March 12, 2020

To Whom It May Concern:

I object to the proposed 115kv transmission line project by Holy Cross Energy and ask the US Forest Service to deny the application. HCE’s proposal is reckless and environmentally irresponsible. The power lines must be installed 100% underground for the following reasons:

1. Risk of wildfire!
2. Electromagnetic fields health risk
3. Negative visual impact to recreation areas
4. Negative impact on wildlife
5. Overall diminished quality of life in Minturn

The HCE proposed back-up transmission line is a county wide issue with all of the risk landing on the Town of Minturn. Where are the wealthy communities that benefit from the line when it comes to footing the bill of burying it completely? When it comes to carrying the construction effects / burden? Minturn’s struggle for economic growth and livelihood is constant. This project only hurts the Town with no benefit to the 1100 residents. Why haven’t other communities been engaged?

Furthermore, Minturn is one of the most exposed communities for wildfire risk and it is beyond comprehension that HCE would even consider anything but burying the transmission line when in 2019 overhead, suspended powerlines, like ones in this proposal, caused the deadliest and most destructive wildfire in California history, burning 150,000 acres and killing 85 people. See link to follow.

<https://www.npr.org/2019/05/15/723753237/pg-e-transmission-lines-caused-californias-deadliest-wildfire-state-officials-sa>

HCE needs to do more homework and figure out how to pay for burying the lines 100%. Nothing else is safe.

Respectfully,

Sidney Harrington