

Utility Facility Review Board of Utah

RE: Rocky Mountain Power's Petition to Build High Voltage Transmission Lines in Tooele County

My Name is Dave Morrill. I am a Tooele resident and have worked as an optometrist in this community for the past 7 years. I am writing to voice my extreme opposition to Rocky Mountain Power's proposed route of running high voltage power lines over the southeast bench of Tooele valley as part of its Mona to Oquirrh Project.

As many others have stated, I am not opposed to Rocky Mountain Power bringing transmission lines through Tooele city or county. The reality is that we will need more power as the population continues to grow. However, I am in firm opposition to the proposed route along the southeast bench of Tooele. From the beginning it was evident that Rocky Mountain Power had developed a plan to cross the southeast bench, regardless of the opposition by either the public or the elected officials of Tooele City and County. Undoubtedly you have already heard of the multitude of negative impacts that this route would bring. I am concerned about those same negative impacts. Rocky Mountain Power claims that they have sufficiently addressed these issues, and that they have demonstrated that they can "mitigate" those negative impacts. They cannot. RMP cannot mitigate contamination of our ground water supply due to the use of herbicides. They cannot mitigate the health and safety concerns of those families nor the decrease in property value of those homes near the transmission lines. They cannot mitigate the loss of vegetation and wildlife that are certain to occur if this project is allowed to proceed. They cannot mitigate the negative effects of transmission lines crossing over Settlement Canyon Reservoir and the limitation it brings when a fire occurs in our canyons. These are only a fraction of the negative impacts that this project would bring.

It is a fact that the mountainside and scenery of Tooele's southeast bench is the most treasured view in all of Tooele County. It is an outrage and an insult to the residence of Tooele that Rocky Mountain Power would even consider taking that from us, let alone having this be their preferred route! The entire county is, and has from the beginning, opposed to this route. It's not just a few citizens that are upset because the transmission lines will destroy their view or lower their property values. The Tooele County Commissioners, Tooele City Mayor, Tooele City Council, Grantsville City Mayor, and *thousands* of citizens from both Tooele and Grantsville have voiced our opposition to the route passing over the southeast bench!

Rocky Mountain Power has claimed that *"Tooele County has proposed no specific alternative route or conditions and hence, cannot restrict the project."* This statement is not accurate! Tooele citizens group as well as elected officials has worked diligently in proposing an alternative route that is acceptable. This proposal was signed by all Tooele City, Tooele County, and Grantsville City elected officials. There IS a better route. Please do not allow Rocky Mountain Power to proceed over the southeast Tooele bench. Please respect the facts and wishes of thousands of Tooele County residents and our elected officials as we stand united in our opposition of Rocky Mountain Power's proposed route.

Sincerely,

Dave Morrill
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