
From: Sandy W [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, March 2, 2025 9:01 PM
To: FS-objections-southwestern-regional-office
Subject: APS Oak Creek to McGuireville 69kV Transmission Line Project on the Coconino National Forest

March 1, 2025
[REDACTED]

TO: 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

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

Dear Regional Forester Martin:

As my husband and I did not own a home here during the original comment period (ended Jan. 14, 2022), and we are very concerned with the new information regarding the issues bullet-pointed below, this email shall serve as our objection to the above-referenced project on the Coconino National Forest.

1. 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.
2. The VOC and Sedona are at “very high risk” of wildfire.
3. Forest service documents do not factor in the negative effects of the power lines to both the property values in the area and to the economic value to the region. Above ground power lines detract from the beauty of Sedona, which is a significant draw for tourists.
4. Finally, the cost of the class action law suit following a power line fueled wildfire will greatly exceed the cost of burying the lines now.

Here are links to a few of the **MANY** additional resources supporting the choice to bury power lines:

1. <https://wfca.com/wildfire-articles/power-lines-and-wildfires/>
2. <https://www.firelawsuit.com/latest-news/how-power-lines-can-spark-devastating-wildfires/>
3. <https://www.sce.com/wildfire/wildfire-mitigation-efforts/targeted-undergrounding>
4. <https://wildfiremitigation.tees.tamus.edu/faqs/how-power-lines-cause-wildfires>

5. <https://insideclimatenews.org/news/11072022/is-burying-power-lines-fire-prevention-magic-or-magical-thinking/>
6. <https://www.powereng.com/library/understanding-wildfire-risks-from-poles-lines-and-substations>

Sincerely,
Sandra Weinberg
David Weinberg