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February 4, 2009

Arizona Corporation Commission
Commissioners Wing
1200 W. Washington - 2nd Floor
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

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AZ CORP COMMISSION
DOCKET CONTROL

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RE: Proposed 69kV Power Line in Cochise and Santa Cruz Counties

Dear Commissioners:

Sulphur Springs Valley Electric Cooperative (SSVEC) has announced plans to construct a 69kV power line through the Babacomari Ranch. I believe this project is being undertaken without proper collaboration with the communities SSVEC is supposed to serve, without sufficient regard to environmental, ecological and cultural conditions in the area, without appropriate evaluation of the economic and ecological aspects of the proposed project compared to of viable alternatives, and without transparency in planning and implementation processes.

There are alternatives to the proposed project, both small and large scale, and never has the time to think innovatively been more urgent:

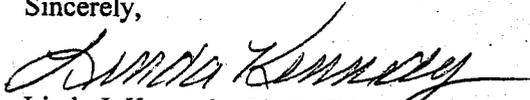
- We, as a planet, are blanketing our atmosphere with greenhouse gasses, in large part the result of combustion of fossil fuels. The results of these emissions may prove to be catastrophic. The electricity provided by SSVEC is primarily generated by combustion of coal, yet SSVEC's current plan does nothing to address this issue.
- We, as a country, are wedded to fossil fuels – and thus are vulnerable to disruption of the source of these fossil fuels, the delivery of the fuels themselves and the energy generated by those fuels. SSVEC's current plan does not provide any measure of security.
- We, as a state, are creating an overdraft of energy and will soon need to import electricity either directly or indirectly from other states. SSVEC's current plan does nothing to alleviate this problem.

But there are opportunities:

- A growing awareness on the global, national, state, regional, and local levels has created the potential for collaboration unheard of a few short months ago.
- Funding is available for small and large projects that promote and provide energy from alternative sources.
- Arizona has an abundance of sun and a significant measure of wind.
- Technologies to harvest clean sources of energy have been developed and are available.
- These communities (Sonoita, Elgin, Patagonia) have expressed interest in working collaboratively with SSVEC to create a project that could serve as a model, not only in Arizona – but throughout the nation.

I urge you, the members of the Arizona Corporation Commission, to assist in development of a project that we can all be proud to say, "I was part of that!"

Sincerely,


Linda J. Kennedy, Ph.D., Director

Arizona Corporation Commission

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CC: Kristin K. Mayes, Paul Newman, Gary Pierce, Sandra D. Kennedy, Bob Stump, S
Board of Directors

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