

ORIGINAL



0000018384

BEFORE THE ARIZONA POWER PLANT AND TRANSMISSION LINE SITING COMMITTEE

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF ARIZONA PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY IN CONFORMANCE WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES SECTION 40-360, et seq., FOR A CERTIFICATE OF ENVIRONMENTAL COMPATIBILITY AUTHORIZING THE WEST VALLEY NORTH 230KV TRANSMISSION LINE PROJECT, INCLUDING THE CONSTRUCTION OF APPROXIMATELY 25 MILES OF 230KV TRANSMISSION LINES AND TWO SUBSTATIONS IN MARICOPA COUNTY, ARIZONA, ORIGINATING AT THE TS2 SUBSTATION IN SECTION 25 TOWNSHIP 3 NORTH, RANGE 2 WEST, G&SRB&M AND CONTINUING TO THE PROPOSED TS1 SUBSTATION IN SECTION 20, TOWNSHIP 4 NORTH, RANGE 2 WEST, G&SRB&M AND TERMINATING AT THE PROPOSED TS5 SUBSTATION IN SECTION 29, TOWNSHIP 4 NORTH, RANGE 4 WEST, G&SRB&M

Docket No. L00000D-04-0127

Case No. 127

NOTICE OF FILING CERTIFICATE OF ENVIRONMENTAL COMPATIBILITY

AZ CORP COMMISSION DOCUMENT CONTROL

2005 MAR 21 P 4: 29

RECEIVED

The Arizona Power Plant and Transmission Line Siting Committee hereby gives Notice of Filing its Decision and Certificate of Environmental Compatibility, for approval by the Arizona Corporation Commission. A copy of the Decision is attached.

DATED, this 21<sup>ST</sup> day of MARCH, 2005.

Laurie A Woodall

Laurie A. Woodall, Chairman Arizona Power Plant & Transmission Line Siting Committee

ORIGINAL DECISION hand-delivered to the Commissioners' Division, and the Original and 25 copies of this Notice filed this 21 day of MARCH, 2005, with:

Arizona Corporation Commission DOCKETED

MAR 21 2005

DOCKETED BY [Signature]

1 Docket Control  
Arizona Corporation Commission  
2 1200 West Washington Street  
Phoenix, AZ 85007

3 COPIES of the foregoing  
4 mailed/faxed/e-mailed this  
2<sup>nd</sup> day of MARCH, 2005, to:

5 Diane Targovnik, Esq.  
6 Dawn Wilson  
Arizona Corporation Commission  
7 1200 West Washington Street  
Phoenix, AZ 85007

8 Ernest G. Johnson, Director  
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10 1200 West Washington Street  
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15 Suite 2600  
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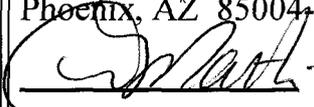
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3 Scottsdale, AZ 85251-0001

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5 Two Renaissance Square  
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6 Phoenix, AZ 85004-4429

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**BEFORE THE ARIZONA POWER PLANT AND  
TRANSMISSION LINE SITING COMMITTEE**

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION )  
OF ARIZONA PUBLIC SERVICE )  
COMPANY IN CONFORMANCE WITH )  
THE REQUIREMENTS OF ARIZONA )  
REVISED STATUTES SECTION 40-360, )  
et seq., FOR A CERTIFICATE OF )  
ENVIRONMENTAL COMPATIBILITY )  
AUTHORIZING THE WEST VALLEY )  
NORTH 230KV TRANSMISSION LINE )  
PROJECT, INCLUDING THE )  
CONSTRUCTION OF APPROXIMATELY )  
25 MILES OF 230KV TRANSMISSION )  
LINES AND TWO SUBSTATIONS IN )  
MARICOPA COUNTY, ARIZONA, )  
ORIGINATING AT THE TS2 )  
SUBSTATION IN SECTION 25 TOWNSHIP )  
3 NORTH, RANGE 2 WEST, G&SRB&M )  
AND CONTINUING TO THE PROPOSED )  
TS1 SUBSTATION IN SECTION 20, )  
TOWNSHIP 4 NORTH, RANGE 2 WEST, )  
G&SRB&M AND TERMINATING AT THE )  
PROPOSED TS5 SUBSTATION IN )  
SECTION 29, TOWNSHIP 4 NORTH, )  
RANGE 4 WEST, G&SRB&M )

