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To whom this may concern,

My name is Jeremy Nix. I am employed by Southern Pioneer Electric Company as a Staking/Engineering Tech. I'm writing this letter to speak of the advantages for communications to be installed underground rather than aerial.

It is in my opinion that underground electric services to homes and all communication fiber are better installed underground for the best reason of weather. Ice, trees, wind, tornados etc. will not bother underground utilities. Nothing can land on them and tear them off a home or a pole causing you to go long term without the service. Vehicles cannot hit them. People should not dig into them as 811 safe dig should have been called and the lines should be located.

Second is the power poles where the communication would attach can already be overloaded and to short to meet national clearances. A lot of poles already have two companies attached to them plus have the power lines on top. In order to have a third cable attach to them, poles would need to be changed, taller and stronger poles would need to be installed in order to keep clearances and weight loading correct. Installing taller and stronger poles would be very expensive and could increase rates for everyone, and you still have above ground poles that can be hit and broke causing major outages. Overhead lines in road right of ways or easements are a lot of times the backbone of the entire system and if that one pole goes down, lots of people and business can be affected. Overhead services to homes are often low across yards. Trampolines, swimming pools etc. are often put under service lines and can be a danger.

Very often, power poles are old. The power company changes poles daily. Each company attached to the pole has to either have a crew there to transfer the cables or the power company must transfer the cables which means a different company handling your equipment. Possibly that equipment could be something unfamiliar to them and can be damaged if not handled properly. Underground equipment is all locked into each companies own box that other companies do not have access to get into.

Southern Pioneer installs more and more power lines underground every year for prevention of damage from vehicles, people, and storms.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'J. Nix', written over a horizontal line.

Jeremy Nix
Engineering Technician
Southern Pioneer Electric Company