
From: Scott Brewster [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, February 21, 2025 2:13 PM
To: FS-objections-southwestern-regional-office
Subject: Objection Letter to McGuireville 69kV transmission Line

February 21, 2025

**RESPONSIBLE OFFICIAL AND REVIEWING OFFICER, REGIONAL FORESTER
MICHIKO MARTIN**

333 BROADWAY BLVD SE
ALBUQUERQUE, NM 87102

SENT VIA EMAIL: [OBJECTIONS-SOUTHWESTERN-
REGIONAL-OFFICE@USDA.GOV](mailto:OBJECTIONS-SOUTHWESTERN-REGIONAL-OFFICE@USDA.GOV)

**RE: APS OAK CREEK TO MCGUIREVILLE 69KV
TRANSMISSION LINE PROJECT ON COCONINO
NATIONAL FOREST**

Dear Regional Forester Martin,

This is my objection to the project mentioned above, which is located in the Coconino National Forest. I am submitting it based on new information unavailable during the previous comment period, which ended on January 14, 2022.

Crucial information was not disclosed to the public during the previous comment period. The Draft Decision Notice asserts that the wildfire risk posed by the above-ground line near the Village of Oak Creek (VOC) would be based on the Arizona Public Service Corp.'s "Comprehensive Fire Mitigation Plan." *However, that plan was not made available to the public until after the comment period had closed, preventing the public from assessing the adequacy or appropriateness of the mitigation measures intended to reduce wildfire risk.* Recent events in Los Angeles County have made these mitigation measures even more critical. Various meta-studies indicate that older residents like our VOC Community die proportionately at much higher rates in catastrophic wildfire events. The road system of the VOC allows one way to ingress and one way to egress in a wildfire

event, a recipe for disastrous loss of life. Our Homeowners Association, *Firecliffe*, recently spent almost \$100,000 to achieve a Firewise Certification. We are all taking fire risk much more seriously, and I believe this project must be reevaluated based on CURRENT fire risk.

Further, this project does not reflect the “Stewardship Agreement between the State of Arizona and the USDA Forest Service, Southwestern Region,” signed just a few months ago on October 10, 2024. New agreements require a review of proposed planned projects as the Agreement expressly states:

Manage risk across broad landscapes for improved fire suppression prevention capabilities by helping communities [like the VOC] in the wildland-urban interface MITIGATE [emphasis added] wildfire impact through the three goals of the National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy...that require prioritization of disadvantaged and vulnerable communities will be considered when managing these risks.

Since my community's FOIA request remains unanswered regarding the decision-making elements of fire suppression in this project, a review of the aboveground aspects and the project route needs to be reconsidered.

Lastly, on a personal note, I feel a deep sense of stewardship for this wild space called Sedona. This remarkable place should be designated as a National Park. It is unique like no other place: a National Park-like area with seventeen thousand residents (an average age of 63 years!) welcoming millions of visitors yearly.

Thanks for your time and effort.

SINCERELY,

SIGNED
SCOTT C. BREWSTER, PH. D
CAPT (RET) SOUTHWEST AIRLINES

Scott Brewster