Docket No. L00000D-04-0127

Case No. 127

Decision No. \_\_\_\_\_

**CERTIFICATE OF ENVIRONMENTAL COMPATIBILITY**

Pursuant to notice given as provided by law, the Arizona Power Plant and Transmission Line Siting Committee (the "Committee") held public hearings on January 24 and 25, February 28 and March 1, 2005, all in conformance with the requirements of Arizona Revised Statutes § 40-360, *et seq.*, for the purpose of receiving evidence and deliberating on the Application of Arizona Public Service Company ("Applicant") for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility in the above-captioned case. A route tour was conducted on February 22, 2005.

1 The following members and designees of members of the Committee were present  
2 at one or more of the hearings for the evidentiary presentations and/or for the  
3 deliberations:

4	Laurie Woodall	Chairman, Designee for Arizona Attorney General, Terry Goddard
5	Ray Williamson	Designee for Chairman, Arizona Corporation 6 Commission
7	Paul Rasmussen	Designee for Director, Arizona Department of 8 Environmental Quality
9	Mark McWhirter	Designee for Director, Energy Department, Arizona Department of Commerce
10	Greg Houtz	Designee Director, Arizona Department of Water Resources
11	Sandie Smith	Appointed Member
12	Jeff McGuire	Appointed Member
13	Margaret Trujillo	Appointed Member
14	A. Wayne Smith	Appointed Member
15	Michael Whalen	Appointed Member
16	Michael Palmer	Appointed Member

17  
18 The Applicant was represented by Thomas H. Campbell and Carol S. Comer of  
19 Lewis and Roca LLP. The following parties were granted intervention pursuant to A.R.S.  
20 § 40-360.05: Arizona Corporation Commission Staff, represented by Lisa Vandenberg and  
21 Diane Targovnik; Pulte Homes, represented by C. Webb Crockett of Fennemore Craig;  
22 Suburban Land Reserve, Inc., Property Reserve Arizona, LLC and Fulton Homes, Inc.,  
23 represented by Richard R. Thomas of Beus Gilbert PLLC; 10,000 West LLC and Stardust  
24 Development, Inc., represented by Lynne A. Lagarde of Earl Curley & Lagarde; South  
25 Side of Olive Avenue Property Owners and Hogan, Parker, Ivan and McDuff, LLC,  
26 represented by Court S. Rich of Rose Law Group, P.C.; Maricopa Water District,

1 represented by John R. Dacey of Gammage & Burnham; and propria persona, Walter W.  
2 Meek.

3 At the conclusion of the hearings, the Committee, having received the Application,  
4 the appearances of the parties, the evidence, testimony and exhibits presented at the  
5 hearings, and being advised of the legal requirements of Arizona Revised Statutes §§ 40-  
6 360 to 40-360.13, upon motion duly made and seconded, voted unanimously to grant the  
7 Applicant a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility (Case No. 127) for authority to  
8 construct the following facilities as requested in the Application: a double circuit 230kV  
9 transmission line with a 69kV underbuild within a corridor as indicated below, two  
10 substations and related facilities.

