



PublicService Commission <psc@utah.gov>

Formal complaint re: PacifiCorp Spanish Fork→Mercer 345 kV – defective §54-18 notice, misleading outreach, and missing technical evidence

1 message

Salem Residents and Wild Life Coalition <srwcoalition@gmail.com>

Thu, Sep 11, 2025 at 4:41 PM

To: psc@utah.gov

Cc: Christine Elyse Blythe <christinelyse113@gmail.com>, kooterk@gmail.com

Commission:

I am a directly affected homeowner in the Salem Park neighborhood (Utah County). I submit this formal complaint regarding PacifiCorp/Rocky Mountain Power's Spanish Fork→Mercer 345 kV transmission project.

1) Statutory notice is defective.

PacifiCorp's 60-day notice failed to include a statutory contact **address** for the project and did not provide an **actual corridor map**—only study areas—contrary to Utah Code §54-18-301/302 requirements. My attached packet documents the missing elements and shows that dozens of owners within 250 ft of the preferred centerline (including at least 39 homes in Salem Park) received no valid notice.

2) Claimed newspaper publications did not occur.

PacifiCorp's Aug. 22, 2025 letter asserts that notice ran in multiple papers; verification obtained by residents shows **no such publications** occurred. The packet summarizes the discrepancy and attaches confirmations from the newspapers.

3) Record lacks substantial evidence needed for land-use approvals.

PacifiCorp has not supplied project-specific analyses on EMF/noise at residential property lines, neighborhood compatibility/buffering, wetlands/avian risk at the pond/wetland complex, stormwater, or construction haul routes. These deficiencies are cataloged in the packet's "Missing Evidence" matrix that was presented to the County.

4) Misleading feasibility claims.

In outreach, PacifiCorp asserted undergrounding would cost "20×" yet elsewhere stated they "don't know how" to underground this segment—claims that cannot both be true and are unsupported by engineering/cost studies in the record. The packet notes this inconsistency and requests documentation.

Requested PSC action

1. Open (or direct) an investigation and require PacifiCorp to **re-notice** with a compliant §54-18 NOI that includes: (a) a true corridor map and (b) a project contact address; and to document lawful **newspaper publication**.
2. Require PacifiCorp to file **project-specific technical studies** (EMF/noise modeling at property lines; wetlands/avian review with USFWS/UDWR recommendations; stormwater/traffic plans) before further approvals proceed.
3. Direct PacifiCorp to produce **engineering/cost analysis** supporting any claims that undergrounding or residential setbacks are infeasible.

The Utah County Planning Commission has already **withheld** the CUP pending proper notice; the PSC's oversight is needed to ensure utility-law compliance and accurate, non-misleading public outreach.

Thank you for your prompt attention.

Joseph Ybarra

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Attachment: "SRW Coalition – RMP/PacifiCorp Packet (Executive Summary & Exhibits)"

9/12/25, 2:42 PM

State of Utah Mail - Formal complaint re: PacifiCorp Spanish Fork→Mercer 345 kV – defective §54-18 notice, misleading outreach, ...



SRW Coalition - RMP:PacifiCorp Packet.pdf

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