
From: antoinette beiser [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, March 2, 2025 5:56 PM
To: FS-objections-southwestern-regional-office
Subject: APS Oak Creek to McGuireville 69kV Transmission Line Project on the Coconino National Forest

March 2, 2025

Dear Regional Forester Martin,

I am submitting an objection based on new information not available during the previous comment period, which ended January 14, 2022.

We are concerned with approval of this project because the Legislature of the Arizona House recently passed House Bill 2201 shielding APS from any liability for fire damage to homes if they have a wildfire mitigation plan in place. The plan would be self-approved, self-implemented and self verified. That is ridiculous. I lived on a property which abutted the Coconino National Forest for over 26 years. I have no confidence that APS could keep up with the amount of debris, extremely dry vegetation, trees and grasses that grow under and near high voltage power lines. The support personnel of the National Forest Service have just been drastically reduced. Even they would have great difficulty keeping up with this. The APS "Comprehensive Fire Mitigation Plan" was not available to the public until March 2022 which was after the comment period closed so the public did not have a chance to assess whether the APS plan provides adequate or appropriate mitigation measures to reduce wildfire risk. Basically if their plan is not adequate or appropriately implemented we are at risk of losing our homeowners insurance and our homes and property. That is wrong.

The Forest Service failed to consider critical information in making an informed decision, such as its own rating that the Village of Oak Creek and Sedona are at "very high risk" of wildfire."

The Final Environmental Assessment lacks an adequate range of alternatives, which violates the National Environmental Policy Act. 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 considerations and did not develop it as an alternative.

Sincerely,

Antoinette Beiser

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