

E-20465A-06-0457



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ORIGINAL

ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION

UTILITY COMPLAINT FORM

4700

Investigator: Deb Reagan

Phone: [REDACTED]

Fax: [REDACTED]

Priority: Respond Within Five Days

Opinion No. 2007 - 60664

Date: 5/31/2007

Complaint Description: 19L misc line siting
N/A Not Applicable

Complaint By: **First:** William C. **Last:** Thornton

Account Name: William C. Thornton **Home:** [REDACTED]

Street: 2955 E. Chula Vista Dr. **Work:**

City: Tucson **CBR:**

State: AZ **Zip:** 85716 **is:**

Utility Company: Miscellaneous Electric

Division: Electric

Contact Name: Unknown

Contact Phone: (000) 000-0000

Nature of Complaint:

**** E-20465A-06-0457 AND L-00000A-06-0295-0130 ****

Customer sent the following correspondence -

May 25, 2007

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

Arizona Corporation Commission
DOCKETED

JUN -1 2007

DOCKETED BY **ne**

RECEIVED
2007 JUN -1 P 2:31
AZ CORP COMMISSION
DOCKET CONTROL

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, while doing significant environmental harm. The proposed line is clearly incompatible with the KOFA National Wildlife Refuge as determined by the Refuge manager, and would also negatively impact other sensitive public lands in our state.

This transmission line is contrary to the mission of the National Wildlife Refuge System and would hinder the efforts of the Refuge staff to accomplish 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 season, are clearly contrary to the purposes for which the refuge was established. Considering that the population of sheep in the area is estimated at 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

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disturbances.

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 and clearly negatively affect the wilderness values of the Refuge. Visual impacts and 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 Final Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement ("EIR/EIS") on this proposed project indicates clearly that the impact of the DPV2 transmission line on the Kofa will be irreparable and unmitigable.

The Power Plant and Line Siting Committee was charged with reviewing a number of factors including the total environment of the area, fish, wildlife and plant life and associated forms of life upon which they are dependent, existing scenic areas, and more, and it is to "give special consideration to the protection of areas unique because of biological wealth or because they are habitats for rare and endangered species." There is no doubt that the KOFA is unique and should be given special consideration.

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 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.

Sincerely,

William C. Thornton

[REDACTED]
Tucson, AZ 85716

E-mail: [REDACTED]

End of Complaint

Utilities' Response:

Investigator's Comments and Disposition:

Responded to the customer with the following -

Mr. Thornton -

Thank you for your recent correspondence to the AZ Corporation Commission on this issue. It has been assigned to me for a response. I am a Consumer Analyst in the Utilities Division.

I have attached the press release from the Commission regarding yesterday's decision. Your comments were entered into the docket for this case. The Commissioners appreciate the time you have taken to make your opinion known.

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Deb Reagan
Public Utilities Consumer Analyst
Utilities Division
End of Comments

Date Completed: 5/31/2007

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