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From: chuckkalina@yahoo.com
Sent: Friday, May 04, 2007 12:36 AM
To: Gleason-WebEmail
Subject: Devers to Palo Verde 2 Transmission Line

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Southern California Edison Company
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Dear Chairman Gleason and Commissioners:

My family, and I, spend as much time in America's great wild places as possible. We are advocates for preserving wildlife habitat in its most viable form, keep well informed about such issues, and are proud to be advocates for these issues. I am writing to ask that the Arizona Corporation Commission reject the Certificate of Environmental Compatibility for the Devers to Palo Verde 2 Transmission Line Project. It is not in the broader public interest. This proposed line will bring little, if any, benefits to Arizona rate payers and in fact is likely to result in increased rates for Arizonans, while at the time doing significant environmental harm. The proposed line is clearly incompatible with the KOFA National Wildlife Refuge as was determined by the Refuge manager, and would also negatively affect other sensitive public lands in our state. The proposed line does not belong there, and big monied interests should not get their way, simply because they have an unfair message advantage over the people, taxpayers, and voters of America. Public lands are not the sole tool of corporations, they belong to the American people collectively, and must not be used by industries, simply because it is convenient, or cost effective for them to do so.

This transmission line is contrary to the National Wildlife Refuge System mission and would hinder the efforts of the Refuge staff to meet the mandates of that mission. 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 line is incompatible with the mission of the Refuge. Protection of wildlife habitat must come first.

Providing viable and undisturbed habitat for wildlife, and green space for humans, is directly related to quality of life issues. The Right-of-Way through KOFA is through prime desert bighorn sheep and desert tortoise habitat. The potential effects of another power line on bighorn sheep, especially on movement across the power line right-of-way and during the lambing period, are clearly contrary to the purposes for which the Refuge was established. Considering that the population of sheep in the area is estimated to be down to 390 animals, a drop of approximately 230 animals from 2003 and down from 812 animals in 2000, it is prudent to be cautious about introducing further disturbances. The drop in sheep numbers is alarming, when scientists point out that the world is losing species at accelerated rates, and the extinctions can be directly related to human activity. Loss of habitat, disturbance of habitat, or pollution of habitat, are all direct causes of extinction. Wildlife refuges need to remain what they are meant to be, with as few man made encroachments as possible. Power lines are not mere encroachments, but are destruction, and major disturbance to wildlife that depend on that habitat.

In addition, potential impacts to reptiles, either attempting to cross roads or no longer able to cross the right-of-way because of its width, and migratory birds striking the power lines are also clearly contrary to the purposes of the refuge and its management mandates.

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. Visual impacts as well as recreational impacts on the KOFA National Wildlife Refuge would be significant and could not be mitigated. Adding additional industrial features to the landscape is a significant adverse visual change. The project would change the character of the KOFA and significantly diminish its recreational value as well. Essentially, it is exceptional that the idea of power lines through KOFA is even under consideration. The idea is tantamount to assinine.

The DVP2 is unnecessary for an adequate, economical and reliable supply of electric power for Arizona and would cause significant damage to our precious Arizona public lands. It

is clear that the benefits of this project to Arizona and to Arizona ratepayers are limited, at best, and that the negative environmental impacts are significant. Because of this, I strongly urge the Arizona Corporation Commission to reject the Certificate of Environmental Compatibility for the Devers to Palo Verde 2 Transmission Line. It will be in light of vital conservation decisions that my wife and I will consider relocating to Arizona after retirement. I strongly urge that the power lines be kept out of KOFA.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Charles Kalina

