list of forest uses. The Land Development Code does, however, permit residences subject to conditional use findings that the dwelling is located

on lands generally unsuitable for timber management and not needed for other permitted forest uses and is otherwise consistent with the County's acknowledged criteria.

C. Policy 4 of the Klamath County Forest Lands Goal states "The County shall regulate development of nonforest uses in forest areas". The "rationale" for such policy is "to protect the health, safety and welfare of County Citizens" and "to reduce fire danger to man-made structures and forest resources".

FINDING: The Hearings Officer finds that active forest management has not occurred on properties directly adjacent to the property. Presently, there is an office/shop/residential development to the west and a hydroelectric facility to the north. This proposed residence would be part of these existing uses, and with the proposed fuelbreaks and the readily available fire protection, there is an insignificant risk of fire.

6.2 Land Development Code Findings: With regard to the Klamath County Land Development Code, the Hearings Officer makes the following findings:

A. Klamath County Land Development Code Section 44.003-Conditional Use Permit Criteria:

A Conditional Use Permit shall be granted only if the reviewing authority shall find that it satisfies the following criteria, as well as other criteria and standards of this Code and other applicable codes and ordinances

44.003 A: "That the use is conditionally permitted in the zone in which it is proposed to be located."

FINDING: Section 51.020 D 4 identifies residential-single family or mobile home as a nonforest conditional use.

44.003 B: "That the location, size, design, and operating characteristics of the proposed use are in conformance with the Klamath County Comprehensive Plan".

Goal 4, Policy #1 states: The following lands shall be designated forestry and subject to the regulations of the Forestry and Forestry/Range zones contained in the Land Development Code:

1. Public or private industry forest lands located contiguously in large blocks, i. e. Forest Service, BLM, Weyerhaeuser, Gilchrist Timber;
2. Significant wildlife and fishery habitat areas;
3. Land having a predominant timber site productivity rating of I-VI;
4. Isolated pockets of land within forest areas which do not meet the above criteria;
5. Lands needed for watershed protection or recreation;
6. Other lands needed to protect farm or forest uses on surrounding designated agricultural or forest lands.

Rationale: To preserve the maximum area of productive forest land.

FINDING: The area immediately surrounding the subject site is not in forestry use and the site presents no resource for wildlife or fisheries habitat nor watershed protection or recreation values.

FINDING: The subject property has a Timber Site Class Rating of VI, thereby meeting the definition of forest land. However, the site chosen for the homesite is clearly not in forest production and the largest tree is only 12 inches in diameter.

FINDING: The existing public utility use of the site precludes its use for legitimate forestry use and presently has no significant second growth.

FINDING: The site proposed is to be used in conjunction with and part of the use which the entire 218 acre site is now and has been for many years-predating the Land Development Code.

Goal 4, Policy #4 states: "The County shall regulate development of nonforest uses in forested areas".

Rationale: To protect the health, safety, and welfare of county citizens. And to reduce the fire danger to man-made structures and forest resources.

FINDING: The proposed residence is within an established fire protection district and the response time is 20-30 minutes. Access to the property to fight fire is excellent, being near a public road. Further, the applicant has agreed to required fuelbreaks around the house to prevent the spread of fire.

44.003 C: "That the location, size, design and operating characteristics of the proposed development will be compatible with and will not have significant adverse effects on the appropriate development and use of abutting properties and the surrounding neighborhood. Consideration shall be given to harmony in scale, bulk, coverage, and density; to the availability of civic facilities and utilities; to harmful effects, if any, upon desirable neighborhood characteristics and livability; to the generation of traffic and the capacity of surrounding streets; and to any other relevant impact of the development".

FINDING: Access to the proposal is provided via an unnamed user maintained easement road extending west from the Topsy Grade. Pacific Power has also constructed and does maintain a road system which provides alternative improved access to the west.

FINDING: The proposal is seven miles from the nearest fire station, and will be accessible during the winter months. The residence will not significantly increase the risk of wildfire impacts to nearby forest land or increase the danger to firefighters.

