

Complaint Report

Complaint Number: 1542751665

Customer Information

Customer Name: Fullmer, Jana

Account Number: [REDACTED]

Phone Number: [REDACTED]

Email Address:

Service 1494 West 11150 South
Address: South Jordan, UT 84095

Complaint Information

Company Name: Rocky Mountain Power

Date Received: 11/20/2018

Type of Call: Inquiry

Complaint Received By: Stefanie Liebert

Gone Formal: NO

Date Resolved: 11/28/2018

Complaint Type: Inquiry

Utility Company Analyst: Autumn Braithwaite

Complaint Description:

The following inquiry was received via email and has been copied and sent exactly as received.

DPU ONLINE COMPLAINT

UTILITY CUSTOMER

FROM: Jana Fullmer

PHONE: [REDACTED]

EMAIL: [REDACTED]

SERVICE ADDRESS:

1494 West 11150 South South Jordan, UT 84095

MAILING ADDRESS:

1494 West 11150 South South Jordan, UT 84095

INCIDENT DETAILS

UTILITY: Rocky Mountain Power

ACCOUNT NUMBER: [REDACTED]

COMPLAINT TYPE: Other

COMPLAINT:

I attended the public open house held by Rocky Mountain Power (RMP) on July 16th, 2018 where I learned that a "new" 138kV line would require a 60-foot easement due to "safety". I have asked repeatedly RMP to further explain the safety standards that they state they build their lines in accordance to. I would like to better understand the safety precautions and requirements for the size of high voltage transmission lines they are proposing to place within very close proximity of my home. RMP has not provided this information. They have given inadequate information, quotations and snippets, and will not provide the exact written standards they claim they are adhering to in the city council meeting. (See video link https://youtu.be/u_b9v800xJM starting at time stamp 32:16). RMP has stated that the current easements have no limitations and therefore are able to place a power line within feet of my home that would typically require a 60 feet easement if this was a new line or development. When we purchased our home in 2013, there was a small dashed line along the side of our property on our plat map. It was no more than 8-10'. We were informed that this was the easement for public utilities. There was never any indication that this small dashed line could extend into the middle of my home or even further without any limitation, compensation, or approval. The easement that RMP is exploiting was written in 1955 over an agricultural zoned farm land. It needs to be re-evaluated to consider the development that has occurred and the structures and school

that has been built in the last 60 years. I would like to know in writing exactly what dimension of easement they will assume after the new poles are installed. What is their exact plan for any vegetation, structures or home that falls within that exact dimension? I would like to know what standards they are required to adhere to for inhabited dwellings that fall within the 60 foot easement. I would like to have the standards in their entirety and not just portions that RMP feels pertains to this discussion. The proximity RMP proposes to run this high voltage line near homes and a school is especially alarming seeing the massive destruction and devastation brought upon residents in California due to wildfires caused by high voltage power lines. This should be at the forefront of Utah's evaluations on standards as we can see what could occur in our own similarly desert environment. (I can provide multiple references but here are just three:) <https://nypost.com/2018/11/13/woman-warned-about-sparks-from-power-lines-day-before-deadly-wildfire/> <https://www.ecmag.com/section/systems/calfire-concludes-pge-violations-caused-2017-wildfires> <https://www.sfgate.com/bayarea/article/12-Northern-California-fires-caused-by-PG-E-power-12979955.php> The one thing RMP will provide publicly is the very document that RMP does NOT abide by. This is their 2010 Salt Lake County Electrical Plan that was developed over a period of one year, tapping into a group of over 40 qualified individuals and who were deemed as experts and part of a task force to map out the most desirable decisions for providing power to the growing valley. This 2010 body of experts determined the highest priority to AVOID for transmission line routes would be "residential neighborhoods, schools, and elderly populations" and that: "residential areas are the LEAST DESIRABLE LOCATIONS" because of the impact these lines have to the "character of the neighborhood and viewsheds" , as well as perceived "reduction of property values and health effects" . At the public open house on July 16th, 2018 a Rocky Mountain Power representative even stated "We would never put in a new transmission line in this area" . Why then should Rocky Mountain Power be allowed to a new upgrade and enlargement in an area that past experts deemed undesirable and current experts agree is not ideal? Footnotes: Rights of Way: Application for Proposed Use link found at: <https://www.rockymountainpower.net/con/erow.html> Powering Our Future Salt Lake County Electrical Plan Local Planning Handbook September 2010, Section 5 Undesirable Locations for Transmission Lines, p i Powering Our Future Salt Lake County Electrical Plan Local Planning Handbook September 2010, Section 5 Undesirable Locations for Transmission Lines, p 14 Rocky Mountain Power Open house 7/16/2018 "" conversation involving Lisa Romney and Alene Bentley See Link to map on: https://www.rockymountainpower.net/ed/tp/south_jordan_draper.html Powering Our Future Salt Lake County Electrical Plan Local Planning Handbook September 2010, Section 5 Undesirable Locations for Transmission Lines, p 13