11 The West Valley – North transmission line route (depicted on Exhibit A (attached))  
12 will begin at the TS2 substation site located on the northwest corner of Loop 303 and  
13 Olive Avenue in Section 25, Township 3 North, Range 2 West (certificated in West  
14 Valley-South, Case 122). From there, the transmission line will extend north along the  
15 west side of Loop 303 within a 1500 foot corridor west of the centerline of Loop 303 and  
16 as close to Loop 303 as the City of Surprise, Maricopa County and the Arizona  
17 Department of Transportation will allow (and is technically feasible) to Cactus Road in  
18 Section 13, Township 3 North, Range 2 West. The line will then continue west along the  
19 north side of Cactus Road within a 1000 foot corridor from the centerline of Cactus and as  
20 close to Cactus Road as the City of Surprise will allow (and is technically feasible) to 0.5  
21 mile east of the 195<sup>th</sup> Avenue/Jackrabbit Trail alignment. The line will then extend north  
22 along the mid-section line between Perryville Road and the 195<sup>th</sup> Avenue/Jackrabbit Trail  
23 alignment in Section 16, Township 3 North, Range 2 West within a 4000 foot corridor  
24 (1,000 feet east and 3,000 feet west of the mid-section line), continue to the mid-section  
25 line 0.5 mile north of Union Hills Drive in Section 28, Township 4 North, Range 2 West,  
26 and then turn west along the mid-section line between Union Hills Drive and Beardsley

1 Road within a 4000 foot corridor (2,000 feet north and 2,000 feet south of the mid-section  
2 line) to a point 0.5 mile west of the 195<sup>th</sup> Avenue/Jackrabbit Trail alignment in Section 29,  
3 Township 4 North, Range 2 West. The line will then extend north along the mid-section  
4 line of Section 20, Township 4 North, Range 2 West within a 4000 foot corridor (1,000  
5 feet east and 3,000 feet west of the mid-section line) into the proposed TS1 230 kV/69 kV  
6 substation after crossing under the existing 500kV transmission lines. The proposed TS1  
7 substation would include up to 10 acres of land located in the SE ¼ of the NW ¼ of  
8 Section 20, Township 4 North, Range 2 West, approximately at the half-section line north  
9 of Beardsley Road. The line will continue west out of the proposed TS1 substation along  
10 the north side of the existing 500kV transmission line corridor, to 243<sup>rd</sup> Avenue within a  
11 1000 foot corridor from the north boundary of the existing transmission line corridor right  
12 of way, turn north on 243<sup>rd</sup> Avenue, which is the section line between Sections 20 and 21,  
13 Township 4 North, Range 3 West within a 1000 foot corridor (500 feet on either side of  
14 the 243<sup>rd</sup> Avenue centerline), and then cross the CAP Canal on the section line between  
15 Sections 16 and 17, Township 4 North, Range 3 West. The line will extend west generally  
16 paralleling the CAP Canal on the north side of the Canal within a 2500 foot corridor from  
17 the fence-line of the Canal until, approximately, the mid-section of Section 20, Township  
18 4 North, Range 4 West where the line will cross to the south side of the CAP Canal. The  
19 line will continue south on the mid-section line of Sections 20 and 29 (291<sup>st</sup> Avenue  
20 alignment), Township 4 North, Range 4 West within a 2000 foot corridor (a 1000 foot  
21 corridor on either side of the 291<sup>st</sup> Avenue alignment), and then into the proposed TS5  
22 500kV/230kV/69kV substation located in Section 29, Township 4 North, Range 4 West,  
23 within the 4000 foot corridor described in the notice of hearing published on November  
24 30, 2004 in the *Arizona Republic* newspaper.

25 The Project shall be constructed with double circuit monopoles from the TS2  
26 substation site to the TS1 substation and from the existing 500kV transmission line

1 corridor at 243<sup>rd</sup> Avenue to the proposed TS5 substation site. Double circuit 69kV may be  
2 constructed on monopoles in all sections where monopoles are placed.

3 The Project shall be constructed with double circuit lattice towers west out of the  
4 TS1 substation until the line turns north from the existing 500 kV transmission line  
5 corridor at 243<sup>rd</sup> Avenue.

