

February 22, 2025

[REDACTED]

TO: Reviewing Officer, Regional Forester Michiko Martin
333 Broadway Blvd SE
Albuquerque, NM 87102

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

Dear Regional Forester Martin:

This is my objection to the above-referenced project on the Coconino National Forest. I am submitting issues based on new information not available during the previous comment period, which ended on January 14, 2022.

Specifically, I am concerned with:

- **The lack of an alternative to your Final Environmental Assessment.**
Neither Alternative 1 nor Alternative 2 call for the burial of an above ground power line from SR 179 to the Village of Oak Creek substation (Segment A). The lack of such an alternative violates the National Environmental Policy Act. An underground power line routed along Segment A is completely feasible and would eliminate wildfire risk and protect the scenic integrity of my Las Piedras residence. (Both Alternative 1 and Alternative 2 encroach upon the Las Piedras neighborhood.)
- **The Forest Service failed to consider information critical to making an informed decision regarding this transmission line project.**
Namely, the Forest Service rated the Village of Oak Creek as an area that is at a “very high risk” for a wildfire but proceeded with plans that did not include the complete burial of a power line in this “very high risk” community. My insurance company recognizes this risk and has raised my premiums 40% in the last year, despite the absence of a claim. If the proposed above ground power line is erected, the financial consequences of increased or cancelled premiums could make living in the community that I love and call home, impossible.
- **Crucial information was not disclosed to the public during the prior comment period.**
Precisely, the Draft Decision Notice claims 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 released to the public until after the comment period closed, preventing the concerned citizens of the Village of Oak Creek the opportunity to assess its adequacy and viability.
- **DOGE cuts in Forest Service funding imperil the safety of the greater Sedona community.**
Many of the Forest Service employees who lost their positions had “red cards”. This distinction certifies that the said individual has received basic training in fighting wildfires even though their job title does not specify “firefighter”. Increasing fire risk by erecting high tension, above ground power lines in a community that is already at high risk for fire while cutting Forest Service manpower is reckless and unconscionable.

I strongly urge you to do the “right thing” and abandon the Oak Creek to McGuireville 69kV Transmission Line Project unless ALL power lines are buried. Do not put our community and our lives at risk.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Brenda L. Page