

May 10, 2010

TO: Utility Facility Review Board [psscal@utah.gov](mailto:psscal@utah.gov)

RE: Docket # 10-035-39 RMP Appeal CUP Denial by Tooele County

From: Brad & Kaye Pratt

Dear Board Members,

Parley P. Pratt is Brad's great great grandfather, his brother Orson Pratt was sent by Brigham Young to settle the Tooele Valley. Kaye is a decedent of the James family whose names are etched on the monument located at the front of Tooele Public Library to honor Tooele's earliest pioneers. Our love of the valley has grown deeper every decade and we too are not afraid to stand for our values and our family's future against adversity. Graduates of Tooele High School; we married and built our home and our family business ProMed Billing Inc located on the corner of Main and Vine in Tooele. Kaye graduated Cum Laude from USU Tooele. Our three grown children are THS grads and USU Tooele. They also work for our company and have established their homes in Tooele. We have three grandchildren who we expect will keep up the tradition of making Tooele their home.

Growing up in Tooele, we looked up to the beauty and splendor of the deep green pine trees on Corner Mountain dreaming to one day live on the South East Bench . Ten years ago we built our dream home in that canyon area to enjoy the open space, take long walks watching the colors change with every season. Our home has 97 windows – so yes we could see the perfect picture God had painted there. We have deer in our yard on a daily basis year round; a family of wild turkeys that frequent our waterfall for a drink. We have marveled at catching a glimpse of an elk herd and even entertained a mountain lion.

We received a letter from Rocky Mountain Power asking to take a core sample of our soil (letter attached) in the fall of 2008. We quickly replied along with our neighbors with an emphatic no. No other communication until our neighbor called saying we had missed the RMP meeting at the Junior High school and could we have a meeting at our home to inform our other neighbors RMP was proposing a route coming very close to residents on the south east bench with plans to destroy the green mountain in the process.

Of course we said yes and made two phone calls asking they make two phone calls. Two days later we held our first Tooele Concerned Citizen's meeting and had 75 people turn out. For the first week our petitions stated we opposed the south east bench only, then I woke up one morning after a horrible dream that I was literally choking on power lines. Our committee reconvened realizing we had to oppose any route that was planned too close to residents creating new petitions with this perspective has brought us here today representing the 4000 signatures on those petitions who feel there is a better place in a county as large as Tooele to construct the needed power line for the Wasatch Front and to present ourselves to the Utility Facility Review Board to help us straighten out this very, very wrong plan RMP has proposed.

With a great deal of community spirit and united in our goal we aligned our committee bringing over 280 citizen's to the BLM Open meeting on June 23<sup>rd</sup> and started on a very long process of trying to understand how they could justify the route that would have the greatest negative impact on the environment and the people. Next we went before the city with prepared speeches and substantial evidence why the south East bench route was the most detrimental of all RMP's proposed routes and obtained Tooele City Mayor and City Council's vote July 1, 2009 and Tooele County Commissioner's vote July 21, 2009 to unanimously oppose the south east bench route.

We attended all of the Resolution Meetings RMP conducted, we've submitted several alternative routes to them, we've had their engineers and executives in our home to present routes to them based on their siting criteria only to be told over and over a different set of standards or rules. There was never any consistency in their answers. It was like going into a store with no price tags on the items and the store owner making up the price depending on what you wanted.

We met with the BLM multiple times to ensure we turned in all of the information we were collecting to support our opposition to the south east bench while learning there was more and more errors in the DEIS than we first detected.

In fact, there were so many errors it was obvious to us the document had been created either with no thought or effort in mind or it was created to create a document to achieve the desired end result. We turned in picture books of what Tooele really looked like. The pictures they had of us were from the sixties, or taken to appear that way. Upon further investigation of the document we found more inaccuracies. Important issues were the least addressed, items of little importance were brought to the fore front. We reported the errors to the BLM during the open comment period requesting they investigate the real Tooele and report the truth. We had great faith they would address the many inaccuracies in their representation of Tooele and are sorely disappointed to find the Final Environmental Study is no better. In fact, they did very little except to once again create a final document that matches RMP's project needs.

