

Exhibit 7 — KUTV News Broadcast (Sept. 9, 2025)

<https://kutv.com/news/utahs-growing-pains/salem-residents-petition-against-planned-45-mile-transmission-project-near-homes-wetlands>

SALEM, Utah (KUTV) — One neighborhood in Salem is fighting back after it received word from Utah County that Rocky Mountain Power wants to put up a 45-mile transmission line project nearby.

Salem Park is the only neighborhood that sits next to Rocky Mountain Power's proposed **transmission line project** that would run from substations in Spanish Fork to Eagle Mountain.

"We're not anti-power. We're not anti-grid. We're just anti-bad placement of things," said Joseph Ybarra, who lives in Salem Park.



Rocky Mountain Power's 45-mile transmission line project route. (Rocky Mountain Power/Pacificorp)

Salem Park, on the north side of Salem right before Spanish Fork, is nestled in wetlands and sits at the foot of Loafer Mountain. It's also the only full-fledged neighborhood located next to the route Rocky Mountain Power **outlined on their map** of their transmission line project.

"About a month ago, we got a notice in the mail from the county just letting us know that this was going in, they were about to grant a permit to Rocky Mountain Power," Ybarra said.

He said, according to Rocky Mountain Power's map, the line would go right behind his and his neighbor's fences.

He outlined three major concerns with this plan: "First of all, it's health and safety. There's been major issues when it comes to these electromagnetic fields (EMF) and safety, especially of children."

"Second one is property values. It's been shown that property values take a significant hit when transmission lines like this go in so close to homes," Ybarra said.

Thirdly, he said there are concerns about what the line could do to the wetlands they live beside.

"This area right here is home to a lot of falcons, bald eagles, lots of other birds and wildlife. The transmission line will actually go straight through one of the ponds down at the end of the road here," Ybarra said.



One neighborhood in Salem is fighting back after it received word from Utah County that Rocky Mountain Power wants to put up a 45-mile transmission line project nearby. (Photo: Natalie Wadas, KUTV)

Despite Rocky Mountain Power listing many public meetings on their project page in the summer of 2024, residents said this is the first time they'd heard about the plan.

"We collected 45 affidavits that showed that we had received no notice prior to this county letter," said Christine Blythe, who lives in Salem Park and began the **petition to stop the installation**, which now has more than 1,200 signatures.

"It's a complete shock that somehow we were left out of the loop," Ybarra said.

Rocky Mountain Power officials told KUTV that they did publish notices in three different newspapers about the open houses, and used feedback from them to settle on this route for the line.

"We've also contacted multiple newspapers that they have claimed that they put notices into the newspapers. It's also required by the law. And, none of those newspapers have been able to identify anything that was in the paper," Ybarra said.



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"We're not against the project. We believe that the project needs to be completed, that it'll probably better Utah County as a whole. What we're against unfair placement of the line in a place that will impact property value, that will increase fear about health—we have a lot of children here in the neighborhood, and so there's concerns about EMF" Blythe said. "We have wetlands here. And it's kind of a highlight of our neighborhood—we have egret, we have bald eagle, we have swallows, and we love our neighborhood, we love our wetlands, and we think it's going to disturb that sensitive land."

The county planning commission told 2News they are scheduled to take a look at this at their next meeting this month. They told 2News Tuesday afternoon that they held off granting the conditional use permit to Rocky Mountain Power for the power lines there until they could prove they did properly notify people about the project.

"Utah County's staff recommendation was to approve the conditional use permit at the August 19, 2025, having met all the laws and requirements for the permit," RMP officials said.

"I think the neighborhood as a whole feels very strongly—does not want the powerlines here," Blythe said, "We would be satisfied if they were able to move it back far enough that it decreased those impacts."