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**Arbor Day Foundation™**

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ORIGINAL

April 29, 2009

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*We inspire people to plant, nurture, and celebrate trees.*

Kristin K. Mayes  
Chairman Arizona Corporation Commission  
1200 W. Washington- 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Phoenix, AZ 85007

COMMISSION  
DOCKET CONTROL

Dear Chairman Mayes,

During a recent Trees and Utilities conference sponsored by the National Arbor Day Foundation the topic of how Arizona Public Service manages saguaros underneath power lines was raised. The National Arbor Day Foundation has developed a program to recognize best in class for utility vegetation management. This program is called the Tree Line USA and APS has received the Tree Line award every year since 1997.

The Tree Line USA® program is sponsored by The Arbor Day Foundation™ in cooperation with the National Association of State Foresters and recognizes public and private utilities across the nation that demonstrate practices that protect and enhance America's urban forests.

Trees and utility service lines are integral components of every community. By necessity, they must co-exist in close proximity, and each in its own way is essential to our high standard of living.

The Arbor Day Foundation™ Tree Line USA program promotes the dual goals of dependable utility service and abundant, healthy trees in America's communities.

To meet these goals, criteria have been developed that highlight—for the consumer public as well as utility workers—key practices that need to be followed. Utilities that meet the three requirements of this program are publicly recognized for their contribution to better community forests. This recognition serves not only as an award to the conscientious employees who make it possible, it also makes a statement to the community at large about cooperation, goodwill and the need for continuous tree care.

The utility is required to follow certain guidelines in order to be eligible for this prestigious award. One of the requirements dictates the utility follow the ANSI A-300 pruning guidelines. These guidelines specify utilities not to top any trees, shrubs or woody plants.

Therefore, the Arbor Day Foundation does not condone the practice of tree topping. Topping creates many problems for woody plants including insect infestations and diseases, weak limbs, shock and starvation to the tree and poor aesthetic qualities. For more information visit the Arbor Day web site at <http://www.arborday.org/index.cfm> or contact me personally.

Best Regards,

Dan Lambe  
Vice President of Programs

Arizona Corporation Commission

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