

ORIGINAL OPEN MEETING AGENDA ITEM



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Arizona Corporation Commission
Docket Control
1200 West Washington Street
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Arizona Corporation Commission
DOCKETED

AUG 13 2009

ACC Docket No. E-1057A-08-0328

01575A

Dear ACC:

DOCKETED BY

I am a customer of SSVEC, a resident of Sonoita, and a biologist by profession. It is my understanding that the ACC will meet to discuss the proposal to invest nearly fourteen million dollars by SSVEC in new power lines and substations through our communities (Sonoita, Patagonia, and Elgin). It is also my understanding that members of the Mountain Empire Group, representing our communities, have developed plans costing much less and presenting less environmental damage, but these plans have been ignored by the SSVEC.

In these times of environmental concern it is only logical that every effort is made to produce and transmit power with as little impact to our surroundings as possible. It would be most disturbing to learn that SSVEC is ignoring feasibility plans from any source simply because it has the political and economic power to do so. All plans should be studied and the one that causes the least amount of environmental impact should be chosen. If implemented, the SSVEC plan would in part adversely impact an area set aside specifically for research and understanding of the biological interactions that sustain our environment (Appleton-Whittell Research Ranch). It would not only cause immediate physical destruction but would allow the introduction and spread of noxious invasive weeds along the disturbed areas with possible invasion into what were once natural areas.

The proposal of SSVEC is simply last century *business as usual* with no concern for the future of our environment or our children. Is that the best we can do? If we continue to live in the past we will have no future, it's as simple as that. In choosing to live in Arizona I had imagined this state would champion the most advanced use of solar power of any state and that there would be large scale operations and companies providing access to such power. But I have found this not to be the case. The entire concept of solar power appears to be left to individual homeowners and companies with so few employees they can scarcely serve the people who rely upon them. I am one such customer. The concept of solar power appears to be more a public relations gimmick than a reality. Would it not be more appropriate to locate solar powered substations in small communities such as ours, rather than create power in coal-fired power plants and then send it through hundreds of miles of power lines?

Please consider any alternatives that are available, and don't simply let the SSVEC bulldoze it's way through the ever decreasing natural areas that we rely upon to sustain our future.

Sincerely,

Eric Grissell
PO Box 739
38 Terry Lane
Sonoita, AZ 85637-0739

RECEIVED
2009 AUG 13 P 4: 20
AZ CORP COMMISSION
DOCKET CONTROL

The Research Ranch Foundation
P. O. Box 12987
Tucson, AZ 85732

August 5, 2009

Arizona Corporation Commission
Docket Control
1200 West Washington Street
Phoenix, AZ 85007

01575
RE: ACC Docket No. E-~~4057~~A-08-0328

The Research Ranch Foundation (TRRF) holds title to a small parcel within the boundary of the Appleton-Whittell Research Ranch of the National Audubon Society. This parcel borders the Babacomari Ranch and is adjacent to the proposed site of the 69kV power line. In addition, TRRF has served in an advisory capacity to Audubon regarding the management of the Research Ranch since 1980. The Board of Directors of TRRF is deeply concerned that the construction and maintenance of the power line, along with the structures themselves, will irreparably compromise continuing and future research at the Ranch that is critical to understanding and protecting grassland ecosystems.

Although TRRF understands that there is a desire for increased electric power in the Sonoita/Elgin/Patagonia area, it believes that there are alternatives that are equally or more feasible that will not cause the ecological disturbance found in the current plan.

We urge the ACC to insist that Sulphur Springs Valley Electrical Cooperative contracts for an independent feasibility study that examines viable alternatives to the proposed power line."

Respectfully,



W. R. Osterkamp
Vice President, Science; TRRF

Arizona Corporation Commission

Docket Control

1200 West Washington Street

Phoenix, AZ 85007

Re: ACC Docket No. E-⁰¹⁵⁷⁵~~1057A~~-08-0328

August 8, 2009

Dear ACC Members:

I am a Professor off Environmental Studies at Prescott College in Arizona, and I often bring classes to the Research Ranch near Elgin for studies of and exposure to rare and valuable environments protected on the National Audubon Society property. I understand that there is a proposal for a power line that would negatively impact the long-term research projects at the Research Ranch and would have a number of other unwanted environmental effects.

