

L 00000D-08-0330-00138

OPEN MEETING AGENDA ITEM



0000094081

ORIGINAL

ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISS

UTILITY COMPLAINT FORM

Investigator: Brad Morton

Phone: ( [REDACTED] )

Fax: ( [REDACTED] )

Priority: Respond Within Five Days

Opinion      No. 2009 - 76987

Date: 2/25/2009

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

Complaint By:      First: Troy      Last: Hunter

Account Name: Friends of the Sonoran Upland      Home: [REDACTED]

Street: [REDACTED]      Work:

City: Wickenburg      CBR:

State: AZ      Zip: 85358      is:

Utility Company: Arizona Public Service Company

Division: Electric

Contact Name: For Assignment

Contact Phone: [REDACTED]

Nature of Complaint:

THROUGH CHAIRMAN MAYES

Docket No 00000D-08-0330-00138

February 24, 2009 FILE COPY  
Ms. Sandy Bahr  
Conservation Outreach Director

[REDACTED]  
Phoenix, Arizona 85004

RE: APS TSS-TS9 TRANSMISSION PROJECT IN NORTHWEST VALLEY

Arizona Corporation Commission  
DOCKETED

FEB 25 2009

DOCKETED BY [REDACTED]

RECEIVED  
2009 FEB 25 1 P 3:58  
ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION  
DOCKET CONTROL

Dear Sandy,

We have been in "Review Hearings" by the Arizona Corporation Commission on the C.E.C. application by APS to place high voltage power lines along Lake Pleasant Scenic Corridor. It is urgent that the public be given proper information before the passage of this application, as it would be disastrous for our Scenic Corridor in many ways that, on the surface, may not yet be obvious. I have been attending these hearings for some four months now, and am astounded how ignorant or greedy these. lawyers, developers and public officials must be that they can't see the facts in this case. To begin with, everyone seems convinced for the "need", which has been disproved by the large majority of expert witness testimonies, which is obvious in the transcripts of the proceedings. The disingenuous catch phrase "renewables" has been introduced, as if APS is suddenly needy of a conduit for renewables as a mitigation to appease the Commission and Public. It has been proven beyond any doubt that "redundancy" is not justified in this case either, as there are many other utility corridors in the Phoenix Metro area already in place to deal with all these issues. Disregarding this, however, APS wants to tie up the region with their own lines, which they could book as many millions in assets and future revenues, at the expense to tax payers and rate payers. APS itself has acknowledged, in their request for Review (and modification) to their original C.E.C. application, that the Alt. 3 North Route would place undo burden upon

# ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION

## UTILITY COMPLAINT FORM

---

Public Lands, and faces many legal and technical obstacles.

We believe that the Line Siting Committee was completely errant in their issuance of approval of this C.E.C., as it has been categorically disproved of merit, and that the legal challenges and intervention of the ELM, State Lands and many other agencies, both federal and state, and a powerful environmental coalition will make it impossible for the application to ever proceed. This is precisely the reason why the ELM "shot across the bow" letter to The Commission and APS was introduced as formal notice. Why then must we spend additional hundreds of thousands of public funds, millions in legal challenges and devalued properties, toward such folly? Equally disconcerting is that there appears to be a great deal of collusion between certain developers and the City of Peoria, who conveniently passed their own city legislation to include language reclassifying their portion of the SR-74 Scenic Corridor. They and the Vistancia Development mobilized "red shirts" to make a lot of "nimby noise" to call for the placement of the Power Lines on Alt. 3 North, placing them to the north of the Scenic Corridor and on Public Lands already classified as "off limits" to many uses, including utility corridors. This 6-year and multi-million dollar BLM Resource Management Plan will not be amended. Still, most all of the parties involved in this C.E.C. are induced to opt for the lesser of evils, and those officials in charge of our systems would have us proceed in ignorance of existing legislation. Fortunately, the Corporation Commissioners, particularly Chairperson Kristen Mayes and Commissioner Paul Newman, are questioning this process more thoroughly. It remains to be seen if they can be persuaded by public opinion and good reporting.

