
From: John Neville [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, January 28, 2025 2:19 PM
To: FS-objections-southwestern-regional-office
Subject: [External Email]APS Oak Creek to McGuireville 69kV Transmission Line Project and 2018 Coconino National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan Amendment

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This email contains both an objection and a recommendation.

The primary objection is to the continued reliance on centralized power sources. We've given the utilities decades to install a more distributed energy grid with both more localized commercial and residential solar installations. Over the years, APS has continued to cling to the old fossil fuel-based, centralized power system, despite all the evidence that the system is outmoded and contributing to the climate crisis we are now experiencing. To continue that costly, mistaken business approach, APS has again invested in the installation of their choices for the Arizona Corporation Commission. The newly elected commissioners have shown that they will rubber-stamp APS requests for rate increases and penalties for customers who have invested in solar systems for their homes and businesses. It's a level of corruption in our State government that should not be permitted to exist – but it does.

What would be better than expanding the existing, old-fashioned system would be the development of residential and commercial solar installations in the Verde Valley, in partnership with business and home owners. Instead of penalizing customers who invest in solar systems, APS should be incentivizing them. With proper solar and storage systems in place, the need to extend power lines from central power plants would be eliminated, because the power would already be where it was needed.

As long as an honest and truly representative ACC is not likely, it is our recommendation that Alternative 2, underground installation, be followed. As we have seen many times in California, downed power lines can result in catastrophic fires. Given the tinder dry nature of the area the lines will traverse, it makes no sense to install overhead power lines. Another recommendation is to follow the most direct route to minimize disruption of the forest area.

Jawn McKinley & John Neville
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