

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 2/26/2025 5:28:35 PM

First name: Kevin

Last name: McCart

Organization:

Title:

Comments: As the owners of our home that is directly parallel to the power line proposal from APS/USFS we would like to contest the building and erecting of the power lines behind our property on federal land. As an engineering director for a large tech fab company, I know all too well the requirements for increased power to support existing and growth opportunities, but this build out can be performed in a much better capacity that supports more modern, environmentally friendly means to achieve the same result. Replacing wood poles with metal only delays the inevitable and causes additional risk to the environment and surrounding structures (fire, lightning and line of site to vandalism). APS should bury the lines in order to support a more progressive means to mitigate such risk and allow minimal infrastructure impacts in the surrounding communities.

APS has mentioned that they are concerned around increased outages and an increased downtime in such events. When the community was asked to provide evidence of such outages, not only could we not remember any that were a risk type duration, but that even with the increased demand on power due to tourism, still no real outages. When asked for the outage data to support the claim from APS, not only were they unwilling to provide (claiming proprietary data) they were unwilling to discuss. When the Big Park Council engaged in dialogue and APS said they would attend a community meeting, they did not show up as promised.

In addition to the lack of transparency from APS and the flexing of bureaucratic muscle to force this upon us home owners, our concern is if this concession is made, what's to stop APS from increasing rates and driving further change to a delicate environmental area? They're risking not only the value of our area and scenic appealing draw of Sedona and VOC, they're risking the health and safety of those that live directly in front of and or near the power lines and wildlife that call the forest land home. I implore both our representatives and APS to reconsider and instead of placing more burden on the community with an increase in power and poles that we do not want, to one of modern, less risk solutions such as burying the lines. This will also allow a safer environment for activities and growth in the surrounding areas and follows suit with what other utility companies have done in such areas across the states.