

Email: SCE Ivanpah Control

From: Terry Cavanagh <tercav3@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, May 15, 2026 3:35 PM
To: Ivanpah-Control Project Team
Cc: Susan Lee; Forsythe, John; Steve Glikbarg
Subject: Draft EIR Comments - SCE Ivanpah-Control Project
Attachments: L to Ivanpah-Control re SCE Powerlines.pdf

Please see the attached letter with comments regarding the Draft EIR for the SCE Ivanpah-Control Project. Please let me know that you received this email and attached letter.

Thank you in advance for your attention to this matter.

Terry Cavanagh, S.E.

Written Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Report

SCE Ivanpah-Control Project

Application A.19-07-015 · State Clearinghouse #2020080553

Crater Mountain Realignment Alternative · 945 Birch Creek Road, Big Pine, CA

Submitted to:

Aspen Environmental Group, on behalf of the California Public Utilities Commission

Email: Ivanpah-Control@aspeneg.com

Subject: Draft EIR Comments - SCE Ivanpah-Control Project

To whom it may concern,

My name is Terry Cavanagh and I'm a California Structural Engineer who owns an engineering company in California. Our company focuses on structural, electrical, I&C, and control systems programming for utilities and municipalities.

I'm writing in support of the Birch Creek community where SCE plans to run a power line through the area, and in particular, across a specific homeowner's private property. In the case of this specific property, the proposal includes power lines more than 50 feet inside the property fence.

Based on my experience over the past 40+ years in the industry, I believe the following issues have not been sufficiently addressed:

1. Increased fire risk — with the proposed alignment, power lines will be significantly closer to the existing structures. Should a fire be caused by the SCE power lines, this fire will be closer to the structures and therefore will reduce the time local fire personal will have to protect the existing structures. Another minor issue is that this can cause an increase in fire insurance due to the increase fire risk.
2. Increased noise on the adjacent properties — while the corona noise caused by these power lines may be minor, it will be added to the already significant corona noise from the existing DWP power lines west of the properties. I have personally heard this noise at the site, and it can be loud enough to cause anxiety for anyone walking near or under the wires. To add a wire on private property will reduce the tranquility experienced when walking on the nature trails around the property.
3. Negative visual impact for the adjacent properties — while there are already DWP lines within the area that already obstruct the views of the mountains, adding more lines will only exacerbate the problem and in the end will negatively impact the value of these properties. Furthermore, the new tower(s) will be significantly more visible due to the solid nature of a 3-foot (or larger) steel pole. The existing towers are lattice framing that allows the background to be seen through the structures.
4. Negatively impact the use of the property at 945 Birch Creek — this property has many walking paths that are used often for tranquil walks during the day and evening. The proposed location of a power pole will be within a few feet of the primary path.
5. Significantly reduce property value at 945 Birch Creek - with the proposed alignment, the western edge of the property, within 200 feet of the west fence, will be negatively impacted for future development. This part of the property will no longer be developable without building under or very close to power lines.

I understand that various alternatives to running across private property have been discussed and have been met with resistance to change due to structural issues. As an S.E., with over 40 years of experience, I personally do not believe this is true. I've worked on many complicated industrial projects including oil refineries, offshore platforms and various treatment plants. All of these projects have had structural issues that were far more complicated than moving some electrical lines. In all these cases, the issues have always been resolved through the creative excellence of the design team.

With all this said, I do understand that SCE does need to upgrade its power system and these lines need to go somewhere. I also appreciate that burying said lines is cost prohibitive. It is therefore acknowledged that the project will need to be completed with exposed wires. However, I do believe the impacts to the Birch Creek community can be minimized. I see a few viable options as:

1. Stay with the current alignment along highway 395.
2. Run the proposed line west of the existing DWP power lines. I realize that this may require the two lines to cross each other, but this is done all the time and can be completed for this project. SCE confirmed that this is a technically viable option during a phone call that I participated in on May 14, 2026.

3. Run the proposed line west of the developed properties and east of the existing DWP lines. While this will help with the impacts mentioned above, it still results in increased fire risk to the existing properties.

In closing, I'm confident that SCE can either use the existing alignment along highway 395 or develop a deviation from the alternative alignment that reduces impact to the existing property owners.

Thank you for your time and consideration of these issues.

Terry Cavanagh, S.E.
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