

# Frequently Asked Questions

## What is the Liberty Utilities Project?

The project is officially called "625 and 650 Electrical Line Upgrade Project" because these two power lines are the two remaining legs (see red and dashed blue lines below) that would be upgraded to raise the existing loop (60kV) to operate at a higher voltage (120kV) – thereby accommodating more power capacity. This loop will run from Truckee, through the North Lake Tahoe area, over to Squaw Valley and back, with devastating environmental impacts for North Tahoe, and shocking economic impacts to existing Liberty customers.



**General Locations added by NTCAA**



Project Location image (left) was modified to improve location visibility. Original image from:

[http://www.libertyutilities.com/west/community/reliability\\_625-650.html](http://www.libertyutilities.com/west/community/reliability_625-650.html)

Liberty Utilities Customer Areas image (right) was modified to remove extraneous information on map (e.g. Nevada) and provide clearer, easier-to-view template. Original image from:

[http://www.libertyutilities.com/west/community/communities\\_we\\_serve.html](http://www.libertyutilities.com/west/community/communities_we_serve.html)

## Who is doing this project?

Liberty Utilities, a small, local power company serving 49,000 California-side customers from Markleeville, Lake Tahoe, and north to Portola (about 80% of the ratepayers are in the Tahoe Basin, and most are in South Lake Tahoe).

Note: Liberty Utilities was previously named “CalPeco” after the California portion of Sierra Pacific Power Company was sold to the Canadian corporation that still owns it. The application and draft environmental documents to date list CalPeco as the applicant.

## Is this project needed to keep my power running?

Absolutely not! The project is not necessary to serve existing Liberty customers; rather, only one small portion needs updating – the line from Truckee to Northstar, and our utility expert cannot understand why that work has not already been completed. It appears this minor technical need is being used to extort approval for the full loop.

## Who benefits?

Notably, a Canadian-based corporation (Algonquin Power and Utilities Corporation [APUC]) purchased LU in 2010. This corporation has historically purchased renewable energy projects, promising high profits to shareholders. Therefore, it appears that while the LU project will be paid for by LU customers for whom a majority won't gain any benefit from the project, APUC's shareholders may reap the benefits – all the way to the bank.

In addition, there are a handful of Martis Valley real estate developers, Northstar (Vail Resorts), and Squaw Valley Resort (KSL) expansions that include significant residential and commercial developments (including more snow-making) which will demand more power.

*What development corporation would not favor a \$50 million project paid for solely by LU ratepayers mostly in the Lake Tahoe Basin designed to accommodate their growth plans outside of the Lake Tahoe Basin?*

## Who pays for it?

The 49,000 ratepayers within LU's service territory would have to pay through an increase in their rates. LU's service area extends from Markleeville to Portola - but 80% of the ratepayers are in the Lake Tahoe Basin and most of those are in South Lake Tahoe. When first conceived by SPP many years ago, costs would have been spread among 1.1 million customers.



Existing ratepayers will bear the burden

To learn more, visit:

<http://www.friendsoflaketahoe.org/>

*North Tahoe Citizen Action Alliance*