6 This Certificate is granted upon the following conditions:

- 7 1. The Applicant shall obtain all required approvals and permits  
8 necessary to construct the Project.
- 9 2. The Applicant shall comply with all existing applicable air and water  
10 pollution control standards and regulations, and with all existing  
11 applicable ordinances, master plans and regulations of the State of  
12 Arizona, the County of Maricopa, the United States, and any other  
13 governmental entities having jurisdiction.
- 14 3. This authorization to construct the Project shall expire 10 years from  
15 the date the Certificate is approved by the Arizona Corporation  
16 Commission unless construction is completed to the point that the  
17 Project is capable of operating by that time; provided, however, that  
18 the authorization to construct the second circuit of the Project shall  
19 expire 20 years from the date of this Certificate; provided however  
20 that prior to either such expiration the Applicant or its assignees may  
21 request that the Commission extend this time limitation.
- 22 4. The Applicant shall make every reasonable effort to identify and  
23 correct, on a case-specific basis, all complaints of interference with  
24 radio or television signals from operation of the transmission line and  
25 related facilities addressed in this Certificate. The Applicant shall  
26 maintain written records for a period of five years of all complaints of

1 radio or television interference attributable to operation, together with  
2 the corrective action taken in response to each complaint. All  
3 complaints shall be recorded to include notations on the corrective  
4 action taken. Complaints not leading to a specific action or for which  
5 there was no resolution shall be noted and explained. The record shall  
6 be signed by the Applicant and also the complainant, if possible, to  
7 indicate concurrence with the corrective action or agreement with the  
8 justification for a lack of action.

9 5. The Project shall comply with applicable noise guidelines of the  
10 federal Department of Housing and Urban Development and the  
11 Environmental Protection Agency.

12 6. Applicant shall maintain a setback distance of 100 feet from the toe of  
13 McMicken Dam for any lattice tower or monopole structure related to  
14 the Project.

15 7. The Applicant has consulted with the State Historic Preservation  
16 Office ("SHPO") and by letter dated January 6, 2005, SHPO  
17 determined that the Beardsley Canal (AZ T:6:5 ASTM) is eligible for  
18 inclusion in the State Register of Historic Places. In order to  
19 minimize impacts to properties considered eligible for inclusion in the  
20 State and National Register of Historic Places to the extent possible,  
21 the Applicant shall comply with SHPO's recommendations in the  
22 January 6, 2005 letter, including the recommendation that the Project  
23 span Beardsley Canal. A copy of this letter is Attachment B.

24 8. If human remains and/or funerary objects are encountered during the  
25 course of any ground disturbing activities relating to the development  
26 of the subject property, Applicant shall cease work on the affected

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area of the Project and notify the Director of the Arizona State Museum in accordance with A.R.S. § 41-865.

9. Applicant shall consult an archeologist during construction activities in applicable areas, as determined by SHPO, to advise them in connection with any additional archeological studies that may be required and any mitigation efforts for archeological sites that may be affected by the construction of the Project.
10. After construction, the Applicant, in conjunction with any applicable land managing agency, shall allow Arizona Site Stewards, a volunteer-staffed SHPO program, to periodically inspect archeological sites within the corridor for vandalism or other damage.
11. The Applicant shall follow the Arizona State Land Department's instructions, if any, regarding the treatment of State Register of Historic Places-eligible properties situated on Arizona State Land Department land in consultation with SHPO.
12. In consultation with SHPO and the land-managing agency, the Applicant will consider and assess potential direct and indirect impacts to eligible properties related to new access roads or any existing access roads that require blading.
13. Where practicable, the Applicant shall use existing roads for construction and access. The Applicant shall minimize vegetation disturbance outside of the power-line right of way, particularly in drainage channels and along stream banks, and shall re-vegetate native areas of construction disturbance outside of the power-line right of way after construction has been completed.

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14. The Applicant shall use non-specular conductor and dulled surfaces for transmission line structures.

