



United States Department of the Interior
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Timpanogos Cave National Monument
R.R. 3 Box 200
American Fork, Utah 84003



December 12, 2008

Dear Interested Party:

The National Park Service is proposing to install a new electrical line at the Timpanogos Cave National Monument that would supply more dependable electrical power to the caves. The current condition of the existing electrical lines/poles is so poor that PacifiCorp (doing business as Rocky Mountain Power) can no longer safely maintain them, thereby increasing the potential for more frequent and severe power outages and possibly a failure to the system that could cause the caves in the Monument to lose electrical power altogether. In addition, the caves have only radio communication which is less dependable than a hard land line telephone. The proposed new electrical line would be constructed with a conductor (wire) manufactured with internal fiber optic strands that are intended to be used for telephone/communication service. The telephone line would be used to upgrade the security system for the cave. Therefore, this project is needed to 1) maintain consistent and dependable electrical power to the caves, 2) improve safety and accessibility of the power line, and 3) provide a dependable telephone system at the caves.

Electrical power to the caves is currently supplied by a power line that runs through the Monument. This line consists of eight pole/anchor locations. The proposed action would reduce the total number of pole/anchor locations from eight to three and would install a new fiber optic cable to provide telephone capability to the caves in addition to electrical power. As part of this project, the eight existing poles and power lines would be removed and those areas would be rehabilitated, as needed. The proposed line would begin at a disturbed quarry site in the Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest and then enter the National Monument for the remainder of its run up to the caves. In the Monument there would be poles at Dead Dog Point and an anchor on a cliff face several hundred feet west of the entrance to the caves. Numerous alternate routes were examined in the early planning for the project.

NPS is working in cooperation with USFS on this project and will be preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). This environmental document will provide the decision-making framework that 1) analyzes a reasonable range of alternatives to meet project objectives, 2) evaluates potential issues and impacts to park resources and values, and 3) identifies mitigation measures to lessen the degree or extent of these impacts.

NPS encourages public participation throughout the NEPA process during which the public has two opportunities to formally comment on the project; once during initial project scoping and again following release of the EA. We are currently in the scoping phase of this project, and invite you to submit your written comments online at the NPS Planning, Environment, and Public Comment website at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/tica>.

If you are not able to submit comments electronically through this website, then you may also submit written comments to me at the address on the letterhead, or make an appointment to discuss this project in person with me. Please provide all comments by January 12, 2009. These comments will be considered during preparation of the EA. We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

/s/

Denis Davis
Superintendent, Timpanogos Cave National Monument