

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, February 14, 2025 4:52 PM
To: FS-Coconino Webmail <SM.FS.Cof_Webmail@usda.gov>
Cc: [REDACTED] VILLAGE OF OAKCREEK ASSOCIATION
Subject: [External Email]Re: Feb. 19 Public Meeting on Proposed APS Power Line Next to VOC

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As a property owner in Sedona and VOC I am against APS building above ground power lines.

By now, APS should be aware of the dangerous, unreliable and unsightly, **UGLY AND EXPENSIVE** impact of ABOVE ground power lines. It is time that APS and the Forest Service are taking wildfire ignition seriously! Not only are people's safety and property at stake, wildlife and scenic areas are negatively impacted by above ground power lines.

VOC prides itself on keeping the area "beautiful" - above ground power lines are NOT attractive or safe!

The power line south of VOC must be put UNDER GROUND.

Ultimately APS customers are paying the price, with no help from the Forest Service or APS.

Thank you for reconsidering and for burying any future power lines.

Gratefully,

R. Yamamoto

Email: [REDACTED]

On Thursday, February 13, 2025 at 03:51:56 PM EST, Village of Oakcreek Association

 wrote:

COME TO A PUBLIC MEETING IN THE VOC

Proposed New Above Ground
Power Line Increases
Our Wildfire Risk



Location just south of the VOC where APS wants to build an above ground high-voltage power transmission line.

PROPOSED APS POWER LINE

APS wants to build a new 13.7 mile 69kV high-voltage power transmission line from McGuireville to the Village of Oak Creek on Coconino National Forest land.

The Forest Service did an Assessment and decided to let APS build the approx. 6 mile long section between McGuireville and Beaverhead Flat Road above ground. The 5 mile section along Beaverhead Flat Road will be underground to protect scenery.

IMPORTANTLY, the Forest Service intends to allow APS to build over 2.5 miles of high-voltage power line above ground, just south of the VOC (along the Kel Fox Trail). If **built above ground**, this section of line **will increase our wildfire risk**. SCENERY will be impacted too!

OUR WILDFIRE RISK NOW

Persistent drought, combined with rising temperatures, make conditions ripe for a fire here. Federal agencies rate the VOC and Sedona at "very high risk" of wildfire.

The fire that destroyed Paradise, CA in 2018 started from above ground high-voltage power lines. The mile-wide inferno was spread by wind speeds similar to what we often have here -- killing 85 people, 80% of them over the age of 65.

EXPERTS SAY TO PUT POWER LINES UNDERGROUND

Across the West, countless wildfires have been sparked by above ground power lines. The Western Fire Chiefs Association advises communities to "underground" their power lines -- meaning bury them. These experts know how to be "firewise" and reduce fire risk.

COME TO THE MEETING AND SPEAK OUT

As touted by the Forest Service, this power line project may improve our power reliability. BUT, if the 2.5 mile section of line closest to the VOC is built above ground, that reliability will come at a heavy price to residents: Our safety from wildfire!

Indeed, the Forest Service admits the 2.5 miles of above ground power line just south of the Village "will result in a slight long-term increase in wildfire ignition risk that previously was not present."

Forest Service officials will be at this meeting. They will make a FINAL decision soon about how the line will be built. This is **YOUR LAST CHANCE TO SPEAK OUT!**

Let them know APS must build the 2.5 mile long section closest to the Village UNDERGROUND. Most who died in the recent horrific L.A. fires and similar disasters were older. We are vulnerable! Our SAFETY must come first, not the added cost for APS to build underground.

TELL THE FOREST SERVICE:

- Any increase in WILDFIRE RISK is unacceptable! Our SAFETY comes first!
- The 2.5 miles of power line just south of the VOC MUST BE PUT UNDERGROUND!
- Burying this line is affordable for APS! Their long-term maintenance costs will be far lower.
- Preserving the scenic beauty and recreational value of the Kel Fox Trail area is important.
- More wildfire risk negatively impacts insurance rates and property values .

Village Residents Thank Big Park Council for Hosting this Meeting

MEETING TO BE HELD

7 PM, Wednesday
February 19, 2025

VOC Church of the Nazarene
55 Rojo Drive

For more information contact Mark at: [REDACTED]

If you can't come to this meeting, email the Forest Service directly at: SM.FS.Cof_Webmail@usda.gov

Village of Oakcreek Association | [REDACTED]

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