
From: Gail/Gloria [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, March 1, 2025 3:27 PM
To: FS-objections-southwestern-regional-office
Subject: APS Transmission Line Project on the Coconino National Forest

Regional Forester Michiko Martin
333 Broadway Blvd SE
Albuquerque, NM 87102

Dear Regional Forester Martin,

I am submitting issues based on new information not available during the previous comment period which ended January 24, 2022.

- The Final Environmental Assessment lacks an adequate range of alternatives, which violates the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). For example, an underground power line routed alongside Highway 179 between Beaverhead Flat Road and the VOC is feasible and would eliminate wildfire risk and protect scenery. But the Forest Service excluded this route from consideration and did not develop it as an alternative.
- Crucial information was not disclosed to the public during the comment period. For example, the Draft Decision Notice claims that wildfire risk created by the above ground line near the VOC would be mitigated based on an APS “Comprehensive Fire Mitigation Plan.” That plan was not available to the public until March 2022, which was after the comment period closed. So the public didn’t have a chance to assess whether the APS plan—written by the company that would build the powerline—provides adequate or appropriate mitigation measures to reduce wildfire risk.
- The Forest Service failed to consider information critical to making an informed decision, such as its own rating that the VOC and Sedona are at “very high risk” of wildfire. Also that the demographics of the VOC include a higher than normal population of older residents which are less likely to escape a wildfire. And considering that Hwy 179 is the only escape route from the VOC, it seems ludicrous to build an above ground power line and potential fire hazard along that route.

Sincerely,

Gail Woody

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