

Submission
No 209

**INQUIRY INTO FEASIBILITY OF UNDERGROUNDING
THE TRANSMISSION INFRASTRUCTURE FOR
RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECTS**

Name: Name suppressed
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Partially
Confidential

To Whom it may concern,

I am writing to advocate for the implementation of underground powerlines as a superior alternative to overhead powerlines. In recent years, there has been a growing consensus among experts and communities about the numerous benefits associated with burying powerlines underground. I would like to highlight the advantages that make this approach more desirable from a safety and efficiency perspective.

Enhanced Safety:

One of the most significant advantages of underground powerlines is improved safety. Overhead powerlines are susceptible to damage caused by severe weather conditions, such as storms, heavy winds, or falling trees. These incidents can result in power outages, electrical fires, and even pose risks to public safety. Underground powerlines, on the other hand, are shielded from most external elements, reducing the likelihood of damage and minimizing potential hazards.

Aesthetics and Urban Development:

Overhead powerlines can significantly impact the visual appeal of a neighborhood or cityscape. They obstruct views, create a cluttered appearance, and can detract from the natural beauty of an area. By relocating powerlines underground, we can significantly improve the aesthetics and enhance the overall attractiveness of our communities. This can lead to increased property values, tourism, and an overall improvement in the quality of life for residents.

Reliability and Resilience:

Underground powerlines are inherently more reliable and resilient than their overhead counterparts. They are less susceptible to extreme weather conditions, including lightning strikes, ice storms, and high winds, which are leading causes of power outages. By eliminating the vulnerability associated with overhead lines, we can enhance the stability of the power grid, ensuring uninterrupted electricity supply to businesses, homes, and critical infrastructure, even in adverse weather conditions.

Environmental Benefits:

Underground powerlines offer environmental advantages over traditional overhead lines. They reduce the risk of wildlife electrocution and collision, helping to protect and preserve local biodiversity. Moreover, underground lines eliminate the need for clearing vegetation around powerlines, minimizing deforestation and preserving the natural landscape. These benefits align with our collective commitment to sustainable development and environmental stewardship.

Future-Proofing Infrastructure:

As our cities and communities grow, so does the demand for electricity. By investing in underground powerlines, we future-proof our infrastructure and accommodate increasing power requirements. Underground systems have higher capacity capabilities, allowing for efficient transmission of larger electrical loads. This adaptability is crucial in meeting the demands of our evolving society and supporting sustainable development for years to come.

While it is acknowledged that the initial costs associated with burying powerlines can be significant, the long-term benefits far outweigh the investment. Additionally, the costs have been decreasing due to advancements in technology and construction methods. By prioritizing safety, aesthetics,

reliability, and environmental considerations, we can create a more sustainable and resilient power grid.

In conclusion, transitioning to underground powerlines is a prudent and forward-thinking decision. It enhances public safety, improves the visual appeal of our communities, ensures reliable electricity supply, benefits the environment, and future-proofs our infrastructure. I urge you to consider the advantages highlighted above and take the necessary steps to explore the feasibility of underground powerline installation in our region.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,