



Jackie Thompson <jackmclr21@gmail.com>

Colorado's Xcel Power Pathway 1041

3 messages

Jackie Thompson <jackmclr21@gmail.com>
To: kariparsons@elpasoco.com

Tue, Sep 10, 2024 at 3:54 PM

Kari,

I am writing to express my objection to the Xcel high voltage powerlines to power DENVER at the expense of rural residents.

Xcel Energy is planning to construct high voltage powerlines all over Eastern Colorado along with many more wind and solar farms. Tri State is also planning on installing more wind farms which will also bring more high voltage powerlines to Eastern Colorado. Rural Coloradoans are just becoming serfs to Denver – losing water, views and quiet to their wind and solar farms and now the multitude of high powered transmission lines that connect them. Eastern Colorado does not receive energy at all from Xcel Energy.

I read a news article that stated Rep Sonnenberg was initiating state legislation for setbacks on wind farms and could possibly apply to powerlines. The article I read stated "Sonnenberg said. "I will work to develop a new land use policy regarding renewable energy. It doesn't make sense that we have setbacks for oil and gas production but a wind farm can place a turbine with no restrictions according to the current land use policies in place." I appreciated his effort. Why can't the El Paso County Commissioners pursue a set back. Those of us living in the Eastern Colorado Plains would appreciate a collaborative effort to work on legislation such as Sen Sonnenberg has suggested. We are organizing all across Eastern Colorado on a united front against the renewable intrusion.

All landowners in Eastern Colorado should be able to participate in what is becoming the renewable energy center in Colorado. The wind and solar farms and corresponding high voltage transmission lines will affect all of us living east of major population centers and are popping up everywhere. These farms and lines may be accepted by many major landowners who will be compensated but will wreck the property values, views and serenity of those who live nearby. The landowners near these farms and lines will receive no compensation but will receive all of the negatives.

I contacted Western Land Alliance who has participated in policy making for the Colorado Oil and Gas Commission. They connected me with an approach that worked really well in the northern Rockies. In this case it got support from both the energy companies and the affected local communities. <https://vimeo.com/50647103>

There are transmission lines being challenged in Iowa/Wisconsin because they run through a wildlife sanctuary. Audubon says millions of birds are killed by running into these lines. <https://www.audubon.org/news/bird-safety-concern-national-push-build-more-power-lines?fbclid=IwAR3P2e0CwjOLcG6Cay82HbNhic-vK0lftxAJMWnGqWIFI7dJhXI0e9eaCBk> It is estimated that up to 152,000 hoary bats are killed by wind turbines each year. This is really a national issue as it feels like everyone is just rushing to throw these up. In California, the electric company PG&E just paid a settlement for causing multiple fires and are now burying their lines. We are so concerned with fire danger in Eastern Colorado. Our humidity levels have been in the teens especially lately during drought.

Please consider in energy policies, not just the renewables for the populated areas, but those of us who are going to bear the burden of these policies. There should be set backs, etc. The wind farm in Calhan is a travesty to those who live under it. So many homes affected by them.

Jackie Thompson

Ramah, CO

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To: Jackie Thompson <jackmclr21@gmail.com>

Tue, Sep 10, 2024 at 4:08 PM

Jackie- Thank you for your comments. I have placed the letter in the file folder in EDARP and it will be attached to the staff report for the Commissioners viewing.