

## Settlement Canyon Reservoir

Rocky Mountain Power, in response to concerns from the community leaders and residents in the Tooele Valley, has shifted the transmission line alignment near Settlement Canyon Reservoir approximately 400 feet to the south edge of the reservoir as shown in Figure 1. In this area the preliminary design indicates the height of the top-most wire on the transmission line is approximately 210 feet above ground surface and would require line-marking. Based on the final design of the transmission line, Rocky Mountain Power will comply with all FAA requirements for making the lines properly visible, through installation of marking in areas of anticipated air traffic as may be required.

As seen in Figure 1, the transmission line is located to the far southern edge of the reservoir where the water is at its shallowest depth. Rocky Mountain Power has been in discussions with two independent helicopter companies who frequently draw water from reservoirs and one of which has drawn water from the Settlement Canyon Reservoir as late as summer 2009 to evaluate the proposed alignment of the transmission line. Each of the companies concluded that at a minimum 2/3 of the reservoir will still be usable to draw water in support of fire fighting activities which may include the use of buckets attached to a 25 -1 50 ft long line hanging below the aircraft or having the aircraft lower itself to an altitude that will allow water to be drawn into an internal tank. The proposed location of the transmission line will also require the helicopter operators to include the line in their evaluation of their approach and departure tactics. These tactics are driven heavily on the environmental conditions at the reservoir when factoring in wind conditions; however, helicopter companies have stated that there are workable solutions.

In addition, Rocky Mountain Power has been in discussions with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) regarding their use of a campground located approximately 2000 feet south of the proposed transmission line along Settlement Canyon Road for loading crews, refueling, and changing aircraft configurations during fire fighting activities. The BLM has stated that the campground can still be utilized for staging of crews and that if refueling of the aircraft at the campground is impacted by the transmission line then the refueling area can be relocated.

In a response to a fire, the helicopter operators are responsible for conducting a risk assessment which includes acknowledging hazards in their flight paths and applying the applicable safety practices to mitigate those hazards. This includes flying near high voltage transmission lines. Each of these three parties has stated that the largest concern is marking the transmission line making it more visible to aircraft. Rocky Mountain Power has submitted an application with the FAA for this area and will comply with all FAA regulations with regards to marking the lines.

Based on the information Rocky Mountain Power has received by two independent helicopter companies and the BLM, the location of the transmission line will not prohibit helicopter use near the reservoir, nor specifically preclude removal of water from the reservoir for fighting fires.