I will not be able to attend the hearing in Tucson later this month, but I hope you will take my comments as indicative of a widespread appreciation for the remarkable values of the Research Ranch that goes far beyond the residents of that valley (though I most certainly respect their immediate needs). There are many unaware of this proposal who would be shocked by it.

I strongly support the position of having an independently conducted feasibility study to examine all viable alternatives to the proposed power line, including but not limited to creating renewable energy (locally generated), re-engineering the present line, and using back-up from portable generators and nearby electric utility companies.

From what I understand of the proposal, inadequate (or no) attention has been paid to many possible deleterious environmental impacts, including fragmentation of wildlife habitat, introduction of invasive species (especially aggressive weeds), harm to sensitive plant and animal species, and disruption of actual existing research projects.

I also believe that there are far better alternatives to coal-generated power that should be explored, because of both financial and ecological reasons. At a time when scientists (and economists) call for serious reductions in our carbon footprint, it makes no sense not to use the most environmentally sensitive sources of energy (including encouraging conservation and reduced uses). Many grants can be found to support these kinds of energy-use shifts.

I fear that such a destructive project would be an expensive and very likely anachronistic "dinosaur" that represents old technologies and ways of thinking instead of new, innovative work. Likely to be obsolete well before its proponents think, the project will have done its damage, likely irreversible.

Let's be intelligent in our planning and implementation of power distribution. Above all, if we do it right, it can be cheaper now *and* in the future. We do not need a Hummer when a Prius will suffice.

Thank you now for listening and in advance for making the correct decision.

Walt Anderson, Environmental Studies, Prescott College, 220 Grove Avenue, Prescott AZ 86301



August 11, 2009

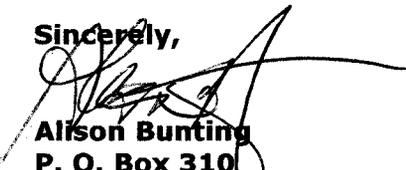
**Arizona Corporation Commission
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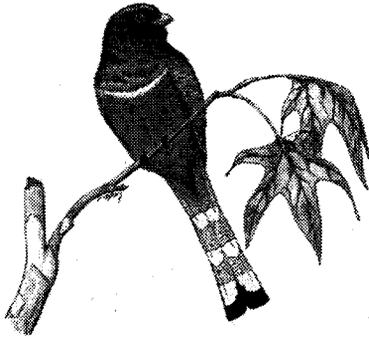
RE: ACC Docket No. E-⁰¹⁵⁷⁵~~1057A~~-08-0328

I am a resident of Sonoita and am writing to request that you require Sulphur Springs Valley Electrical Cooperative (SSVEC) to conduct an independent feasibility study to address the reliability and connectivity issues in our community before granting them permission to increase rates for electricity. I believe that SSVEC is acting in an outdated and fiscally irresponsible manner when they refuse to even consider the use of renewable energy in lieu of installing a 69kV line to serve Elgin/Sonoita/Patagonia. They have been presented with an alternative that would save an estimated \$3-9 million dollars, and have refused to consider it.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,


**Alison Bunting
P. O. Box 310
Sonoita, AZ 85637**



HUACHUCA AUDUBON SOCIETY

P. O. BOX 63 • SIERRA VISTA, ARIZONA 85636-0063

August 6, 2009

Arizona Corporate Commission
Docket Control
1200 West Washington Street
Phoenix AZ 85007

01575A

Reference: ACC Docket No. E-1057A-08-0328

Members of the Commission,

We wish to draw your attention to the following objections to the proposed power line. The location of this power line will cause a large negative impact on the present and future research projects occurring on the National Audubon Appleton-Whittle Research Ranch and the Babacomari Ranch through the construction and maintenance activities, and by the introduction of new, permanent structures.

The construction and maintenance activities will provide a corridor for invasive plant species, further degrading this rare native grassland habitat.

There are many listed species - Threatened, Endangered and Species of Special Concern - found in these immediate areas, yet no environmental or biological assessment of the impacts of this project have been made available to the public.

In order to avoid the construction, and considerable cost, of this power line we request that SSVEC arrange for a feasibility study of viable alternatives. This should consider locally generated renewable energy, re-engineering the existing line from the Huachuca sub-station, and increased education re conservation, amongst others.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael W. Guest". The signature is written in a cursive, somewhat stylized font.

Michael W Guest, President, Huachuca Audubon Society