

February 20, 2025

FROM: Steven Galginaitis, [REDACTED]
TO: Responsible Official and Reviewing Officer, Regional Forester Michiko Martin
333 Broadway Blvd SE
Albuquerque, MN 87102

SENT VIA EMAIL: objections-southwestern-regional-office@usda.gov

RE: APS Oak Creek to McGuireville 69kV Transmission Line Project on the Coconino National Forest

Dear Regional Forester Martin:

As a concerned resident of the Village of Oak Creek, I respectfully submit this issue regarding the above-mentioned project based on new information not available during the previous comment period, which ended January 14, 2022.

The issue of concern is that crucial information was not disclosed to the public during the prior comment period. Specifically, the Draft Decision Notice states that wildfire risk created by the above ground line near the Village of Oak Creek would be mitigated based on an APS "Comprehensive Fire Mitigation Plan." That plan was not available to the public until March 2022, after the comment period closed. Therefore, the public did not have a chance to assess whether the plan provides adequate mitigation measures to reduce wildfire risk.

I am strongly in favor of an underground power line rather than the proposed above ground line. My belief is based on multiple factors: (1) underground lines substantially reduced the risk of wildfire; (2) the view shed as one travels up SR 179 will be greatly impaired by an above ground line; (3) home insurance coverage, already expensive due to existing wildfire risk, may substantially increase; and (4) home values are likely to be adversely impacted.

I strongly encourage the National Forest Service to seriously consider the concerns of Village of Oak Creek residents and reconsider its approval of the existing project plan. Underground lines will make everyone feel safer from the disastrous and tragic impact of wildfire.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Steven Galginaitis

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Thursday, February 20, 2025 12:54:40 PM (UTC-07:00) Mountain Time (US & Canada)

To: FS-r3 webmaster

Subject: WWW Mail: APS Oak Creek to McGuireville 69kV Trans. Line

Regional Forester: I am gravely concerned about the portion of the APS project that installs an above ground power line into the Village of Oak Creek. This creates a significant wildfire risk which can be mitigated by switching to an underground line. Please reconsider your approval of the above ground line, which will also impair the view shed, increase home insurance, and decrease property values. Many Village residents are equally concerned.