Perhaps you are aware that much better technologies are already in place and being utilized in virtually every major metropolitan area in the world, that of high voltage UGC (underground cable). These high voltage UGC's, designed by companies such as General Electric and Seimens, are going underground in New York City, San Francisco, Los Angeles, San Diego, Miami and the list goes on, for the very issues and concerns we are faced with in this case, those of environmental and view shed degradation, public protest, condemnation proceedings, costly easements, weather and other natural disasters. For a bit more background on UGU's, visit Transmission & Distribution World, [www.tdworld.com](http://www.tdworld.com). There is a major paradigm shift in energy infrastructure already upon us, principally being toward distributed generation and local transmission, with hydrogen as the inevitable and principle power source in the near future (Reference:

"Hydrogen Economy" by Jeremy Rifkin). With the current mandate on energy policy, it is completely premature to be rendering these kinds of decisions, and equally hard to believe that our local policy makers are not the only ones in the dark, but that developers and the public aren't more educated, concerned and speaking out for our common (inure and natural heritage. Every day we see the vulnerability of our overhead power grids to the increasingly hostile weather events, leaving millions in the dark. It is therefore further perplexing that no one is speaking to the utilization of the "best available technologies", which has always been the standard by which we develop our resources, particularly when it involves regulatory agencies and public projects.

Allow me a qualifier here; I have been on the boards of directors and an officer of several energy production, mineral exploration and mining companies, having a larger view of federal, state and local government interface, including that with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and Department of Energy, and have been involved in the planning and permitting of over a dozen smaller, eco-friendly co-generation power plants in several western states, It may be of further interest to you that my uncle, Jim Watson, President of Teton Industrial, built the back-up gas plant for APS at Palo Verde Nuclear Power Station. I have been in planning and development all of my life, was Chairman of the Middletown Area (Northern California) Planning Commission and have also been involved in the planning and development of convention centers, commercial office towers, colleges and golf communities. Along with this, I have been an ardent environmentalist, founding two nonprofit environmental organizations and sewed with several others in Hawaii, California, Arizona and Wyoming, believing that we can and must balance the development of resources with ecological sustainability.

At some point we must say "NO" to the uncontrolled development of the kind planned through this Scenic Corridor, which not only threatens our natural heritage, but has been such a prescient factor in our plummeting home values and economic suffering. To this end, we have been organizing a large coalition of communities, environmental and recreation groups to fight this power line from ever being located within the greater view shed, north or south, of the SR 74 Scenic Corridor. In behalf of Friends of the Sonoran Upland and many other

**ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION**  
**UTILITY COMPLAINT FORM**

---

organizations state and nation wide, I am going to do everything within my power and influence to stop this transmission line from ever being built through one of the last and most beautiful sections of our Sonoran Desert in the greater Phoenix area. We are asking you to join us in the denunciation of this project to the Arizona Corporation Commission, and that you try to have representation at the upcoming Public Comment meeting, to be held at the Corporation Commission on Monday) March 2nd at 10 am., located at 1200 West Washington, Phoenix, AZ 85007. It is my hunch and hope that the tide of opposition to this shameful project will soon turn into a tsunami. No doubt, however, many more public and private dollars will be wasted toward this effort.

For more information regarding this case, ACC Docket # 138, you may contact me at any time via the sources below.

Respectfully,  
Troy Hunter  
Friends of the Sonoran Upland

[REDACTED]  
Wickenburg, AZ 85358  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

CC: Local, State & Federal Agencies, Governments & Organizations and Media Outlets  
\*End of Complaint\*

**Utilities' Response:**

**Investigator's Comments and Disposition:**

2/25/09

Called consumer on behalf of Chairman Mayes. Acknowledged receipt of opinion and docket process.  
\*End of Comments\*

**Date Completed: 2/25/2009**

**Opinion No. 2009 - 76987**

---





24

Castle Hot Springs Rd

25

36

23

26

35

7



*Millersville*

APPS ALTERNATIVE 3 NORTH ALIGNMENT