During the course of this experience Brad and I have spent countless hours researching information on transmission power lines in an effort to meet RMP's needs while protecting our County. We've accomplished something we've been told has never happened in the history of Tooele County – We are united in our opinion there is a better location for the high voltage power lines in our County and we have a signed consensus letter describing where we all agree the lines should be constructed in our County. It is a responsible use of the land and a responsible location for the health and safety of our county's citizens.

If you had a clean slate to work with in Tooele County, not one that is cluttered with all the propaganda RMP has deluged us with to distract our focus where would you put the power lines in Tooele? It doesn't take a rocket scientist or a PHD, it's as clear as day where they belong. God drew the picture for us. He put the green mountains on one side where the people live and the desert on the other. If RMP would have opened their eyes they would have had their experts look at how to engineer the obvious route and if RMP would have done this they would have gotten a signed conditional use permit from Tooele County and the lines would be under construction saving all of us this torture and time, precious time arguing to protect ourselves.

Why are we here today before this Board? Because RMP is the controlling authority in every decision making process which ultimately brings us back to their original route, a route determined to be the most profitable for their shareholders. This monopolistic practice is unethical if not illegal. RMP has been given a task to perform with instructions to obtain the highest profit margins. RMP drew a route that would be the most profitable to get the power to the substation and one that would encounter their weakest opponent, in this case their choices were Tooele or Kennecott. Of course the answer was Tooele.

What RMP didn't expect to encounter was Tooele's citizens, people like Brad and I who aren't willing to give up in a battle of attrition with RMP. According to Joni Zenger's report after months of extensive and exhaustive the BLM has agreed with RMP's desired route. The BLM has lost all credibility by caving to RMP, but then again it does take longer to come up with enough ways around to present a lie. The truth is easier and much quicker to report. The EPG is chosen by the BLM, but is compensated by RMP; we turned in over 250 comments to the BLM; RMP reviewed and selected 17 comments to be included in the FEIS. The BLM caved because they don't have a personal interest, but aren't willing to give up the fight because we do have a personal interest in Tooele, this is where we live and where our children and grandchildren live and these power lines will be forever with their lasting ugliness and unknown health risks we are yet to really know. In our profession we report the diagnosis that would track EMF or any health problems associated with living in close proximity to high voltage power lines. The World Health Organization and the American Medical Association has not assigned an ICD 9

code to use to report the effects. Therefore there is no research to rely upon except that of private studies. The ramifications are yet to be determined like smoking after it's too late. The negative impacts are not alleged, they are very real. We have not ignored the errors in fact we took the responsibility to find the errors and report them. Please do the same for Tooele.

We have reported to the documentation to prove and support our stand the South East Bench Route has far too great an impact on our health and safety. It is RMP's obligation to also consider our health and safety in their mind set to make a profit. In their latest filings with the PSC, RMP's states they fully understand and are will to take the risk of possible contamination to the residents from lead and arsenic during construction through the capped superfund site and will address the future affects of their actions on a case by case basis. This does not even equate in normal rational reasoning. We fully understand all of the risks this line will present if allowed and RMP will be the first to blame. They will be the most hated entity in the valley.

As the Board also knows, the potential of fires from the power lines is immense, in today's testimony by Mr. Garrard, fire was the leading cause of power line failure. How can they justify constructing a line in the most densely vegetated spot in all of Tooele Valley when two thirds of our county is a desert? Today we learned more about how RMP decides the standards of separation, no wonder we could never get a straight answer from them when we tried to work with them to find an acceptable route. Our answers would never be right.

Please assess all of the information provided to you. There is a bigger picture to RMP's plan and the plan of other neighboring states who will be connecting in the Western Grid. Less than 11 months ago, RMP wanted 3000 mw according to their projected needs, now they say the need has "negated" to only needing 1500 mw. They haven't proven to be very good at planning or we wouldn't be in this power crunch to force us into their scheme to achieve the greatest amount of profit. Please take the time to come to Tooele for a tour of the valley and see the real and true picture. The only thing I could agree with Mr. Garrard about today is this – "One picture is worth a thousand words."

We are entrusting this board to see we are not against power, we have not told RMP they can't construct a power line in Tooele, we've only told them they can't have the South East Bench Route and to date it is the only route they will accept or have asked for. We are at a standstill in our opinions and are looking at this newly created board to take a fresh new look at what is obvious to everyone except RMP.

Sincerely,

Brad and Kaye Pratt

