

ORIGINAL
L-00000A-06-0295-00130



OPEN MEETING AGENDA ITEM

May 25, 2007

RECEIVED

4700

Arizona Corporation Commission
Commissioners Wing
1200 W. Washington - 2nd Floor
Phoenix, AZ 85007

2007 MAY 29 P 1:59 Arizona Corporation Commission

DOCKETED

AZ CORP COMMISSION
DOCKET CONTROL

MAY 29 2007

RE: DPV2 Certificate of Environmental Compatibility

Dear Chairman Gleason and Commissioners:

| | |
|-------------|----|
| DOCKETED BY | nr |
|-------------|----|

When you meet on May 30th, please vote to deny the Certificate of Environmental Compatibility for the Devers to Palo Verde 2 Transmission Line Project. I have been following the progress of this project since Southern Cal-Ed's DPV2 open house in April 2006. At the time, I was astonished at the arrogance of the Cal-Ed representatives who saw nothing wrong with despoiling a national wildlife refuge and an Arizona wilderness area or subjecting Arizona utility customers to higher rates. In fact, from the background information provided by Southern Cal-Ed, the information in the Environmental Impact Statement and from their presentation before the Power Plant and Line Siting Committee, it is clear that the primary benefits of this project will be realized by California and Southern California Edison and not by Arizonans and Arizona utility ratepayers. Their only concern was, and is, to provide California with cheap power at Arizona's expense. However, my main concern is the environmental impact of the DPV2 project.

The Kofa is one of only nine wildlife refuges in Arizona and the third largest wildlife refuge in the continental United States. This area is significant and critical to protection of wildlife and wildlife habitat including desert tortoises and bighorn sheep. According to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, this refuge provides habitat for nearly 200 species of birds, 49 species of mammals and 41 species of reptiles and amphibians. Earlier this year, USF&W declared that the DPV2 transmission line is clearly incompatible with the mission of the refuge and would also negatively impact other sensitive public lands in Arizona.

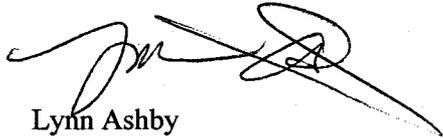
Because the primary route for the DPV2 cuts through the Kofa Wilderness, it is totally unacceptable for several reasons. The right-of-way through the Kofa is prime desert bighorn sheep and desert tortoise habitat and a second power transmission line will fragment and reduce the quality and quantity of all habitats in the refuge. Considering that the population of sheep in the area is estimated to be down to 390 animals from 812 animals in 2000, it is prudent to be cautious about introducing further disturbances. More than 400 acres of the refuge will be affected as construction vehicles travel along the first line's ROW and then across to the new ROW. The resulting negative impact to plant resources will, in such an arid environment, last for a century or more. Major soil disturbances at each of the 85 tower sites during construction will promote establishment of invasive plant species, already a problem in Arizona. The wide corridor between the two ROW's, approximately 560 feet, will be an open invitation for illegal off-road vehicle use; again a problem for desert tortoises as ORV's are a significant factor in tortoise mortality. In addition, there is the very real problem of migratory birds and raptors striking power lines, an obvious violation of the purpose of the Kofa Refuge and its management mandates. The project would change the character of the Kofa Wilderness and significantly diminish its recreational value as well. As stated in the Environmental Statement:

The Final Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement...on this proposed project indicates clearly that the impact of the DPV2 transmission line on

the Kofa will be irreparable and unmitigable. According to the EIR/EIS, the negative visual impacts in the Kofa National Wildlife Refuge would be significant and unmitigable (page ES-41).

This project is of little benefit to Arizona and to Arizona utility ratepayers and the environmental impacts to our Arizona public lands are significant. I ask that the Arizona Corporation Commission deny the Certificate of Environmental Compatibility for the Devers to Palo Verde 2 Transmission Line.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lynn Ashby', with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Lynn Ashby
3748 E. Sheridan
Phoenix, AZ 85008