



Date: 05/27/2026

To: Apache County Planning & Zoning Commission
75 West Cleveland Street
St. Johns, AZ 85936

Subject: Request for Independent Communications and Radar Impact Studies Prior to Approval of Additional Wind Energy Projects

Dear Members of the Apache County Planning & Zoning Commission,

Round Valley Fire & Medical Department respectfully submits this letter regarding concerns associated with proposed wind energy developments within Apache County and their potential impacts on emergency communications systems, public safety operations, and critical infrastructure serving the White Mountains region.

After reviewing documentation and statements of concern submitted by residents, licensed radio operators, and other stakeholders, we believe there is sufficient justification for Apache County to require additional independent analysis prior to the approval of additional wind energy projects in close proximity to Greens Peak, TV Knoll, and other critical communications sites.

Emergency communications infrastructure in this region supports fire suppression operations, emergency medical services, law enforcement, emergency management, public utilities, hospitals, transportation systems, and interagency mutual aid coordination across a large and geographically challenging response area. Reliable radio and communications capabilities are essential to public safety and emergency response operations.

Based upon the concerns outlined in the submitted materials, we respectfully request that Apache County require the following studies before issuing additional permits or approvals for wind energy development projects:

1. Independent Existing Baseline Communications Study

An independent, professionally conducted baseline study should be completed to identify and document all existing communications systems currently operating within the affected region. This study should evaluate public safety radio systems, emergency management communications, microwave links, cellular communications, aviation systems, utility communications, amateur radio systems, and any other critical communications infrastructure potentially affected by wind turbine development.

2. Cumulative Communications and Radar Impact Analysis

A comprehensive cumulative impact analysis should be conducted to evaluate the combined effects of existing, approved, and proposed wind energy projects on communications systems, radar operations, emergency response interoperability, and aviation safety. This analysis should include consultation with affected public safety agencies, communications professionals, and applicable federal and state agencies including the FCC and FAA.



Given the critical importance of uninterrupted communications during emergencies, we believe these studies are necessary to ensure that future development does not unintentionally compromise emergency response capabilities, responder safety, or public safety communications throughout Apache County.

This request is not intended to oppose responsible energy development. Rather, it is intended to ensure that development decisions are informed by objective technical analysis and that appropriate safeguards are established to protect critical public safety infrastructure relied upon by residents, visitors, and emergency responders.

We appreciate the Commission's consideration of these concerns and respectfully request that these studies be completed prior to the approval of additional wind energy projects within the region.

Sincerely,

Brannon Eagar
Town Manager

Where Roads Hit The Trails

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