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From: robert.tohe@sierraclub.org
Sent: Friday, May 04, 2007 12:07 PM
To: Gleason-WebEmail
Subject: Devers to Palo Verde 2 Transmission Line

Southern California Edison Company
L-00000A-06-0295-00130

Dear Chairman Gleason and Commissioners:

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.
Policy makers and regulators need to "hold the line" against further destruction of our remaining public lands. We must consider our future generation to inherit the wonders of creation that is placed in this special area. Please

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.

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. Please reject this certificate.

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.

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.

Thank you for considering my comments.

robert tohe
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Arizona Corporation Commission
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