

House Bill 1041 Permit No. 1041-2019
-2003
Letters & Petition Signatures



A letter from Marcie Defoe, Pueblo West

One of the amenities of living in Pueblo West is our unencumbered vistas. These precious views provide residents with a blissful escape from the environmental pollution and stresses of city living. These exceptional real estate properties come with a premium price tag. Many of these investors are retired or preparing for retirement. They expect to spend their remaining days enjoying the health benefits of quiet living and the privilege of being close to nature. A quality lifestyle that brings happiness into daily lives as well as increased health benefits.

Yet, once again, Black Hills Energy wants to disrupt the lives of Pueblo West residents by disfiguring our landscape and creating an eyesore. They are determined to run their transmission lines through our equestrian easements, nearby residential properties and across our priceless vistas instead of using other existing easements. Transmission towers and their overhead power lines are a form of **visual pollution**. They are unpleasant, ugly and negatively affect our aesthetic senses.

A recent study by A & M University, Texas, determine that **visual pollution** contributes negatively to human health and stress levels. As our stress levels increase, our

blood pressure, heart rate and respiration also increases.

The National Association of Realtors says **visual pollution** can shave more than 30% off the value of nearby properties.

The **United States Federal Highway Acts of 1965 and 1991** address the use of billboards, signage and advertising. It does not prohibit the placement of transmission power lines adjacent to highways.

The **Lineman's and Cablemans Handbook** states that *"If the appearance of overhead lines would be unsightly then underground lines should be installed"* There is no legitimate reason why Black Hills Energy can't use one of the other existing utility easements to take their line to Canon City. As a publicly held company, their only motive is to increase assets and boost profit.

We Pueblo West residents respectfully ask our Board of County Commissioners to - support your constituents - respect our quality of life -and **deny** this permit request from Black Hills Energy.

Please don't let us down. Thank you.

November 12, 2019

To: Pueblo County Commissioners

Re: Black Hills Permit CR1041 2019-003 for 115 kV Transmission line through Pueblo and Fremont Counties.

I am writing this letter to state my opposition to the proposed routing through Pueblo County specifically through the Gary Walker Ranch and other Pueblo West properties.


I do not live in Pueblo County, however your decision to approve this proposed route as it crosses into Fremont County will have a negative impact on the routing through Penrose, Colorado. The PUC in 2017 did approve a line from Pueblo to Canon City to provide an additional power source, however they did not specify the siting, nor did they approve a substation on Hwy 115 and "K" Street in Penrose, Co. at that time.

It is the siting that Black Hills is proposing both in Pueblo County and Fremont County that I am opposed to. Those of us in the Penrose area that have not signed BHE easements (a concentrated area in northeast Penrose) do not want this 115 kV line on our properties, nor on adjacent properties since there are alternative routes that can be developed. One being the commonly called The Portland Corridor and or along Hwy 50 or along the western border of Fort Carson up and beyond rural agricultural properties in the Penrose area.

My other objections are as follows:

1. Overhead powerlines will in the near future become obsolete.
2. Overhead transmission lines can and will create a fire hazard. Note: California
3. Overhead power lines will change the character of Pueblo West and the Walker Ranch.
4. Lack of PUC oversight since approving a line in 2017 from Pueblo to Canon City.
5. The inclusion of a substation at "K" and Hwy 115 in Penrose is not for the benefit of Penrose but for future extension of Black Hills infrastructure north on Hwy 115.
6. The Special Review Use Permit process has not been initiated in Fremont County (verified by e-mail to Fremont Planning and Zoning on November 12, 2019 as stated in the Black Hills application.
7. This route is not an extension of infrastructure but the development of more infrastructure for BHE shareholder benefit at the expense of private property owners due to devaluations of property values, loss of property area, and loss of property usage and last but not least, view scape.
8. The route through Penrose is not an existing utility corridor, nor an extension of one. It is creating a new corridor on numerous rural agricultural properties.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely, 

Karen Olmen

1381 3rd Street

Penrose, Colorado 81240

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Name: Karen Cjmen
 Signature: attached
 Address: 1351 3rd St.
 Lawrence, KS
 Reason for dropping in: approval
 attached

About two years ago my wife and I purchased 3 lots at the end of E. Hastings (#'s 46,74, and 102) in Pueblo West. The main purpose for this purchase was to move to the state of Colorado, invest in the community, and build a retirement home. We purchased these lots at a premium price because of the location, incredible views, wildlife, and dark skies at night. The proposal for the new Black Hills power line will run $\frac{3}{4}$ mile from our property and will not only destroy primary sight lines, but negatively impact property values. In addition, the area covered by this project is in the flight path for migratory birds. There are four basic paths throughout the US and one of them is down the eastern side of the Rocky Mountains. Unfortunately, these birds frequently do fly into the power lines resulting in their own death and damage to the powerline itself. If you have been around high-tension lines you may have noticed that nothing grows well and they make crackle or pop noises. These sounds are due to the static from ionized air around the power line. These discharges give off UV light. To animals who have visual receptors in the UV range, these will appear as flashes of light. This has resulted in animal disorientation and disruption in their natural travel and migration path. Environmental concerns are another issue with high tension lines. They create a nesting and hunting area for birds, particularly raptors. These birds love high places, but it creates two problems: #1) They build their nest on top of a transmission line insulator or pole and in the process get in between the wires, or on a wire and the pole. This results in their electrocution as well as damage to

