

Public Service Commission - Docket Number: 10-035-39 Re: 09-035-54

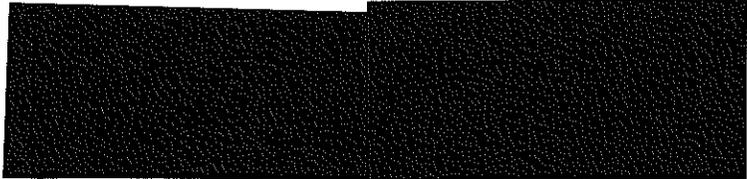
From: MICHAEL G WELLS DDS <[REDACTED]>
To: <psccal@utah.gov>, Kaye Pratt <[REDACTED]>, MICHAEL G WELLS DD...
Date: 5/10/2010 1:57 PM
Subject: Docket Number: 10-035-39 Re: 09-035-54

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RECEIVED

Dr. Michael G. and Karlene S. Wells



May 10, 2010

Utah Public Service Commission
Heber M. Wells Building
160 East 300 South
Salt Lake City, UT 84114

Re: Docket Number: 10-035-39 Re: 09-035-54

In the Matter of: the Petition for Review between Rocky Mountain Power and Tooele County for Consideration by the Utility Facility Review Board

To Whom It May Concern:,

My wife and I are writing in response the Petition for Review between Rocky Mountain Power and Tooele County for Consideration by the Utility Facility Review Board. We

are categorically opposed to allowing a permit to be approved and to the construction of these lines is such close proximity to the homes in this area. It goes without saying that this is some of the most beautiful areas in our county. The following reasons below we believe illustrate some of our concerns and those expressed by other residents.

More than 4000 residents of Tooele have signed a petition opposing RMP's plan. My wife and I were some of the volunteers that help collect those petitions, and I don't think that your office should ignore the contempt our residents feel for RMP's arrogance in ignoring our residents and their concerns. The Tooele County Commissioners, the mayors of Tooele and Grantsville City as well as committees representing residents of the County, and Tooele and Grantsville and Stansbury Park and Erda have signed a joint resolution not only opposing RMP's route but also proposing an alternative route. The Citizen's alternative route would meet all of RMP's stated objectives – which are to run a high voltage industrial distribution line through Tooele County from Mona to one of RMP's sub stations at the West side of Salt Lake Valley. And it will do so in a manner that appears to be less expensive in the long run than RMP's proposal (although RMP has been less than forthcoming with their exact cost estimates for either route – and has provided no estimate of on-going maintenance costs for either route).

Tooele County will receive no benefit from the large power distribution line that RMP wants to run through our county. Even so, we, Tooele County and its residents do not unreasonably wish to obstruct a construction that may benefit our Salt Lake County neighbors. They only want to put that unsightly industrial construction as far as possible from existing houses and as much as possible on the least valuable property in our county. RMP however, in their wisdom, has decided that their industrial lines with their 300ft tall metal towers and 300ft wide easements, should go along the foothills and over the canyons south of Tooele City next to some of the nicest homes (where existing power lines to those homes are buried) and across some of the most valuable property in Tooele County. RMP thinks it more reasonable to string their huge lines over Tooele's Settlement Canyon recreation area and reservoir rather than putting those lightning attractors over sagebrush at the West side of the valley. RMP thinks it is more reasonable to put up metal monstrosities in front and through the greenest and prettiest parts of the County instead of over by the drier and less-viewed Western range. RMP thinks it more reasonable to cut roads and foliage and spray herbicide over the canyons and springs and water supply of the small town of Tooele than to use already existing flat paved roads between Rush Valley and the I-80 corridor where there are no springs and few wells and water lines. They would rather spray the water than not spray the desert.

Perhaps they have some good reason for their arguments that their chosen route is better for someone. But it is certainly not better for Tooele or for its residents.

RMP's plan would prevent Tooele from using their reservoir as a water source for fire-fighting helicopters (just this past year such a helicopter was used to stop a fire that could have damaged or destroyed a number of homes). RMP's plan will attract lightning strikes and create the real risk that a fallen power line could electrify the reservoir and all of the waterlines that feed from there throughout Tooele City. RMP's construction and destruction of greenery could cause runoff and otherwise damage the water collection facilities of two water companies and Tooele City's. RMP's plan could poison Tooele's water supply with herbicides. RMP's plan would put known health hazards close to existing homes and recreational areas. RMP's route even goes across a capped toxic waste disposal site -- apparently they don't think that a little arsenic in the air should hurt anybody.

Thank you for your consideration and inclusion of this letter in your reports.

Sincerely,

Michael Wells

Karlene Wells