15. Within 45 days of securing easement or right of way for the Project, the Applicant shall erect and maintain signs providing public notice that the property is the site of a future transmission line or substation site. Such signage shall be no smaller than a normal roadway sign printed on materials of a color designed to attract attention. The Applicant shall place signs such that the public is notified along the full length of the transmission line until the transmission structures are constructed. There must also be signs at the location of the proposed substations. The signs shall advise:

- that the site has been approved for the construction of Project facilities including a 230 kV transmission line, as applicable to the individual site;
- the size and location of the respective substations;
- the expected date of completion of the Project facilities;
- a phone number for public information regarding the Project;
- the name of the project;
- the name of the applicant; and
- the applicant's website.

16. In the event that the Project requires an extension of the term of this Certificate prior to completion of construction, Applicant shall use reasonable means to directly notify all landowners and residents within a one-half mile radius of the Project facilities for which the extension is sought. Such landowners and residents shall be notified

1 of the time and place of the proceeding in which the Commission  
2 shall consider such request for extension.

- 3 17. Before construction on this Project may commence, the Applicant  
4 must file a construction mitigation and reclamation plan with ACC  
5 Docket Control with copies to affected areas of jurisdiction. The  
6 Applicant shall, within one year of completion of construction of the  
7 Project, revegetate any native area disturbed by construction of the  
8 Project outside of the power-line right of way, except for any road  
9 that may be necessary to access the transmission lines or substation  
10 sites for maintenance and repair.

11 The goals of the Plan will be to:

- 12 • Avoid impacts where practical;  
13 • Where impacts are unavoidable, minimize impacts; and  
14 • Focus on site preparation to facilitate natural processes of  
15 revegetation and drainage.

16 Other key elements of the Plan, when not inconsistent with the  
17 respective land management agencies' or local owners' requirements  
18 are to:

- 19 • Emphasize final site preparation to encourage natural  
20 revegetation;  
21 • Avoid (i.e., preserve), where practical, mature native trees;  
22 • Stipulate a maximum construction corridor width;  
23 • Reserve topsoil and native plant materials from right-of-way  
24 before grading, and distribute over the right-of-way after  
25 construction is complete;  
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- Imprint the reclaimed right-of-way to provide indentations to catch seed and water;
  - Implement best management practices to protect the soil;
  - Apply reclamation methods that have been proven effective in the desert environment; and
  - Prevent, where applicable, the spread of noxious weeds or other undesirable species.
18. Applicant shall comply with the mitigation measures contained in the December 27, 2004 letter from Arizona Game and Fish Department to the Power Plant and Transmission Line Siting Committee which is attached as Exhibit C.
19. Applicant shall monitor all ground clearing/disturbance activities that could affect sensitive species or habitat. Where warranted, Applicant shall retain a qualified biologist to conduct pre-construction activities to minimize or prevent impacts to sensitive species or habitat. Specifically, Applicant shall survey or monitor for Sonoran desert tortoises. If desert tortoises are encountered during construction, the Applicant shall follow the Arizona Game & Fish Department's Guidelines for Handling Sonoran Desert Tortoises.
20. Applicant shall salvage mesquite, ironwood, palo verde trees and saguaros removed during project construction activities consistent with Arizona's Native Plant Law and use the vegetation for reclamation in or near its original location.
21. Applicant shall work with the applicable jurisdictions to implement landscaping for the substation sites in accordance with municipal planning and zoning requirements.



EXHIBIT 'A'

