

L-00000A-06-0295-00130



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ORIGINAL
ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION

4700

UTILITY COMPLAINT FORM

Investigator: Trish Meeter

Phone: [REDACTED]

Fax: [REDACTED]

Priority: Respond Within Five Days

Opinion No. 2006 - 53551

Date: 7/10/2006

Complaint Description: 10Z Construction - Other

First:

Last:

Complaint By: Robert A.

Witzeman M.D.

Account Name: Maricopa Audubon Society

Home: [REDACTED]

Street: [REDACTED]

Work:

City: [REDACTED]

CBR:

State: [REDACTED]

is:

Utility Company: Miscellaneous Electric

Division: Electric

Contact Name: Unknown

Contact Phone: (000) 000-0000

Nature of Complaint:

06/23/06 CORRESPONDENCE
Docket # L-00000A-06-0295-00130

June 23, 2006

CPUC/BLM
c/o Aspen Environmental Group
[REDACTED]

Arizona Corporation Commission
DOCKETED

JUL 11 2006

DOCKETED BY [REDACTED] *nr*

AZ CORP COMMISSION
DOCUMENT CONTROL

2006 JUL 11 A 9:26

RECEIVED

Arizona Corporation Commission,
Utilities Division,
1200 West Washington,
Phoenix, AZ 85007-2996.

Chairman Jeff Hatch-Miller and Commissioners Mayes, Mundell, Spitzer, Gleason. Dear Commissioners
On behalf of the 2300 members of the Maricopa Audubon Society here in central Arizona, we would like to express our concern that our utility will end up charging higher rates as it will have to pay more for electricity if this Palo-Verde Devers line is built and the electricity is shipped to California.

To the chagrin of our 2300 members, the primary route for this proposed line would cut through the KOFA National Wildlife Refuge. Currently a Devers-Palo Verde line exists. The first line was completed in 1978. This proposal for a second line has been around for a while, but has been controversial since its inception. By 1989 or 1990 the second line had progressed to the point of having an Environmental Compatibility Analysis performed and deemed acceptable for the project. The project had reached the point where permits were issued by the local agencies and were awaiting the signature of then President George H.W. Bush who did not sign before leaving office. All the permit issues died under President Clinton.

The KOFA (after King of Arizona Mine) National Wildlife Refuge was created in 1939 and contains 665,400 acres of desert habitat. The KOFA Wilderness area was created in 1990, after the first line was installed, and is

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approximately 516,300 acres in size. There was a clause in the Desert Wilderness Act that excluded a right-of-way for the second line to cross the KOFA Wilderness. That is the primary route proposed for this line.

CONCERNS OF THE MARICOPA AUDUBON SOCIETY:

1) A second power transmission line would further fragment and reduce the quality and quantity of habitats on the KOFA National Wildlife Refuge. By that standard alone the proposed new 500 KV is incompatible with the mission of the refuge. The Right-of-Way (ROW) through KOFA is prime desert big horn sheep and desert tortoise habitat. The line will also further obstruct the natural view of the area that is pristine desert landscape and clearly negatively affect the wilderness values of the refuge.

2) Nearly 400 acres would be affected through the KOFA National Wildlife Refuge, by the measured right-of-way that is 130 feet wide and 24 miles long. More than likely, however, additional land will be affected as construction vehicles travel along the first line's ROW and then across to the new ROW or completely out of the limits. This wide corridor, 560 feet wide, (130 + 300 + 130) could eliminate the necessary ground cover or protection needed by some species to traverse this area, making a boundary to limit their domain or an area of prey if they try to cross the ROW.

3) Mitigation of negative impacts to plant resources (i.e., transplanting cacti) was not successful during construction of the first power line. Major disturbances would occur at each of the 85 tower sites during construction for the pouring of the concrete footings and the equipment necessary to erect the towers and string the electric lines. Additional impacts would include establishment of invasive plant species in the disturbed areas and the increased probability of illegal use of the ROW by off-road vehicles.

4) The primary route is not an environmentally friendly route to plan the ROW but the alternative routes are not good routes either. The proposed routes destroy pristine desert views, cross critical desert habitat, go through populated areas, and would destroy desert environments. That is just another reason to question the need for this project.

5) This project has been in a near "finalized" form for over 15 years and California seems to be getting along just fine without the new power line. Besides, Phoenix is the fifth largest city in the nation and one of the fastest growing areas in the nation. It is likely in the near future that the metro area will consume all of the power generated in the area and therefore will not have any additional electrical energy to transport out of the area. Why then, is this line needed to send power to California?

6) There were many factors that caused the "Rolling Blackouts" in California a few years ago. One of the main reasons was a struggle between the regulators and the power companies and the energy companies withholding electricity to drive up the price. We should not let the decision makers sway the argument based on the contrived rolling blackouts.

WE NEED ANSWERS!

Have any non-development alternatives been considered? Can California institute energy conservation programs equivalent to the amount of energy this line will carry? Can environmentally-friendly, renewable, and sustainable energy sources be implemented i.e., solar, wind, or biomass, so this line is not necessary?

What does Arizona get out of this deal? We generate the power, we destroy our landscape, we destroy our views, we destroy our animal habitats-- California gets cheaper power.

Our chapter opposes this power line.

Sincerely,

Robert A. Witzeman, M.D., Conservation Chair
Maricopa Audubon Society


End of Complaint

Utilities' Response:

Investigator's Comments and Disposition:

ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION
UTILITY COMPLAINT FORM

07/10/06
July 10, 2006

RE: SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EDISON COMPANY

Dear Dr. Witzeman:

Your letter regarding the Southern California Edison Company's ("SCEC") application for Certificate of Environmental Compatibility will be placed on file with the Docket Control Center of the Arizona Corporation Commission ("Commission") to be made part of the record. The Commission will consider your comments before a decision is rendered in the SCEC application.

The concerns raised in letters received from customers will assist the Commission in the investigation and review of the application. The Commission's independent analysis of the utility and its request attempts to balance the interest of the utility and its customers.

Staff appreciates your comments and the interest taken on the proposed application. If you should have any questions relating to this issue, please call me toll free at (800) 222-7000.

Sincerely,
Trish Meeter
Consumer Service Specialist
Utilities Division
End of Comments

Date Completed: 7/10/2006

Opinion No. 2006 - 53551