FINDING: The property is located within the Klamath County School District and will have no impact on the school system. The existence of a new residential use within the district will slightly increase the tax base.

B. Klamath County Land Development Code Section 51.020 E - Non Forest Conditional Use Permit Criteria:

The uses conditionally permitted shall be subject to review in accordance with the following criteria:

1. The proposal is compatible with forest uses;

FINDING: Public utility use predominate in all compass directions.

2. The proposal does not interfere seriously with the accepted forestry practices on adjacent lands devoted to forestry use, and does not significantly increase the cost of forestry operations on such lands;

FINDING: The lands in this site to the north, south, east and west are found not devoted to forestry uses as set out in state and local goals. The Hearings Officer finds the predominant land use to be for hydroelectric power generation and accessory uses. The closest forestry use lands are to the south some distance from the applicants property. The location of a non-resource home will not conflict with management practices on those lands.

3. The project will not materially alter the stability of the overall land use of the area;

FINDING: The subject parcel was created years ago as a result of parcelization prior to the current Land Development Code and determined to constitute legal parcels. The placement of a residence on the property will not destabilize the existing land use pattern of the area as accessory residential use similar to that proposed has been established in the immediate vicinity.

4. The proposal is located on generally unsuitable land for the production of forest products and livestock, considering the terrain, adverse soil or land conditions, drainage and flooding, vegetation, location and size of the tract, and the present use is not likely to change within the next fifty years.

FINDING: The project is on a parcel already devoted to accessory public utility uses; an office/shop/residence compound. The site is found to be poorly located for forest management activities as it is located adjacent to developed properties. Forest practices may conflict with the residential and public utility uses long established in the area.

5. The proposal considers site productivity, minimizes the loss of productive forest lands; and is limited to the area suitable and appropriate to the needs of the proposed use;

FINDING: Site productivity for noncommercial forest uses may actually be increased due to the presence of an interested landowner. No loss of productive resource lands will result, rather the resident will enhance the noncommercial resource uses of the property through intensive management practices. The Hearings Officer finds the commercial Forestry land base of the County will not be compromised by the permitting of a nonforest home on



this site.

6. The proposal meets the standards set forth relating to the availability of fire protection and other rural services and will not tax those services;

FINDING: Structural fire protection is provided by the Keno Rural Fire District and Pacific Power personnel. In addition, the owner shall adhere to the requirements outlined in Section 51.020 G of the Code, RESIDENTIAL SITTING STANDARDS. Other rural services will be minimally impacted by the addition of another residence.

7. ORDER:

Therefore, it is ordered the request of Pacific Power for approval of C.U.P. 49-90 is approved subject to the following conditions:

1. The applicant must comply with the fire safety and other siting standards of the land use code.
2. The applicant shall file a restrictive covenant with the County Clerk prohibiting the permit grantee and successors in interest from filing complaint concerning accepted resource management practices that may occur on nearby lands devoted to commercial resource use.

DATED this 21st day of September, 1990



Neil D. Smith, Hearings Officer

## NOTICE OF APPEAL RIGHTS

You are hereby notified that this decision may be appealed to the Klamath County Board of Commissioners by filing with the Planning Department a NOTICE OF APPEAL as set out in Section 33.004 of the Code, together with the required fee within TEN DAYS of the date of mailing of this decision. Appeals must be received by the Planning Department no later than 5:00 P.M. on the tenth day or next business day if the tenth day falls on a weekend or holiday. Failure to file a NOTICE OF APPEAL within the time provided will result in the loss of your right to appeal this decision.

STATE OF OREGON: COUNTY OF KLAMATH: ss.

Filed for record at request of \_\_\_\_\_ the 24th day  
of Sept. A.D., 19 90 at 12:31 o'clock P M., and duly recorded in Vol. M90,  
of \_\_\_\_\_ Deeds \_\_\_\_\_ on Page 19172.

FEE none

Evelyn Biehn County Clerk

By

Pauline Muelandore

Return: Commissioners Journal