# Exhibit A System Option Approved by Siting Committee

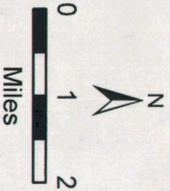
**Legend**  
 Siting Corridor

**March 2005**  
**West Valley-North Power Line and Substation Project**

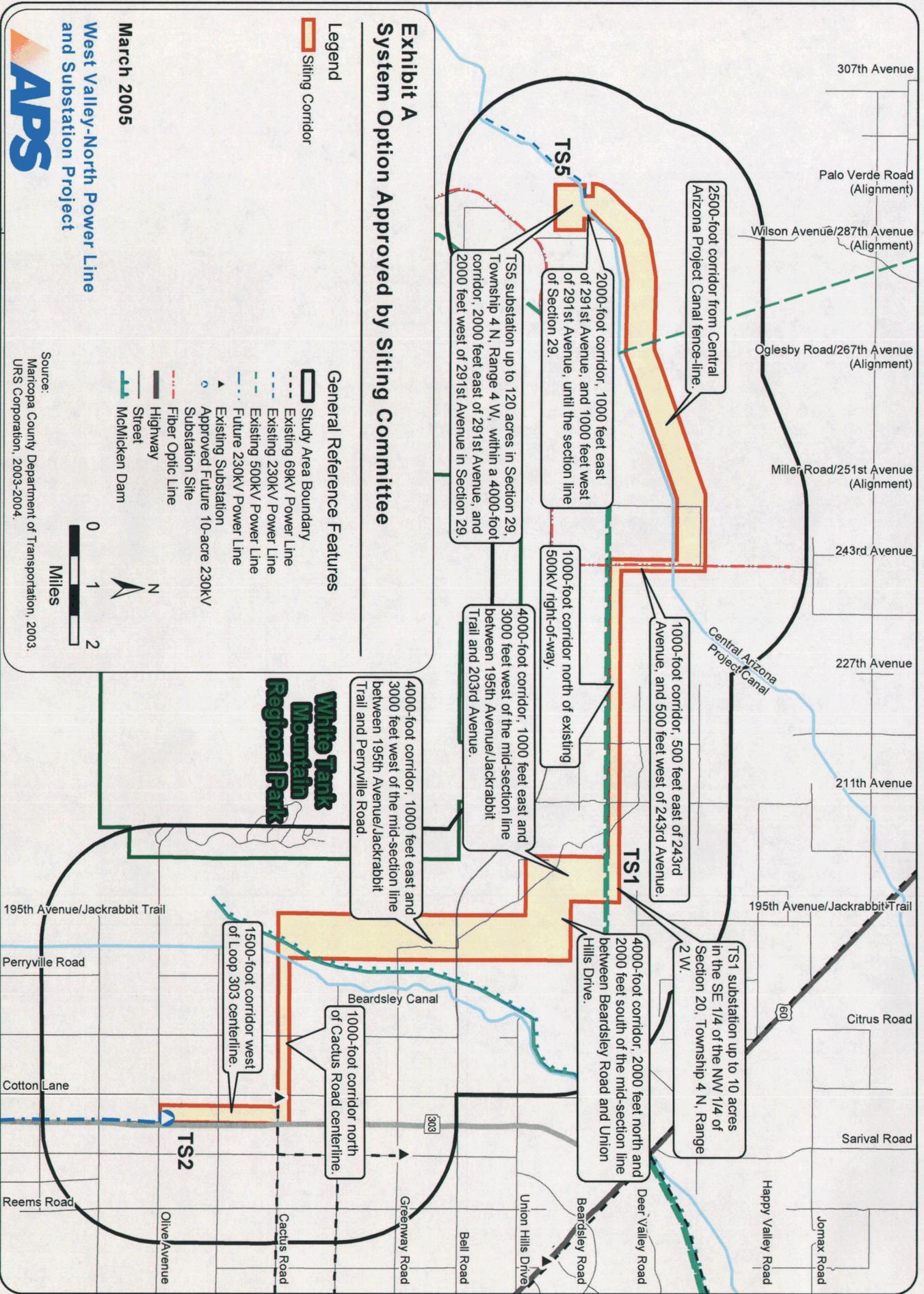


## General Reference Features

-  Study Area Boundary
-  Existing 69kV Power Line
-  Existing 230kV Power Line
-  Existing 500kV Power Line
-  Future 230kV Power Line
-  Future 500kV Power Line
-  Existing Substation
-  Approved Future 10-acre 230kV Substation Site
-  Fiber Optic Line
-  Highway
-  Street
-  McMicken Dam



Source:  
 Maricopa County Department of Transportation, 2003.  
 URS Corporation, 2003-2004.



