

ORIGINAL

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



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From: D Sparrow [inksparrow@usa.net]
Sent: Wednesday, May 30, 2007 2:56 AM
To: Gleason-WebEmail; Mayes-WebEmail; Mundell-Web; Hatch-WebEmail; Pierce-Web
Subject: May 30 Public Comment: Opposed to Devers to Palo Verde 2 Transmission Line Project
Importance: High

May 30, 2007

Dear Chairman Gleason and Commissioners:

I write this letter to you to request that the Arizona Corporation Commission reject the Certificate of Environmental Compatibility for the Devers to Palo Verde 2 Transmission Line Project.

This project is expressly for California's benefit and too many of the costs will be Arizona's. The costs to Arizona are not mitigated by real gains. There are real risks to here, to our pocketbooks, to the KOFA National Wildlife Refuge and to Arizona's energy future.

I am concerned that a new Transmission line is likely to mean an expansion of the Palo Verde power plant. Now that so much of Phoenix's population is on the west side, the risk of destruction is greater. This nuclear power plant is already huge and is no longer in an out of the way place.

Besides, it would set a lousy precedent to allow another state to simply use ours. I wish California much success in going green but I can not support one state's efforts to clean up if those efforts hurt another state's chances of doing the same.

I have been to Kofa and value it as a wilderness but in this case the lack of benefit to Arizona from the Devers to Palo Verde 2 Transmission Line Project is what stands out the most. In practical terms this project is just plain impractical, at least for Arizona.

I refer you to the article written in the Arizona Republic on May 27th on this issue. See below
Arizona Corporation Commission

Thank you for considering my concerns.
Sincerely, Deb Sparrow

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<http://www.azcentral.com/arizonarepublic/opinions/articles/0527sun1-27.html>

May. 27, 2007 12:00 AM

Arizona's population is booming. Our appetite for electricity is voracious in California.

Southern California Edison wants to build a 230-mile transmission line, called Devers Palo Verde 2, that would connect a substation near Palm Springs, Calif., to the hub of power plants west of Phoenix. The Arizona Corporation Commission is scheduled to vote on the proposal on Wednesday.

In making the decision, the law requires the commissioners to "balance, in the broad public interest, the need for an adequate, economical and reliable supply of electric power with the desire to minimize the effect thereof on the environment and ecology of this state."

Hmmm.

Do Arizonans need this project to meet their electric needs? No.

Is this the only solution for providing adequate power in the Golden State? No.

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What would happen to the cost of electricity in Arizona? It would go up. Arizona Corporation Commission staff estimate the increase over the life of the project at \$242 million, while the utility cites a net figure of \$93 million. What would happen to the cost of electricity in California? It would go down. California ratepayers stand to save \$1.1 billion.

Thanks to a spate of power plant construction, Arizona has a plentiful supply of power generated through modern technology. Meanwhile, utilities haven't built generating plants in California for years, for reasons that include heavy local opposition and strict regulations. The older facilities have contributed to higher wholesale prices.

Southern California Edison contends that it makes sense to tap Arizona's excess capacity.

Excess now, but not for long? Within the next three or four years, Arizona's demand at peak times will require all the power currently available.

Besides cost and supply, there are environmental concerns. The line of 150-foot-tall transmission towers would go through the Kofa National Wildlife Refuge, home to bighorn sheep, desert tortoises and distinctively Southwestern wildlife. Southern California Edison already has a transmission line through Kofa, a decision made in a less environmentally aware era. The utility argues that adding a second line would have minimal impact.

The refuge manager rejected the project as incompatible. But the regional director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service gave the go-ahead, with a long list of conditions to protect Kofa. So the impact could be substantially reduced.

But it won't be zero.

The downside of this transmission line for Arizona is obvious.

The upside is hazier. The state would gain revenue and jobs during the construction, plus some enhanced property values.

But other advantages cited by Southern California Edison, including more fuel diversity or a better investment climate, are amorphous. Staff at the Arizona Corporation Commission finds many of them debatable.

An interstate transmission line is an enormously complex and technical project. There are important overarching arguments for ensuring that we have an adequate network for delivering power.

The state line-siting committee voted 8-3 in favor of the Devers Palo Verde line. Now the Corporation Commission must decide whether to go along with that decision, add conditions or reject it.

There may be changes that could improve Arizona's side of the deal.