



0000084559

BEFORE THE ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION

**COMMISSIONERS**

Mike Gleason, Chairman  
William A. Mundell  
Jeff Hatch-Miller  
Kristin K. Mayes  
Gary Pierce

Arizona Corporation Commission

**DOCKETED**

APR 29 2008

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IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF  
GILA BEND POWER PARTNERS, L.L.C. AND  
ITS ASSIGNEES IN CONFORMANCE WITH  
THE REQUIREMENTS OF ARIZONA  
REVISED STATUTES SECTIONS 40-360.03  
AND 40-360.06 FOR A CERTIFICATE OF  
ENVIRONMENTAL COMPATIBILITY  
AUTHORIZING CONSTRUCTION OF ONE  
500kV TRANSMISSION LINE AND  
ASSOCIATES SWITCHYARD COMPONENTS  
IN MARICOPA COUNTY, ARIZONA  
ORIGINATING AT THE HASSAYAMPA  
SWITCHYARD NEAR THE PALO VERDE  
NUCLEAR GENERATING STATION WEST OF  
PHOENIX, ARIZONA (SECTION 15,  
TOWNSHIP 1 SOUTH, RANGE 6 WEST,  
G&SRB&M) AND TERMINATING AT THE  
JOJOBA SWITCHYARD, SECTION 25,  
TOWNSHIP 2 SOUTH, RANGE 4 WEST, A  
DISTANCE OF APPROXIMATELY 20 MILES

CASE NO. 119

DOCKET NO. L-00000V-02-0119

DECISION NO. 70323

**ORDER**

Open Meeting  
April 24, 2008  
Phoenix, Arizona

BY THE COMMISSION:

**FINDINGS OF FACT**

1. On April 25, 2003, the Arizona Corporation Commission ("Commission") issued Decision No. 65866 in Docket No. L-00000V-02-0119. Decision No. 65866 granted Gila Bend Power Partners, L.L.C. ("GBPP") a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility ("CEC") authorizing construction of a 500 kV transmission line originating at the Hassayampa Switchyard near Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station and terminating at the Jojoba Switchyard. This 500 kV line will complete the interconnection of GBPP's Gila Bend Power Plant with the Palo Verde Hub.

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1           2.     The first condition of the CEC states:  
2                 “(1) This authorization to construct the aforementioned facilities shall expire  
3                 five (5) years from the date this Certificate of Environmental Compatibility is  
4                 approved by the Commission, unless construction is completed to the point  
5                 that the 500kV transmission line is capable of operating by that time;  
6                 provided, however, that prior to such expiration Applicant may request that  
7                 the Commission extend this time limitation.”

8           3.     The Arizona State Line Siting Committee (“Committee”) approved the CEC on  
9     March 19, 2003. The Commission affirmed and approved the Committee’s grant of CEC to GBPP  
10    on April 25, 2003. Therefore, GBPP was to complete construction of the facilities by April 25,  
11    2008, unless construction had been sufficiently completed to the point that the 500kV transmission  
12    line was capable of operating by that time.

13          4.     On January 18, 2008, GBPP filed a request for a time extension to construct the  
14    transmission facilities approved by the subject CEC. GBPP requests an extension of the time  
15    granted by the CEC to construct the transmission line to April 11, 2011. GBPP explains that the  
16    reason for requesting a time extension to the subject CEC is because facilities approved by other  
17    CECs have had their completion dates extended. The transmission line approved in the subject  
18    CEC will interconnect with the facilities approved in these other CECs.

19          5.     When completed, the 500 kV transmission line that GBPP was approved to  
20    construct by this CEC will interconnect with two Arizona Public Service Company 500 kV  
21    transmission lines that were certificated by the Commission in Line Siting Case No. 102 (Decision  
22    No. 62960 (September 16, 2000)), the 500 kV transmission line and Watermelon Switchyard  
23    certificated in Line Siting Case No. 109 (Decision No. 63762 (June 12, 2001)) and the 845 MW  
24    natural gas power plant certificated in Line Siting Case No. 106 (Decision No. 63552) (April 12,  
25    2001)).