**White Tank Mountain Regional Park**

EXHIBIT 'B'

In reply, please refer to  
SHPO-2004-2278 (22372)  
State Historic Preservation Act  
no historic properties affected



January 6, 2005

Laurie A. Woodall, Chairperson,  
Power Plant and Transmission Line Siting Committee  
Assistant Attorney General, Environmental Enforcement Section,  
Office of the Attorney General  
1275 West Washington  
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

Janet Napolitano  
Governor

RE: Arizona Public Service (APS) West Valley-North Transmission Line and  
Substation Project, Maricopa County, Arizona; Case No. 127

State Parks  
Board Members

Dear Ms. Woodall:

Chair  
John U. Hays  
Yarnell

Thank you for consulting with this office regarding the above-mentioned state plan and associated certificate of environmental compatibility. The proposed plan entails the construction of ca. 25.1 miles of overhead utility lines, access roads as needed and two substations. The plan involves mainly private land, although some Maricopa County Flood Control District, Arizona State Land Department, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, lands are present. We received both the Application and a cultural resources survey report. Historian Bill Collins and I reviewed the documents submitted and offer the following comments pursuant to the State Historic Preservation Act (i.e., A.R.S. § 41-861 to 41-864) and the committee's factors to be considered (i.e., A.R.S. § 40-360.06.A.5).

Elizabeth Stewart  
Tempe

William C. Porter  
Kingham

William Cordasco  
Flagstaff

Gabriel Beechum  
Florence

Janice Chilton  
Payson

Mark Winkelman  
State Land  
Commissioner

Our advice to a state agency under state law should not be used or construed in any way to substitute for or limit our advice to a federal agency under federal law much less foreclose or limit a federal agency's decision-making ability. If a federal agency is associated with this state plan, they may have undertaking and need to consult with our office directly under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act if they haven't done so already.

Kenneth E. Travous  
Executive Director

The cultural resource survey of the proposed right-of-way corridor identified four historic-period structures, seven historic or prehistoric archaeological sites and 34 isolated artifact and/or feature occurrences (IOs). The report was professionally prepared and well written.

Arizona State Parks  
1300 W. Washington  
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Tel & TTY: 602.542.4174  
www.azstateparks.com

800.285.3703 from  
(520 & 928) area codes

We agree that the Beardsley Canal (AZ T:6:5 ASM) is eligible for inclusion in the State Register of Historic Places. We agree that the Atchison Topeka & Santa Fe Railroad Spur, McMicken Dam, an unnamed earthwork structure (AZ T:7:344 ASM), Site AZ T:6:3.(ASU), and Sites AZ T:6: 13, 14, 96, 97, 98, and 99 (ASM), as

General Fax:  
602.542.4180

Director's Office Fax:  
602.542.4180

Letter to Siting Committee, 1/6/05, Page 2  
Arizona Public Service West Valley-North Transmission Line and Substation Project, Maricopa  
County, Arizona; Case No. 127

well as the 34 IOs are ineligible for inclusion in the State Register of Historic Places at this time. We note that McMicken Dam is not yet 50 years old and its Register-eligibility status may need to be reassessed in the future. Please consider any comments the committee receives from the land-managing agency.

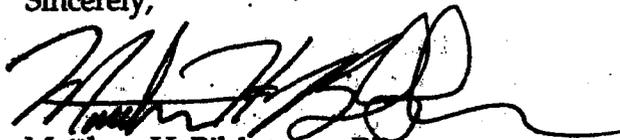
Based on the above, a finding of no impacts (cf. no historic properties affected) is warranted for this plan and no further preservation treatment is needed provided that the transmission line avoids impacting the Beardsley Canal by spanning over it as planned.

