

South Jordan City Planning Commission Meeting
10/9/18 – Presented by Jana Fullmer

My name is Jana Fullmer, I live at 1494 West 11150 South in South Jordan. When my husband and I bought our home in 2013 we were provided with a plat map. There was faint dotted line that was explained to be a 10-foot easement for Public Utilities.

You can imagine our concern when we heard for the first time at the public open house that an equivalent high voltage line would require a 60-foot easement. That small dotted line on a plat map would now essentially run through my kitchen and family room. Would you feel comfortable with this information? My home is not unique, there are several individuals here with the same concern.

We request the Planning Commission to deny the Conditional Use Permit to RMP for three simple reasons: 1) Safety and proximity to homes and schools, 2) Non-compliance to their own handbook, 3) Current powerline is in violation of their own standards.

1) Safety Concerns

I have *repeatedly* asked Rocky Mountain power to share their detailed standards and code in relation to a 138kV line and its proximity to structures required to ensure safety. They have not provided this information. RMP states that minimum clearances are “complex to calculate and determine”¹. Homes along this path lie next to and some cases underneath these lines. Our children play at South Jordan Elementary directly under these lines.

We ask for the Planning Commission to require RMP to provide the detailed codes for safety as well as the precise clearance calculations they’ve done for every pole, home, and school playground. IF the permit is approved, what will be the new easement they will control? What will be the new impact on vegetation, structures and property?

This permit should not be approved without thorough safety verification, and not just taking their word for it.

2) Non-Compliance to their own Guidelines: In 2010 RMP presented a comprehensive guideline² crafted by 40+ experts and provided siting criteria to “all planning commissions in the region”³. These experts indicated in Section 5A that: Residential Neighborhoods, Schools and Elderly Populations were the “least desirable” and to be “AVOIDED”⁴. We ask the Planning Commission to require RMP to explain why such sites were so undesirable per the 2010 guidelines and why they absolutely disregarded those criteria in their proposed project. What

¹ Personal Email from Lisa Romney from Rocky Mountain Power

² Powering Our Future: Salt Lake County Electrical Plan Local Planning Handbook September 2010

³ https://www.rockymountainpower.net/ed/tp/south_jordan_draper.html

⁴ Powering Our Future Salt Lake County Electrical Plan Local Planning Handbook September 2010, Section 5 Undesirable Locations for Transmission Lines, p 14

would prevent South Jordan Planning Commission from adopting the 2010 recommendations as our city's standards and hold RMP to abide by them?

3) Current Powerline is not compliant to their own published standards: According to RMP's document "Rights of Way"⁵ a 47kV Transmission Line is required a minimum 25-foot easement. According to our research of plat maps approved by the city and title documents, this would indicate that RMP has been operating a 47kV Transmission line for the last several decades without adequate clearance. We propose that not only the current Permit for Conditional Use be declined but held off indefinitely until further investigation be placed on Rocky Mountain Power to ascertain if they are currently operating excessive voltage without adequate clearance.

Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to share our thoughts and information. The permit request is not a suitable route, when I asked why this route was even considered with its proximity to homes, school and elderly, a RMP expert looked me in the eye and stated "We would *never* put a new transmission line in this area"⁶. How is this not considered new? It is not safe and they know it, it contradicts their own guidelines, and as it stands today, the current line is in violation.

We have shared tonight about EMF Mitigation, Easements, Alternative Routes, Safety and Codes. We would implore you as appointed leaders of the Planning Commission to thoroughly evaluate all aspects and deny this permit until all concerns are sufficiently met to high standards. We would welcome the opportunity to review any documents, plans or designs provided from RMP as well as an open dialog or working meeting opportunity as residents with the planning commission.

⁵ Rights of Way: Application for Proposed Use link found at:
<https://www.rockymountainpower.net/con/erow.html>

⁶ Rocky Mountain Power Open house 7/16/2018 Personal conversation with Lisa Romney and Alene Bentley representative.

South Jordan City Planning Commission Meeting
10/9/18 – Presented by Jana Fullmer – EXTENDED VERSION

My name is Jana Fullmer, I live at 1494 West 11150 South in South Jordan. My husband and I bought our home in 2013. Upon signing for our home, we were provided with a plat map. There was faint dotted line running along the west side of our property that was explained to be a 10-foot easement for Public Utilities.

