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Comments: As an Eagle Valley resident and Director on the Board at Holy Cross Energy, I am in support of the proposed Avon to Gillman 115KV transmission line.

Power is the lifeblood of our personal and economic lives yet unlike most populated areas of Colorado, the communities of Avon, Eagle-Vail, Edwards and Vail are served by a single transmission line. With ever increasingly severe weather and wildfire events, the risks of electrical service interruption for these communities as quoted below from the environmental assessment (EA) are severe:

"Transmission service outages could last for multiple days or weeks for the communities of Vail, Avon, Eagle-Vail, and Edwards. Extended outages could have severe economic, community service, and human health consequences in the region"

The proposed routing includes underground transmission where appropriate and utilizes existing rights of way as much as possible. Additionally, the work plan minimizes impact on wildlife and utilizes helicopter only access to significant portions of USFS rights of way. Correctly, the draft EA received a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI).

This new transmission line provides a redundant power feed and the ability to further electrify the Eagle and Gore Valleys with energy from Holy Cross' growing clean electricity supply on the way to 100% renewable energy by 2030. I urge final approval of this needed community infrastructure.