

ORIGINAL

Mark Trueblood



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P.O. Box 797

Sonoita, AZ 85637-0797

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August 18, 2008

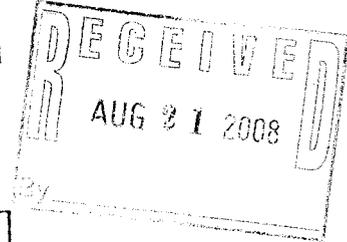
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Arizona Corporation Commission  
Commissioners Wing  
1200 W. Washington - 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Phoenix, AZ 85007-2996

ARIZONA CORP COMMISSION  
DOCKET CODE Arizona Corporation Commission

DOCKETED

AUG 21 2008



DOCKETED BY *MM*

Dear Corporation Commissioner:

This is to request that you deny permission to the Sulphur Springs Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc. (SSVEC) to construct its proposed 69 kilovolt sub-transmission line and new substation in Sonoita until it changes its business policies regarding alternate energy sources.

In particular, I request that you require SSVEC (and, in addition, all Arizona utilities) to:

- Fulfill its obligation purchase or provide 15% of its electric power from alternate energy sources. All SSVEC has been doing of late is sending us newsletters explaining how much fossil fuels costs have risen, and therefore why our electric bills will rise, without explaining what they are doing to meet their obligation (not yet met) to provide 15% of their energy from solar, wind, and other non-carbon sources.
- Provide *both* a construction rebate and reverse metering for those coop members who make the considerable investment in solar or wind power generating capacity. We have a neighbor who invested over \$13,000 in a small wind turbine, and SSVEC gave them a choice between one or the other, but not both, per your rules. Both presidential candidates are pushing alternative energy plans, but this regulation does not provide much incentive, given the high initial capital investment. Also, since energy demand is expected to double in only 20 years with the introduction of plug-in electric cars and the reduction in the use of fossil fuels for other needs, we need more sources of electric power faster than we can build power plants. You need to encourage Arizona consumers to help make up the difference.

It is not clear why this 69 kV sub-transmission line is needed at this time. Several years ago, when SSVEC tried to put in a similar line, they argued that our frequent surges and outages were due to the fact that we had a single line serving Sonoita and that we needed a second line to form a loop. With this latest propaganda push, there is no mention of a loop to provide a second source for power to eliminate surges and outages. This gives me the impression that the purpose of this additional line is to serve the real estate developers who want more growth in the area, despite the inability of water resources to support that growth. This will reduce, not enhance, our property values.

## Mark Trueblood

A rumor we have heard is that the leases SSVEC has negotiated that are needed to install this line are about to expire. This gives you an opportunity to take advantage of this situation to enforce your own 15% rule and to help America fulfill the goals of both presidential candidates of greater energy independence. By demanding that SSVEC meet the 15% goal and rewriting your rule regarding construction rebates and reverse metering before installing its 69 kV line, it will put considerable pressure on SSVEC to comply before these leases expire.

Furthermore, SSVEC has ignored community input to its proposed routes despite the fact this line affects the entire community, again by reducing property values. It has sent letters to property owners only along the four Optional routes for the line, not to the entire community, thus reducing the number of citizens informed of this impending action. Furthermore, it has limited consideration of alternatives to only its four Options, and has excluded, for example, running the line along the southern boundary of the Babocomari Land Grant.

When a citizens group tried to form to express concerns to SSVEC, they were first told SSVEC could not meet with them until pending litigation with the owners of the Babocomari land was resolved. After those issues were resolved, SSVEC told the citizens group they would not meet with them until they proved they represented the community, then a few days later announced a public meeting SSVEC was holding of their own, bypassing the citizens group. The only people informed of the so-called "public" meeting were those living along the proposed routes, not even absentee landowners along the routes who had no electric service, or those living in Sonoita not along the routes. This is no way to handle community relations with members of a cooperative. As members, we own this company, and they are acting more like the governments of Russia or China than a management responsive to its owners.

In conclusion, I request that you (a) change your rules regarding alternate energy sources to reflect existing energy realities and (b) enforce your existing rules before permitting SSVEC to build this new line that will not benefit our community. Or do you want the U.S. Congress to do your job for you when they reconsider the energy bill next year?

Sincerely,



Mark Trueblood

Cc: Arizona Corporation Commission – Utilities Division  
Mr. Joseph Furno, SSVEC Board of Directors  
Mr. Creden W. Huber, CEO, SSVEC  
Gov. Janet Napolitano  
Cong. Gabrielle Giffords  
Sen. Timothy S. Bee



# Audubon

Appleton-Whittell Research Ranch

HC 1, Box 44, 366 Research Ranch Rd

Elgin, AZ 85611

August 18, 2008

Board of Directors  
Sulfur Springs Valley Electric Cooperative  
P.O. Box 820  
Willcox, AZ 85644-0820

**Re: 69kV power line to Sonoita**

Dear Members of the Board:

I am well aware of the time and effort you, as Board members, invest for the communities you serve and wish to tell you that I appreciate your willingness to serve in such an important role. Safe and affordable electric power has transformed rural areas of the United States, and is an integral support to our society. However, I encourage you to use your position wisely, and carefully consider the unintended consequences of what may, at first, appear to be a worthy action.

I urge you, as board members, to immediately halt the construction activities on the above referenced power line until all aspects of the project have been thoroughly considered.