We offer the following condition for the committee's consideration:

1) Should an archaeological, paleontological, or historical site or object be discovered during plan-related activities on state, city, or county land, the person in charge is required to notify promptly the Director of the Arizona State Museum and take reasonable steps to secure and maintain the resource's preservation pursuant to state law (i.e., A.R.S. § 41-844). If a discovery involves human remains or funerary objects and occurs on private land, procedures implementing A.R.S. § 41-865 must be followed.

We appreciate the committee's cooperation with this office in considering the effects of state plans on cultural resources situated in Arizona. If you have any questions, please contact me at (602) 542-7137 or via [mbilsbarrow@pr.state.az.us](mailto:mbilsbarrow@pr.state.az.us).

Sincerely,



Matthew H. Bilsbarrow, RPA  
Planner / Archaeologist  
Arizona State Historic Preservation Office

cc.  
Bill Collins, SHPO  
Gene Rogge, URS

EXHIBIT 'C'



THE STATE OF ARIZONA  
**GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT**

2221 WEST GREENWAY ROAD, PHOENIX, AZ 85023-4399  
(602) 942-3000 • AZGFD.COM

GOVERNOR  
JANET NAPOLITANO  
COMMISSIONERS  
CHAIRMAN, SUSAN E. CHILTON, ARIZONA  
W. HAYS GILSTRAP, PHOENIX  
JOE MELTON, YUMA  
MICHAEL M. GOLIGHTLY, FLAGSTAFF  
WILLIAM H. MCLEAN, GOLD CANYON  
DIRECTOR  
DUANE L. SHROUPE  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR  
STEVE K. FERRELL



December 27, 2004

Ms. Laurie A. Woodall, Chairman  
Power Plant and Transmission Line Siting Committee  
Office of the Attorney General  
1275 West Washington  
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

RECEIVED  
BY: *M. D.*

Re: Certificate of Environmental Compatibility for the West Valley-North Power Line and Substation Project

Dear Chairman Woodall:

The Arizona Game and Fish Department (Department) has reviewed the above-referenced Certificate of Environmental Compatibility (CEC) for potential impacts to fish and wildlife resources. The Department understands that the proposed project consists of constructing one 230 kilovolt (kV) substation, one 500 kV substation, and associated 230 kV power lines. These infrastructure upgrades are to improve electrical reliability and to accommodate for future electrical load growth occurring within and around the study areas.

Based on information within the CEC application, it appears that the majority of the proposed routes will follow the existing 500 kV power line, Central Arizona Project Canal, routes or roadways in/near residential areas. We support locating power lines along previously disturbed routes to minimize any impacts to wildlife and associated habitats. We also understand that land adjacent to the proposed corridor has been designated for development and would be developed prior to the construction of the power line, further reducing the potential for impacts from this project.

Since various raptor species may use transmission line support structures for perching and/or nesting, the Department recommends that APS follow the established guidelines within their Raptor Protection Program to ensure that necessary preventative measures are incorporated into the project to minimize the potential for electrocution to raptors.

The proposed substation sites as assessed in Exhibit D, conclude disturbance in the area would generate low impacts to wildlife and associated habitats, due to the existing vegetation communities and existing dirt roads; however, the xeroriparian and wash bottom communities do provide important movement corridors for wildlife. The Department supports the recommendations listed in this Exhibit with regards to the Preferred System Option and the avoidance of these wash communities to minimize any potential fragmentation of these corridors.

Ms. Laurie A. Woodall  
December 27, 2004

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The Department appreciates the opportunity to review this CEC application prior to consideration by the Power Plant and Transmission Line Siting Committee. We look forward to working closely with the Committee in the future to develop potential alternatives and appropriate mitigation to avoid or minimize impacts to fish and wildlife resources as a result of proposed powerplant and transmission line projects. If you have any questions or require any additional information regarding this letter, please contact me at (602) 789-3605.

Sincerely,



Bob Broscheid  
Habitat Branch Chief

BB:kh

cc: Rebecca Davidson, Project Evaluation Program Supervisor  
Russ Haughey, Habitat Program Manager, Region VI  
Mike DeWitt, APS Project Manager