

ORIGINAL



0000090847

**William Mundell**

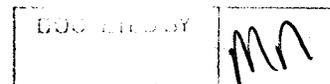
**From:** troy hunter [troy.hntr@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 24, 2008 4:22 PM  
**To:** Mundell-Web  
**Subject:** Line Siting Hearings - Docket 138

Arizona Corporation Commission  
DOCKETED

November 24, 2008

Commissioner William Mundell  
Arizona Corporation Commission  
1200 West Washington, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Phoenix, Arizona, 85007

L-00000D-08-0330-00138



**RE: LINE SITING HEARINGS/ TS5-TS9 TRANSMISSION LINE PROJECT/**  
**DOCKET # 138**

Dear Commissioner Mundell,

Over the last couple of months, I have been attending the line siting hearings for the proposed APS 500/230 KV transmission line through the Northwest Valley. I commend your various comments during these proceedings, as you seem to be one of the few who is asking the right questions. I am concerned that this entire affair is tantamount to a "land grab" by APS and that there appears to be a good deal of collusion on the part of developers and the City of Peoria to place this line to the north along Scenic Highway 74. I am also concerned that by siting this transmission line on alternate routes 2 or 3, the environmental and viewshed degradation would destroy some of the last scenic wonders of the Sonoran Upland Region west of Phoenix.

Further, it is completely premature to be *giving away* our natural heritage to greedy self-interests, when there are better technologies already in place, such as high voltage UGC (underground cable), DG (distributed generation) and an major paradigm shift in energy production and distribution just on the horizon (reference: "Hydrogen Economy" by Jeremy Rifkin). If you haven't already, I urge you to read the latter chapters in this book, which I can give to you during the next round of hearings, so that you can become more aware of alternatives to power generation and distribution. 230-500 KV lines are going underground all over the U.S., Europe and Japan (reference: Transmission & Distribution World, [www.tdworld.com](http://www.tdworld.com)), for the very issues and concerns we are faced with in this case, those of environmental and viewshed degradation, public protest, condemnation proceedings, expensive easements and rights of way, weather and other disasters, etc.

During these hearings, it has been presented by expert witness testimony that (a) APS already has several utility corridors in place that can be utilized for sub-station linkage and future growth, (b) under the current financial circumstances in our nation, it will be many years before upgrades are needed, that (c) the issues of power grid "redundancy" for future disasters and outages are unfounded, and that (d) existing developments along the alternative routes will be severely impacted, as compared to the APS preferred route which would pass through relatively undeveloped lands. I would like to know how any of this can be justified when hundreds of thousands of tax payers' dollars are being spent on this siting process alone, not to mention the untold millions to be essentially given away to the power company and the untold millions of dollars of existing home values along the proposed power line

11/24/2008

routes which would be affected?

The fact that APS itself does not prefer a line next to Scenic Highway 74, that the Arizona Bureau of Land Management and the State Lands Dept. have voiced opposition to it and that this scenic region comes under the protection of the "Augs Fria National Monument/Bradshaw-Harquahala Resource Management Plan and Final E.I.S.", all should point the Line Siting Committee of the Arizona Corporation Commission toward a resounding "NO" to this siting application. On behalf of "*Friends of the Sonoran Upland*" and many other environmental organizations statewide, I respectfully urge you to guide this process into the most reasonable outcome, that of protecting some of our last scenic desert lands for future posterity. Our Sonoran Desert is under seige from the insane population growth of Phoenix, losing thousands of acres per month, and at some point we must say "NO" to special development interests and protect the remaining and most critical desert habitats.

Finally, there are better ways to spend tax dollars and there are many alternatives which haven't been discussed, and most of the public have not being properly notified, by APS as well as the media, so that there can be a citizenry prepared to weigh the pro's and con's which provides valuable input. It is wrong to assume that a few peoples' self-interests can prevail over the majority who would not have this project destroy our remaining ecological heritage. Yet, it seems that all the concerned parties are only presented with the worse of several evils, which *should* be to the greater good of our future, but can hardly be without employing logic, compromise, and the best available technologies.

Though I believe strongly in diplomacy, we plan to employ every legal resource at our disposal to stop this power line near Scenic Highway 74, and I suspect that many more public and private dollars will be spent over this case in the future. With this, I encourage you to guide this process toward the best conclusion possible, and I do it with many thanks.

Respectfully,

Troy Hunter  
Friends of the Sonoran Upland  
P.O. Box 20238  
Wickenburg, AZ  
85358  
[troy.hntr@gmail.com](mailto:troy.hntr@gmail.com)

CC: Commissioner Mundell Via Registered U.S. Postal Service  
ACC Line Siting web-filing