



Post Office Box 975
100 Mikaela Way
Avon, CO 81620

USDA Forest Service
Eagle-Holy Cross Ranger District
Attn: Brian Glaspell, Forest Supervisor
c/o Leanne Veldhuis
Post Office Box 190
Minturn, CO 81645

Submitted via email: leanne.veldhuis@usda.gov

August 19, 2025

RE: Public Comment – Environmental Assessment for Avon-to-Gilman 115-kV Transmission Line Project, Support for Alternative 4.

Dear Forest Supervisor Glaspell,

Please accept this comment letter from the Town of Avon on the *Environmental Assessment (EA)* for the proposed Holy Cross Energy Avon-to-Gilman 115-kV Transmission Line. We write to express our support for the Forest Service's efforts to develop and analyze **Alternative 4**, which responds directly to concerns raised in the Town of Avon and our community at-large, regarding health and safety (particularly wildfire risk), visual impacts, right-of-way conflicts, and community character.

Our Town's residents, businesses and guests rely on electricity supplied by Holy Cross Energy, our electrical cooperative, and we support Holy Cross Energy's new transmission line and the much-needed resiliency this will bring to Avon and our broader region. The Town of Avon supports, the EA's preferred alternative, Alternative 4, and agrees with the concerns over the other alternatives raised by our neighbors in the Town of Minturn. Most electrical lines in our town are underground for the same reasons.

The preferred alternative, Alternative 4, undergrounds the transmission line to the greatest extent possible, and having power lines underground is in our whole community's best interest. If there is any way to further reduce the project's above-ground power transmission lines near Homestake Peak School in Eagle-Vail, we urge you to re-evaluate those above-ground lines as well. Please be aware that a wildfire was sparked along Metcalf Road in Avon simply from a bird-strike on Holy Cross Energy's long-standing above-ground transmission lines.

Please accept these comments in favor of the EA's preferred alternative, Alternative 4, and consider re-analyzing the impacts of any project above-ground transmission lines near Homestake Peak School in Eagle-Vail.

Sincerely,
Tamra N. Underwood

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Tamra N. Underwood'.

Mayor, Town of Avon
tunderwood@avon.org