

E-01575A-08-0328



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From: [redacted]
 Sent: Thursday, August 13, 2009 11:12 AM
 To: Pierce-Web
 Subject: Sulphur Springs Valley Electric Cooperative (SSVEC)'s Proposed 69 kv Sub-Transmission Line

ORIGINAL

Dear Mr. Pierce:

I have been a member of SSVEC since 1961 and a resident of Sonoita since 1967, Over the years, I have experienced many blinks and power outages that come with living in a rural area. However, the situation is now becoming critical since the 14 kv feeder line (V-7 Feeder) from the sub-station 20 miles east at the junction of highways 82 and 90, has reached capacity. The V-7 Feeder serves 2400 homes in the Elgin, Sonoita and Patagonia area, has 360 miles of line and is the longest feeder line in the SSVEC inventory. The rate hearing scheduled to begin on August 17th will in part deal with a proposed 69 kv sub- transmission line from the Huachuca City / Sierra Vista area to Sonoita. This line will serve to rectify brownouts, blinks and outages now experienced.

SSVEC has provided the members served by the V-7 Feeder with an eight page report which discussed five options and costs ranging from \$55M to \$13.3M. SSVEC chose the \$13.5M option which is the most cost efficient route, affects the fewest members and uses existing easements. I support SSVEC in the choice of this option.

A very small, but exceedingly loud group of members has by means of irrational rants managed to delay construction of this much needed 69 kv sub-transmission line. They are now circulating petitions saying that new technologies would be significantly less expensive (\$3-9 million) to implement, but they offer zero information on this new technology and they are requesting that SSVEC initiate a feasibility study of all alternative techniques of power generation.

The V-7 Feeder is at maximum capacity now and any new power generation in the V-7 Feeder area would require a back-up sub-transmission line. There are some alternative methods of power generation in use today such as wind and solar, but the amount of power produced is exceedingly small. Furthermore wind and solar power generation is much more expensive than the methods used by the Arizona Electric Power Cooperative (AEPCCO) which supplies power to SSVEC.

As I stated earlier, I support SSVEC's choice in the 69 kv sub- transmission line and I hope that the Arizona Corporation Commission also approves so that construction can begin forthwith.

Lee Sims, P. E., retired
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