As a cooperative, you have an obligation to your customers not only to provide safe and affordable electric power, but to do so by working cooperatively with the communities served. I present the following bullet list as indication that this has not been done for this project:

- Work by a previous planning committee has been rejected with no explanation,
- A written proposal of this project was not make available for public comment,
- A clear purpose and need for this project has not been presented,
- Alternative solutions have not been fully considered,
- Staff members have stone-walled efforts by members of the Sonoita community to discuss the situation,
- The current route is not consistent with the character description of the area as described in the approved Santa Cruz County Comprehensive Plan,
- All property owners have not been contacted,
- All consequences of this action have not been considered including the impacts on wildlife, the watershed, the riparian corridor, the viewshed, spread of invasive species, and on the community.

As an example, let me briefly outline a major impact the proposed project will have on the Research Ranch, a nationally recognized ecological preserve and research facility. One of our primary research objectives is to elucidate the effects of domestic livestock on southwestern grasslands with the goal of sustaining ecosystems and wildlife habitats in the Southwest. Cross fence comparisons between the ungrazed lands of the Research Ranch and our ranching neighbors such as the Babacomari Ranch have been conducted for over four decades, resulting in numerous scientific publications and providing valuable guidance to private entities and to

federal and state entities charged with land management (i.e. Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Forest Service, Arizona State Parks, Arizona Game & Fish). Topics addressed through our research program include the spread of invasive non-native species, water infiltration and run-off, listed and common species, effects of fire on grasslands and savanna habitat and many more. By placing this power line immediately adjacent to our north boundary you will effectively halt future meaningful cross-fence comparisons for decades. You will negate the value of archived data accumulated over the past 40 years.

I ask you, again, to halt this project immediately. I believe that, after proper deliberation and consultation with the community, a solution can be developed that is mutually beneficial to all.

Sincerely,

Linda Kennedy, Ph.D., Director

e-mailed to Director Joseph Furno (velandjoe@dakotacom.net), with hard copy mailed to SSVEC

CC: Arizona Corporation Commission, Janet Napolitano, John Kyl, John McCain, Gabrielle Giffords, Timothy S. Bee, Marian McClure, Jonathan Paton, John Maynard, Ben Brophy, Sam Campana, Waite Osterkamp, Sonoita Crossroads Community Forum, Sonoita Chamber of Commerce

***Dorothy Sturges***

**P.O. Box-282  
Sonoita, AZ 85637**

**520-455-5859  
chili333@mac.com**

August 20, 2008

Mr. Michael Gleason  
Chairman, Arizona Corporation Commission  
1200 W Washington St., 2nd Floor  
Phoenix, AZ 85007-2996

Dear Mr. Gleason:

The purpose of this letter is to let you know that our local power company, Sulphur Springs Valley Electric Cooperative (SSVEC), plans to bring a 69 KV line to Sonoita from Huachuca City. The need for additional power is necessary, however, what needs to be addressed are the following:

- (1) The route the power line will take
- (2) Is electric the answer - what about alternate sources of energy?
- (3) Are there other ways to bring power to Sonoita?
- (4) Is this line necessary?
- (5) Is this the right line?
- (6) Potential damage to the Audubon Research Ranch

Re (1): The SSVEC chose four possible routes for this line. Option #1 was to use the already existing power line route along State Highway 83 (the choice preferred by the overwhelming majority of interested citizens), however, they chose Option #3 which will bring the line right thru the residential neighborhoods of Sunset Knolls and Sonoita Hills. Let's consider what this means: the poles to be used are 64 feet tall and will have four two inch in diameter cables suspended from arms on the upper portions of the poles and a cross arm with four smaller diameter wires located on the lower portion of the poles. These poles will be twice as tall as all other power poles located in this residential area and ten feet taller than any other poles to be used on this project. The line would cut a fifty foot path thru this area, not a very nice prospect for residential neighborhoods.

Re (2): The SSVEC has given no consideration to using alternate sources of energy. Two things that Sonoita has in abundance are sun and wind. Furthermore it is mandated that 15% of our energy come from alternate energy sources.

Re (3): There are other ways to supply Sonoita with energy such as tapping into the TEP line which runs to Huachuca City This would obviate the need for a new line. This matter has not been explored by the SSVEC.

Re (4): The Sonoita load is 7 MW which could be provided by a 46 KV line that can carry at least 22 MW. Why is so much power being brought in, far more than we need? Why not use the smaller line?

Re (5): Originally the SSVEC proposed a loop, citing the need for reliable power. The loop has been dropped, we are merely getting another line.

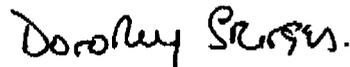
Re (6): The proposed line would run right along the edge of the Audubon Research Ranch. Damage from work already begun has negatively impacted at least 40 long term research projects. This ranch is known world wide and is unique. One proposed project has already been canceled and it may be assumed that more will be because of the proposed power line.

Thus far the SSVEC has declined to meet with and listen to a representative committee from the community. What we are requesting is to stop this project immediately until the SSVEC is willing to sit down and consider our thoughts and ideas. This is a problem that can be solved but it requires that both sides meet, allow us to express our grave concerns about this project and exchange ideas. We are after all members of this cooperative.

I retired to Sonoita 22 years ago because of its uniqueness, it's beauty, it's mountains, it's bird and animal life etc. It is an area that Gov. Napolitano has called one of Arizona's "Crown Jewels". It is an area worth protecting.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and anything you can do to help would be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,



Dorothy Sturges

cc: Commissioners Kristin K. Mayes, William Mundell, Jeff Hatch-Miller and Gary Pierce