Fast forward to fourth of July weekend 2018 when RMP left a notice on our porch about their plans to enlarge the powerline. You can imagine our concern. Our home and carport lie parallel and within feet to the existing line. Can you imagine our feeling when we heard for the first time at the public open house in July that an equivalent high voltage line would require a 60-foot easement? That small dotted line on a plat map would now essentially run through my kitchen and family room. Would you feel comfortable with this information? My home is not unique there are several individuals here with the same concern.

We request the Planning Commission to deny the Conditional Use Permit to RMP for three simple reasons: 1) Safety and proximity to homes and schools, 2) Non-compliance to their own handbook, 3) Current powerline is in violation of their own standards.

1) Safety Concerns

I have asked *repeatedly* from Rocky Mountain power to share their specific and detailed standards and code in relation to a 138kV line and its proximity to structures for safeguarding the public. They have not provided quantifiable information as to the “minimum clearance distance required to ensure safety”. RMP claims they meet or exceed the NESC standards. Who in the Planning Commission has read and verified compliance to these safety standards? Why is RMP being so evasive and unresponsive in sharing these exact NESC codes to prove this high voltage line is truly SAFE? What is the actual easement RMP will assume if the permit is approved? Where will they have free-reign to cut down trees, remove sheds, structures and such?

According to RMP these minimum clearances are complex to calculate and determine. I would implore the Planning Commission to require these safety calculations and detailed clearance distances for not only my pole, #57 but for each pole along this line. This permit should not be approved without adequate safety verification for the homes and school in its proximity, as well as the exact data on easement impact on every property, vegetation and structure.

It might be interesting to note that in a recent newspaper article the above-ground Transmission lines operated by Pacific Gas & Electric were identified as being the sole cause of 16 of the catastrophic wildfires in the state of California. Last year these fires killed 40 people, burned 21,000 homes plus 2,800 businesses. PG&E's lack of safety measures and inadequate construction were in part to blame and they are facing hundreds of lawsuits. Closer to home, in Wasatch County a fire marshal submitted a letter opposing the request for transmission line to be placed 200 feet from homes and structures due to fire safety concerns. Here in South

Jordan, we can't just hope that because RMP "operates and assumes" the utility we should trust they abide by their standards. It requires thorough verification.

2) Non-Compliance to their own Guidelines: One of the reasons I have been pressuring RMP to provide their NESC detailed code is because of what I have observed in their behavior of cherry-picking only portions their own guideline to follow. In 2010 RMP presented a comprehensive guideline to "all the planning commissions in the region". This plan was crafted by 40+ experts and provided siting criteria for high voltage transmission lines. The experts indicated that: Residential Neighborhoods, Schools and Elderly Populations were the "least desirable" and to be "AVOIDED". We ask the Planning Commission to require RMP to explain why such sites were so undesirable per the 2010 guidelines and why they absolutely disregarded those criteria in their proposed project. What would prevent South Jordan Planning Commission from adopting the 2010 recommendations as our city's standards and hold RMP to abide by them?

3) Current Powerline is not compliant to their own published standards: According to RMP's document "Rights of Way" a 47kV Transmission Line is required a minimum 25-foot easement. According to our research of plat maps approved by the city and title documents, this would indicate that RMP has been operating a 47kV Transmission line for the last several decades without adequate clearance. We propose that not only the current Permit for Conditional Use be declined but held off indefinitely until further investigation be placed on Rocky Mountain Power to ascertain if additional questionable activity exists where they are operating excessive voltage where inadequate clearance has been assumed.

Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to share our thoughts and information. The permit request is not a suitable route, when I asked why this route was even considered with its proximity to homes, school and elderly, a RMP expert looked me in the eye and stated "We would *never* put a new transmission in in this area". How is this not considered new? It is not safe and they know it, it contradicts their own guidelines, and as it stands today, the current line is in violation.

We have asked tonight about EMF Mitigation, Easement Verification, Alternative Route Investigation, Safety and Codes. We would implore you as appointed leaders of the Planning Commission to thoroughly and scrupulously evaluate all aspects and deny this permit until all concerns are sufficiently met to high standards. We would welcome the opportunity to review any documents, plans or designs provided from RMP as well as an open dialog or working meeting opportunity as residents with you as the planning commission and RMP.