the wire; #2) These high perches might seem like a good idea, but it provides unnatural assistance for the raptor resulting in an imbalance or decimation of smaller animal populations - i.e. prairie dogs, rabbits, ferrets. There is a diverse population of animals and birds on the Walker ranch and the surrounding properties (which includes our own). These animals include at a minimum: Elk, Cattle, Deer, Coyotes, Black foot ferrets, prairie dogs, raptors, and multiple smaller bird species. Studies have shown that high tension lines do affect these animals. We believe it is important to start preserving the natural diversity that has been given to us. Are these power lines necessary? Or, can we find alternatives to this project- i.e. highway 50, up north by Fort Carson, or the use of a battery powered back up plan in Canon City? Below are links to studies with more in-depth information on what has been presented in this letter. •

<https://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0209968> •

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2014/mar/12/animals-powerlines-sky-wildlife> • <https://help.leonardo-energy.org/hc/en-us/articles/207186749-How-do-High-Voltage-Overhead-Transmission-Lines-impact-the-environment-and-how-can-this-be-evaluated-?mobilesite=true> • <https://www.tdworld.com/overhead-transmission/power-wild> •

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/17624193>

Respectfully submitted, William Johnson Deborah Johnson
westernyankee24@gmail.com keljoh@sbcglobal.net



Mark Kuhrt <ma.kuhrt@gmail.com>

IMPORTANT!! Please Attend Public Hearing Regarding Black Hills Energy House Bill 1041 Permit No. 1041 2019-003

Pamela A Kuhrt <pmcgarva@hotmail.com>
To: "ma.kuhrt@gmail.com" <ma.kuhrt@gmail.com>

Tue, Nov 26, 2019 at 7:09 AM

From: james liwo <jliwo@live.com>
Sent: Monday, November 25, 2019 6:30 AM
To: Pamela A Kuhrt <pkuhrt61@outlook.com>
Subject: Re: IMPORTANT!! Please Attend Public Hearing Regarding Black Hills Energy House Bill 1041 Permit No. 1041 2019-003

Pamela,
I definitely love to attend, but I have to work. I'm sorry I can't be there. Thank you for everything you're doing though, I appreciate it. James Liwo

From: Pamela A Kuhrt <pkuhrt61@outlook.com>
Sent: Sunday, November 24, 2019 7:14:56 PM
Subject: IMPORTANT!! Please Attend Public Hearing Regarding Black Hills Energy House Bill 1041 Permit No. 1041 2019-003

[Quoted text hidden]

November 13, 2019

Dear County Commissioners,

I am writing this in concern of the proposed Permit #1041 2019-003. Again, Black Hill's Energy is trying to construct 115kV power lines through our neighborhoods in Pueblo West North. The proposed route not only impacts more residence than in 2018 but disrupts the ecosystems and upheaval of lands in our area. The reason many homeowners buy in Pueblo West is because of wanting to retire here with the serenity of views of Pikes Peak, the Wet Mountains and Spanish Peaks. Black Hill's plans are not in sequence of the kind of lifestyle neighbors here ever thought would happen. Just take a drive out here from Highway 50, or E. Platteville to Purcell and you will already see a web of power lines. Keep power lines in existing corridors, only if needed.

Second, that kind of power, 115kV transmission lines, are not needed in residential neighborhoods. We all know that the power is solely for Canon City and beyond. There is no good reason why this should be happening in Pueblo West yet again.

Please honor our wishes and turn down the proposed permit and do what's right for Pueblo West. We want people to be able to live and build out here without the constant threat of the obstruction of views, health concerns, decreased property values and most importantly, Pueblo West all going up in smoke due to downed powerlines in high winds. A good example of that is what happened in California last year and just recently.

The idea of power lines running though residential properties and S1 land that is not designated for that, is not within the guidelines of our Comprehensive Plan for Pueblo West.

Thank you for taking my perspective into consideration.

Sincerely,

Pamela A. Kuhrt
1237 N. Parkridge Dr.
Pueblo West 81007

Permit # 1041 2019-003

Printed Name & Signature	Address	Oppose/Approve	Reason
MARCELLA DEFOE Marcella DeFo	211 S. SPAULDING AVE	OPPOSE	VISUAL POLLUTION - STRESSFUL
LARRY SWISHER Larry Swisher	707 Cedar Hill Perrine	OPPOSE	Incompatible with my lifestyle
Pam Swisher	707 Cedar Hill Rd Perrine, CO 81266	OPPOSE	" "