May 10, 2010

Utility Facility Review Board of Utah
160 East 300 South, 4th Floor
Salt Lake City, UT 84145-0585
E-Mail: psccal@utah.gov
RE: Docket No. 10-035-39

Dear Board Members:
I’m writing this letter to voice my concerns with the high voltage power lines as proposed by Rocky Mountain Power. The current plan has many faults, and I for one do not want to see this pass. The proposal does not benefit Tooele county power. The power is supposed to be routed to Salt Lake City. It obstructs our fire fighting access to our Settlement Reservoir. There is not a record of decision from the BLM on the Environmental Impact Study. I know that it can still be appealed, but as for my family and myself, we are against this. It brings up several serious public health concerns and it has adverse effects to the view shed. There is not an existing permit to cross the smelter super fund site, and if it is disturber, it will contaminate the public in the Tooele County area.

The current plan also has no redundancy for the Wasatch Front, where if the substation were to be moved further north, it would allow an easier access to tie in from Nevada along the I-80 utility corridor, easier access to continue north and tie into Idaho and create the needed redundancy for the entire Wasatch Front area. Moving the substation north would also help fulfill connecting to the Western Grid System and interconnectivity for the National Energy Plan. This would also prevent any future possibility of the spider web of lines scattered throughout the Grantsville area. In addition, with the current plan, if anything happened to the Mona substation, they gain nothing for the Wasatch Front, which seems to be the only concern of Rocky Mountain Power.

Numerous groups in Tooele County have presented many alternative ideas that address many of these issues. Although these may not be an option Rocky Mountain Power prefers to use, it clearly shows there are better ways to run these lines without all the adverse effects of the current plan, and potentially at a lower cost! The arrogant response by Rocky Mountain Power as these concerns and alternatives that have been voiced, sickens me. The power they have with “right of eminent domain” have unfortunately risen above their responsibility to the population of Tooele County to look at and consider all options available to them before moving ahead. Knowledgeable people have been researching, studying and becoming familiar with better alternatives to the current plan.
Rocky Mountain Power has totally disregarded any of these goals when it comes to the residents of Tooele County!

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Now is the time for you to do right by the residents of Tooele County and exercise your power to enforce what Rocky Mountain Power has failed to do. Please follow your own charge and provide service to the people of Tooele County, as we are so desperately being forgotten about.

Sincerely,
Gary & Colleen Walch

Resident of Tooele County, Grantsville

Emailed 05/10/2010