SUGGESTED RESOLUTION: I would like the entire document with clear, and detailed standards and regulations RMP states they abide by for safety precautions, easement requirements, clearances, and guidelines for the 138kV line. I would like RMP to provide detailed and specific information on the easements they will assume for not only the pole adjacent to my property (pole #57 on RMP's map) but to the entire project line for the many concerned residents along this line. I also would like the details for their standards they are required to abide by for running their line by schools (as stated in their presentation). I have children attending this school and I want to know this information to ensure their

safety as well. I would like to have an exact amount of width that RMP is planning to assume as their easement for this upgrade. I would like to know the exact impact on vegetation, structures, and my home that are within the specific distance of the lines. I also would request that the Public Service Commission should determine a just, reasonable, safe, proper route for this high voltage line and consider prescribing reasonable regulations on high voltage transmission line upgrade projects. Similar to when "upgrades" on building structures are done, the entire building needs to be brought up to the current codes for safety, so should it be considered that when upgrade projects on power lines are done, they should be held to the same parameters and require ensuring equivalent easements as new transmission lines. I would also request that the Public Services Commission consider making regulations that RMP be held accountable to the 2010 Planning Handbook. If this document is what RMP uses to provide justification for their projects, it should also be justification for MODIFICATION of their projects as quoted "Upgrading an existing transmission line may be considered visually inappropriate (see Criterion 4C) or incompatible with existing land uses (see Criterion 5B). Resolving conflicting criteria may require trade-offs with other considerations" . I lastly request that the PSC monitor closely what California will do to regulate power companies to ensure maximum safety to eliminate additional wildfires. Obviously "building according to their standards" is not enough and needs to be evaluated and improved.

Complaint Response:

From: Braithwaite, Autumn
Date: Wed, Nov 28, 2018 at 4:46 PM
Subject: Rocky Mountain Power
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: Stefanie Liebert

Good afternoon Mrs. Fullmer,

The Utah Division of Public Utilities notified us of the concerns you sent to their office regarding a transmission line project in your area and asked that we review and respond.

To provide a little background, demand for electricity in the South Valley area of Salt Lake County has exceeded the capacity of some of the electric power facilities and needs to be rebuilt. This project was anticipated by the Salt Lake County Electrical Plan, which was developed in consultation with area business, government and community leaders in September 2010 and has been presented to all planning commissions in the region.

Rocky Mountain Power plans to rebuild the existing 46 kilovolt power line to a 138 kilovolt power line from approximately 10700 South and 1400 West following the existing line until it crosses the Jordan River at approximately 11800 South. The upgrade will include new, taller, poles and wire.

Additional easements for this project are not needed as the existing easements for the existing 46 kilovolt line are adequate for the upgrade. Rocky Mountain Power designs facilities in a manner that meets or exceeds the National Electric Safety Code, as well as all state and local requirements. The National Electric Safety Code sets the national standard for public safety relating to the installation, operation, and maintenance of electric power systems.

I understand you have been in communication with Lisa Romney, Regional Business Manager for Rocky Mountain Power who has provided the attached information regarding the easement as well as safety information. Additionally, I understand a link to the NESC or National Electric Safety Code was provided for you to review as well.

<http://standards.ieee.org/about/nesc/program.html>

Thank you,

Autumn Braithwaite
Regulatory Analyst
(801) 955-2434

Cc: Stefanie Liebert - Utah Division of Public Utilities

Enc (3)

Additional Info:

I thanked Autumn and closed the complaint.

S Liebert

On Thu, Dec 6, 2018 at 9:50 PM Jana Fullmer wrote:

Ms. Braithwaite

I appreciate your email, however this does not satisfy my complaint that I filed.

Ms. Liebert, if you could please let me know to whom I could request that this complaint be escalated, I would be happy to provide reasons why I feel the utility company has not fully addressed my concerns.

Thank you,

Jana Fullmer

From: Stefanie Liebert
Date: Mon, Dec 10, 2018 at 9:37 AM
Subject: Re: Rocky Mountain Power
To:
Cc: Braithwaite, Autumn

Good morning Mrs. Fullmer,

If you are unsatisfied with Rocky Mountain Power's response you do have the right to file a formal complaint. I have attached the documents that would be required for a formal complaint.

Sincerely,

Stefanie Liebert
Office Specialist
Division of Public Utilities
(801)-530-6285
Business hours are 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., Monday-Friday

