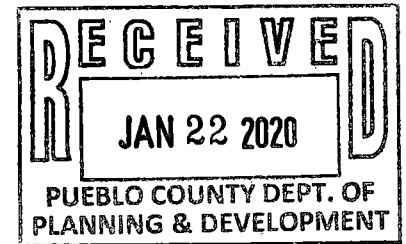


January 22, 2020

RE: Black Hills Energy 1041 Permit 2019-003



Thank you Commissioners for allowing us to provide further input regarding Black Hills Energy 1041 Permit 2019-003. We understand the volume of materials being supplied to you, and the time involved in reviewing and “weeding” out the facts.

With this being said, we’d like to directly address a few points and not skirt the issue.

1. Current status in Fremont County; Over now 2 years ago BHE introduced to Fremont officials their plan. Nothing since. Because they intended to cross privately owned properties, BHE was told to acquire easements **before** submitting a Special Use Permit. It does not matter how many meetings they hold telling us what they are going to do, it doesn’t change the degradation of properties and loss of values, eliminate health concerns and not impact our quality of life.
2. Alternative Routes;
 - A. What’s not being told you is the lack of alternative routes considered in Fremont County. It appears that being close to two buildings and in view of residences built along Highway 50 in Pueblo County is more of a concern than coming as close to many more residences and buildings in Fremont County. Black Hills conveniently leaves out how many will be impacted with close proximity as this project progresses.
 - B. The protected wildlife area along Highway 50 does not appear to be bothered by existing distribution lines. Since it has now with this project been revealed that BHE can utilize existing poles and upgrade to transmission, there should be no additional impact. If there is an impact, why would this also not impact human habitats as well?
 - C. **IF** CDOT needed to make changes then deal with it. With no revealed plans in the works, - a BIG **IF**! Potential costs to move a sign or pole is nothing compared to the costs of our community.
 - D. BHE’s debacle along Highway 78 to Beulah has no connection. They incorrectly installed NEW poles, on the wrong side of the highway – not using the line already existing.
3. Property Values; there have been a lot of lengthy studies provided you on this topic. In 2019-003 document ID# 6535164 (12-23-19) “Valuation Guidelines for Properties with Electric Transmission Lines” by Kurt Kielisch, pages 13 & 14 (attached), he clearly addresses the methodology used by the authors of BHE’s supplied studies. Furthermore, on page 14 he addresses the Washington Posts’ reveal that the Chalmers-Voorvaart study BHE uses was paid for by Northeast Utilities prior to a proposed high voltage transmission line grid!

When you consider ALL studies submitted on the valuation issue, the average devaluation amount is about 23%. Of the over 20 million in property value affected in Fremont County alone, this is a substantial amount for property owners.

Conclusion: BHE needs to really listen! There ARE alternative routes and other solutions to achieve the reliability they say they need. We're not willing to fund one more money making project for BHE at our communities expense.


Janet Jordan

Penrose Neighbors for a Better Route

✱

10

15%

15%

15%

15%

15%