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First name: Spence

Last name: Neubauer

Organization:

Title:

Comments: This proposal is unacceptable. The alternatives have drawbacks, but still nothing near the impact to Minturn, which in no way benefits from these power poles that will serve other towns.

"An alternative that would shift the line outside of Minturn toward the east was considered but eliminated due to concerns about impacts to roadless areas and undisturbed vegetation communities and wildlife habitat."

AKA Vail doesn't want their backup power that close to their mountain.

"An alternative that would shift the line outside of Minturn toward the west was considered but eliminated due to concerns about impacts to Meadow Mountain and extensive use for recreational activities by local resident"

Why affect the recreational users when you can affect the town residents?

"An alternative that would parallel the existing transmission lines that run east from the Avon substation toward Vail, then cross I-70 was considered but eliminated because it would place the new line in the same corridor and therefore would not provide redundant functionality. The intention for the new line is to provide an independent corridor that would function if the existing line fails due to an adverse event within the existing corridor."

The new "independent corridor" is so close to the existing corridor to make concerns about wildland fires irrelevant. If the one in Minturn goes up, so does the other. From Minturn to Vail is all uphill and dry, a very easy path for brush fire to go, with limited access for crews. At least with a Meadow Mountain path, the fire would have a state highway and river as a barrier.

As far as the issues go:

Issue #1: The project may increase diminish the visual quality of the Minturn area, including Dowd Junction/Minturn Gateway, Mountain Meadow, local trails, Top of the Rockies Scenic Byway, and the town of Minturn itself.

-So bury more. Imagine the uproar if these 75 foot power poles went through the communities that actually got to use the backup power.

Issue #2: The project may increase the risk of wildfire in the areas it is proposed to cross. Alternatively, the powerline may be placed in locations where it is susceptible to wildfire from potential ignition sources, such as the Minturn Shooting Range.

-Bury more. Don't put it next it directly next to a town.

Issue #3: The project may change the occurrence of electromagnetic fields.

-Surely, we should place this as close to a population center as possible, not in the middle of the woods.

HCE buried 9 miles of power lines near Aspen. Do it again. 1/3 of that in a high risk area is unacceptable.