

E-01575A-08-0393  
E-01345A-08-0393



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ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMIS

ORIGINAL

UTILITY COMPLAINT FORMED

**Investigator:** Richard Martinez **Phone:** 2008 NOV -6 P 3:42 **Fax:**

**Priority:** Respond Within Five Days

AZ CORP COMMISSION  
DOCKET CONTROL

**Opinion No. 2008 71049 Date: 8/27/2008**

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

**First:**

**Last:**

**Complaint By:** Dorothy

Sturges

**Account Name:** Dorothy Sturges

**Home:** (

**Street:**

**Work:**

**City:** Sonoita

**CBR:**

**State:** AZ **Zip:**

**is:**

**Utility Company:** Sulphur Springs Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc.

**Division:** Electric

**Contact Name:** Lainie Keltner

**Contact Phone:** (520) 515-3440

**Nature of Complaint:**

\*\*\*\*\*REFERRED FROM CHAIRMAN GLEASON'S OFFICE AND COMMISSIONER HATCH-MILLERS OFFICE (REFERRED TO COMMISSIONER HATCH MILLER FROM SENATOR JOHN McCAIN'S OFFICE)\*\*\*\*\*

Dorothy Sturges

Sonoita, AZ

Arizona Corporation Commission  
DOCKETED

NOV 6 2008

August 20, 2008

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

DOCKETED BY

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?

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(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 then 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 alternative 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 22MW. 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 re 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 mountain, 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: Commissioner Kristen K. Mayes, William Mundell, Jeff Hatch-Miller and Gary Pierce

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\*End of Complaint\*

**Utilities' Response:**

na

\*End of Response\*

**Investigator's Comments and Disposition:**

8/29

Emailed the following response to customer:

Dear Ms Dorothy Sturges:

Your letter regarding Sulphur Springs Valley Electric Cooperative ("SSVEC") 69 KV line will be placed on file with the Docket Control Center of the Arizona Corporation Commission ("Commission") to be made part of the record. Since the 69 KV line is too small to come before the Commissioners your comments will be docketed in another application currently before the Commissioners encompassing transmission and distribution lines within the following docket numbers:

E-01575A-08-0393 & E-01345A-08-0393.

The concerns raised in letters received from customers will assist the Commission in the investigation and review of the rate application. The Commission's independent analysis of the utility request attempts to balance the interest of the utility and its customers.

Staff appreciates your comments and the interest taken on the proposed rate increase.

Sincerely,

Richard Martinez  
Public Utilities Consumer Analyst II  
Utilities Division

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8/29

This letter will be docketed. CLOSED.

9-10-08( NOTES PER REG LOPEZ) Received referral letter from Commissioner Hatch-Miller's Office, whom received letter of referral from Senator John McCain's office. Referral includes the customer's August 20, 2008 letter from the customer and a August 18, 2008 letter from Ms. Linda Kennedy to Senator McCain's Office. I e-mailed the customer the following:

Dear Ms. Sturges:

[[This to acknowledge the letter of referral from Senator John McCain to Commissioner Hatch-Miller at the Arizona Corporation Commission ("Commission"). Your letter of August 20, 2008, which was acknowledged via e-mail by the Commission on August 29, 2008, has been referred to Commissioner Hatch -Miller for consideration and has been noted for the record in this matter. Your letter will be considered by all the Commissioner's before a final decision is rendered in this matter. I appreciate the time that you have taken to express your opinion in this matter.

Sincerely,

Reg Lopez  
Public Utilities Consumer Analyst II  
Utilities Division-Tucson Office

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9-10 (Notes per Reg Lopez) I attached the referral letters to this existing OPINION. File re-closed.

9-20 Received the following customer e-mail:

From: Dorothy Sturges [mailto:c  
Sent: Saturday, September 20, 2008 11:36 AM  
To: Reg Lopez  
Subject: Re: Referral from Senator John McCain's Office dated August 26, 2008

9/20:

Thanks very much for your e-mail. I look forward to what Commissioner Hatch-Miller has to say regarding this matter. Really appreciate your help.

Dorothy Sturges

9-23 I replied back to the customer with the following e-mail:

Dear Ms. Sturges:

In clarification to my e-mail, my comment that your letter had been referred to Commissioner Hatch-Miller for consideration, meant he as well as the other Commissioners will consider all customer comments relative to this matter before a final decision is rendered in this matter. You may want to refer to the letter sent to you by my colleague Mr. Richard Martinez on August 29, 2008.

Sincerely,  
Reg Lopez  
Public Utilities Consumer Analyst II  
Utilities Division-Tucson Office

9-23 File re-closed.

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11-6 E-mailed this OPINION to Carmen Madrid @ ACC Phoenix Office to docket Opinion # 71049 under Docket Nos. E-01575A-08-0393 & E-01345A-08-0393.

\*End of Comments\*

**Date Completed: 8/29/2008**

**Opinion No. 2008 - 71049**

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