26          6.     The two 500 kV transmission lines approved in Decision No. 62960 have been  
27    constructed and are operational. However, the transmission line, switchyard, and power plant  
28    approved by Decision Nos. 63762 and 63552 have not been constructed. In Decision No. 69177

1 (December 5, 2006), the Commission granted an extension of time to complete construction of  
2 facilities described in the CECs that were approved in Decision Nos. 63762 and 63552 to April 11,  
3 2011.

4 7. GBPP explains that the 500 kV transmission line is a critical component to an  
5 overall project contemplated by Decision Nos. 63762, 63552, and 65866.

6 8. On March 17, 2008, the Commission's Utilities Division Staff ("Staff") filed a  
7 memorandum in this docket. Therein, Staff requested that the Commission grant GBPP's request  
8 for a time extension for the completion of the 500 kV transmission line that is the subject of this  
9 CEC until April 11, 2011. Staff stated that since the transmission line approved in Decision No.  
10 65866 completes the link of the GBPP power plant to the Palo Verde Hub via the Watermelon and  
11 Jojoba Switchyards, it is reasonable to delay construction of the transmission line approved in  
12 Decision No. 65866.

#### 13 CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

14 1. The Commission has jurisdiction over Gila Bend Power Partners, L.L.C. and the  
15 subject matter contained herein pursuant to Article XV of the Arizona Constitution and A.R.S. §  
16 40-252 and § 40-360 et seq.

17 2. Notice of the proceeding has been given in the manner prescribed by law.

18 3. Staff's recommendation in Finding of Fact No. 8 is reasonable and should be  
19 adopted.

20 4. The Commission, having reviewed the filing and Staff's Memorandum dated March  
21 17, 2008, finds that amending Decision No. 65866 to extend the expiration date to construct the  
22 facilities to April 11, 2011 is in the public interest.

#### 23 ORDER

24 IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that Decision No. 65866 is hereby amended to extend the  
25 time for construction to April 11, 2011.

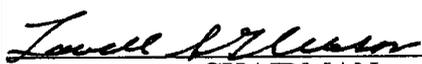
26 IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that this decision shall be effective immediately.

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BY THE ORDER OF THE ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION

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CHAIRMAN

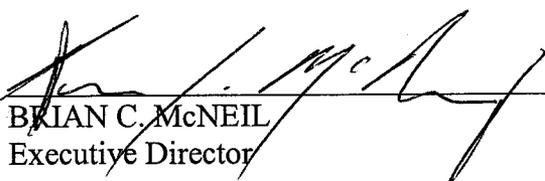
  
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COMMISSIONER

  
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IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I BRIAN C. McNEIL, Executive Director of the Arizona Corporation Commission, have hereunto, set my hand and caused the official seal of this Commission to be affixed at the Capitol, in the City of Phoenix, this 29<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2008.

  
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BRIAN C. McNEIL  
Executive Director

DISSENT: \_\_\_\_\_

DISSENT: \_\_\_\_\_

- 1 SERVICE LIST FOR: Gila Bend Power Partners, L.L.C.
- 2 DOCKET NO. L-00000V-02-0119
- 3 Jennifer Boucek, Chairman
- 4 Arizona Power Plant and Transmission
- 5 Line Siting Committee
- 6 Office of the Attorney General
- 7 1275 West Washignton Street
- 8 Phoenix, Arizona 85007
- 9 Thomas H. Campbell
- 10 Albert H. Acken
- 11 Lewis and Roca LLP
- 12 40 North Central
- 13 Phoenix, Arizona 85004-4429
- 14 Attorneys for Gila Bend Power Partners, L.L.C.
- 15 Kenneth Sundlof
- 16 Jennings, Strauss & Salmon, P.L.C.
- 17 The Collier Center, 11<sup>th</sup> Floor
- 18 201 East Washington Street
- 19 Phoenix, Arizona 85004-2385
- 20 Attorneys for Salt River Project
- 21
- 22
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- 27
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