
From: Gay Chanler [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 3, 2025 5:45 PM
To: FS-objections-southwestern-regional-office
Subject: [External Email]APS Oak Creek to McGuireville 69kV Transmission Line Project on Coconino National Forest

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Dear Forester Martin,

I wish to object to the above referenced hi-voltage transmission line project on the Coconino National Forest proposed by APS.

I submit tis objection based on new information that was not available during the previous comment period, which ended Jan. 14, 2022.

My principal issue of concern is fire danger. This area of Coconino County, the Village of Oak Creek has been rated by the Forest Service as "very high risk" for wildfires. This rating was made after the Jan 14th, 2022 comment period.

Similar to Paradise, CA. a large portion of this community has only one road in and out of the canyon where there are numerous horse properties, a senior living community with an assisted living complex, and many hundreds of homes. Not only will insurance rates go up, many properties will likely be unable to get insurance. In fact, some insurance companies, such as AAA will not insure my house because of this geography and fire rating. It appears that the Forest Service did not adequately consider this information in making its decision to approve the project.

Additionally, it failed to consider burying the lines along the Hwy 179 corridor, a clear alternative that would protect us from fire as well as protect the Scenic Highway designated route. APS presented a "Comprehensive Fire Mitigation Plan" of their own authorship that was not available for public consideration during the initial comment period. So, there was no opportunity to evaluate this plan in terms of adequate and appropriate measures to reduce risk or contain/stop wildfires.

From what I know, It has been mentioned that APS plans to use traditional construction equipment to bury the lines. and that this is a contribution factor to preventing burial along the existing , buried natural gas line in the proposed area over Kell Fox trail.

However, they have not considered new technologies for pipeline construction such as the horizontal drills used for fracking.

This method would be efficient, be less disruptive to the landscape, and cost a lot less than traditional ditch digging equipment, I am told.

In addition, the installation of the 60 foot towers to carry the lines over this landscape will be exceedingly disruptive to the natural landscape where there is currently a good hiking trail and abundant wildlife and native plants.

On page 5 of the "Stewardship Agreement Between State of Arizona and USDA Forest Service, Southwest Region", Section III. "Statement of Mutual Benefit and Commitment", article 7

It states :

“Seek efficiencies in all shared aspects of project planning, implementation, and monitoring while maintaining environmental safeguards and Continued Public Engagement when implementing environmental review decision. (Emphasis mine)

I appreciate this opportunity to present objections, and trust that in light of this policy agreement, you will consider my objection and others so as to reassess the project in light of the new aforementioned information, particularly fire risk, (the potential property value decline) and assault on the scenery of tis special place.

Sincerely,
Margaret Chanler

Margaret Chanler

