



Maricopa County

Parks and Recreation Department



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AZ CORP COMMISSION
DOCKET CONTROL

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January 21, 2009

Hon. Kristin K. Mayes, Chairman
Hon. Gary Pierce, Commissioner
Hon. Sandra D. Kennedy, Commissioner
Hon. Bob Stump, Commissioner
Hon. Paul Newman, Commissioner
Arizona Corporation Commission
1200 W. Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Arizona Corporation Commission
DOCKETED

JAN 26 2009

DOCKETED BY 

RE: APS Line Siting, Docket No. L00000D-08-0330-00138, Case No. 138

Dear Commissioners:

The Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Department manages the Lake Pleasant Regional Park. Recently, the Arizona Power Plant and Transmission Line Siting Committee issued a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility for a transmission line adjacent to the southern boundary of the Park, along SR 74. The Department is concerned that placement of the line within the view shed of the Park creates visual blight on the Park and diminishes the visitor experience for its nearly 700,000 visitors annually. The Department therefore requests the Commission dictate that APS will site the line in the southernmost portion of the corridor near the Park. Further, the Department opposes the request of APS to approve a corridor that is closer to SR 74 in the vicinity of the Park.

In its application, APS proposed a corridor along SR 74 that extended 2,000 feet north and 1,500 feet south of SR 74. The Committee approved a much narrower corridor, beginning 500 feet south of SR 74. We understand that, in recognition that nearby hills can shield the view of the line significantly, the Committee's approved corridor extends 500 feet further south from SR 74 than APS had originally proposed, to a point 2,000 feet south of the highway. However, the Committee rejected a condition that would have required APS to make use of those shielding opportunities when it sought a right-of-way from the Arizona State Land Department for the portion of the line near the Park.

The Department is concerned that, in light of the Arizona State Land Department's (ASLD) expressed preference to grant rights of way for such infrastructure in close proximity to the existing SR 74 right of way, ASLD is likely to deny a right of way for the more shielded line in the southernmost 500 feet of the corridor.

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APS requests that the Commission modify the corridor along SR 74 between 115th Avenue and 99th Avenue to extend the corridor further north, and closer to the Park's boundary. The Department opposes this modification, as it could result in the line being even more visible from the Park. We note, however, that APS has suggested that, in order to address the possibility that the managers of public lands might not approve siting of the line in the Committee's approved corridors, the Commission could approve Segments 4 and 5, APS's preferred routing of the line from the outset. The Department would find this to be an acceptable routing to alleviate its concerns, and urges the Commission to consider it.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R.J. Cardin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "R" and "J" and a long, sweeping tail.

R.J. Cardin
Director

RJC/knt

cc: Central Files
Chrono File