

From: Jeff Davis [REDACTED]
To: <psscal@utah.gov>
Date: 5/20/2010 4:12 PM
Subject: Fw: Docket No 10-035-39
Attachments: Utah Public Service.odt

second attempt

--- On Fri, 5/7/10, Jeff Davis [REDACTED] wrote:

From: Jeff Davis [REDACTED]
Subject: Docket No 10-035-39
To: psscal@utah.gov
Date: Friday, May 7, 2010, 3:59 PM

Attached is my letter for consideration by the board in the matter of RMP vs Tooele County. I will also include the letter in the text of this email in case there are problems with the attachment. Thank you.

05/07/10

Subject: Docket 10-035-39
To Whom it May Concern

High voltage power lines and towers of the type proposed for the Mona to Oquirrh line are a unwelcome sight no matter where they are placed. Some placements are worse than others. When hidden by trees or landscape the lines are hardly noticeable until you come right up to them, but when placed in open terrain they are visible for over ten miles.

It seems that some good common sense could be exercised in regard to this controversy. No one is disputing the need for power to the Oquirrh station. They are just asking that the towers be placed in the best area possible.

A straight line, the easiest and most cost effective method, would be up the Interstate 15 corridor, directly to those that will benefit from this project. If the straight route would have an intolerable negative impact on the communities in this area, then diverting the route to an area of lessor impact makes sense.

Diverting the line to another community, especially one that receives no benefit from the project, shows bias for one group over another. It should be challenged and good public officials should not let it stand.

Four years ago, I moved to here from Seattle, seeking blue skies, mountains and wide open spaces. While searching for a new home, I drove down Silver Avenue around Rush Lake. As I rounded the corner of South Mountain I was struck by the awesome beauty of the Stansbury Mountains. I knew I had found home. From my front yard I can look south down Rush Valley to the Sheeprock and Onaqi Mountain ranges and to my west tower the Stansburys very close to my home. While landscaping my yard I will often stop for a few moments, just to gaze at the inspiring view before returning to work.

High Voltage lines would spoil both of these views and negatively impact the growing community of South Rim.

Deseret Peak dominates the Stansbury Range, standing 11,031 feet. I have climbed this peak half a dozen times since moving here. It sits in the Deseret Peak Wilderness which is located within a portion of the Wasatch Cache National Forest. I hike and ski in this area on a weekly basis.

The proposed route will carry the high voltage lines and towers along the foot of this pristine mountain range. To visit this protected area you would have to pass under the lines. For campers and hikers looking out from the wilderness, instead of the valley floor and surrounding mountain ranges, they would see metal towers and cables. Power lines as proposed will spoil the view both from without and within the forest.

Imagine 200 foot towers and cables running at the foot of the Wasatch Range near Big and Little Cottonwood Canyons and how they would affect the local residents, their quality of life, their property values, area tourism, watershed and so many other known and unknown impacts.

If you wouldn't do it to them, please don't do it to me.

I won't pretend to know all the issues driving the Mona to Oquirrh proposal, but what I do know is this is about choices. Humankind has proven over and over again that it can accomplish anything, including that which was thought to be impossible. This isn't about what can and can't be done. It's about what we choose to do.

Again, I am not savvy with electrical engineering, but there are always alternatives:

Produce power locally at the Oquirrh site and you eliminate the cost and destructive impact of running cable over a hundred miles of beautiful land.

Use existing high voltage line corridors and eliminate additional injury to land and property. Again, probably less expensive.

Run the line where it is not visible to populated areas (Skull valley, Clive, Knolls and others).

Do not provide additional power to Oquirrh.

Run the lines through areas already impacted by industry.

Use alternative energy sources.

There are other choices. Please make one that doesn't ruin lives. Mine or others.

Sincerely
Jeffrey R. Davis
Physician Assistant Serving Tooele County