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Dear Sirs:

I oppose the U.S. Forest Service's recent proposed approval of the Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) Electrical Power Capacity Upgrade Project (EPCU) in which 115-kilovolt electric transmission line would be built in the Caja del Rio traditional landscape, sacred to Pueblos.

The line would follow two existing lines above the Rio Grande and connect to DOE substations on the Pajarito Plateau. DOE claims the energy is needed to run its new Venado AI supercomputer. For the last three decades, LANL energy use has remained steady at 90 MW.

DOE did not include the viable and less harmful alternative of Foxtail Flats:

On February 21, 2024, the day AFTER the EPCU comment period ended, Los Alamos County Board of Public Utilities (BPU) considered a proposal for a 170 megawatt solar project, the Foxtail Flats Solar + Battery Energy Storage System (BESS). The BPU and Los Alamos County Council approved the Foxtail Flats proposal.

DOE was required to include Foxtail Flats as an alternative to the proposed EPCU Project Caja Line, under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). They did not. DOE has again violated NEPA.

The case is disturbing for reflecting on relationships between DOE and others, and internally:

- I. at the local level because of the disruption of a traditional cultural landscape and
- II. at the national level, because 1) it shows a harsh dismissiveness of local communities and 2) it shows a level of negligence of rules that govern its own decisions, whether from DOE's assumption that it doesn't need to respect the NEPA Act or from a simple pattern of disregarding basic agreements implied by NEPA.

I've used published details about this case in my letter. I have no immediate interest other than as a resident of the area and in my service to the Board of Concerned Citizens for Nuclear Safety for many of the past fifteen years.

Sincerely,
Basia Miller, Ph.D. University of Chicago
and Santa Fe resident since 1988