

E-01575-A-08-0328

ORIGINAL



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OPEN MEETING AGENDA ITEM
ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION
UTILITY COMPLAINT FORM

Investigator: Richard Martinez

Phone: [REDACTED]

Fax: [REDACTED]

Priority: Respond Within Five Days

Opinion No. 2009 81012

Date: 8/10/2009

Complaint Description: 08A Rate Case Items - Opposed
N/A Not Applicable

Complaint By: First: Susan Last: Shields

Account Name: Susan Shields

Home: [REDACTED]

Street: [REDACTED]

Work:

City: Elgin

CBR: [REDACTED]

State: AZ

Zip: [REDACTED]

is: E-Mail

Utility Company: Sulphur Springs Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Division: Electric

Contact Name: [REDACTED]

Contact Phone: [REDACTED]

Nature of Complaint:

(Docket No. E-01057A-08-0328)

Arizona Corporation Commission

DOCKETED

AUG 18 2009

DOCKETED BY [Signature]

ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION
DOCKET CONTROL

2009 AUG 18 PM 4: 02

RECEIVED

From: Susan Shields [mailto:[REDACTED]]
Sent: Thursday, August 06, 2009 7:59 PM
To: Mayes-WebEmail
Subject: where has our thinking gone?

Sirs: My question is, at first glance, rhetorical. On second glance, it is the most reasonable question I can ask with regard to the proposed Sulfur Springs Valley Electric Company's(SSVEC) 69KV transmission line allegedly researched and found to be the only viable solution to a projected increased demand for coal-generated electricity in Southern Arizona.

Where has our thinking gone? For starters, I strongly suggest that it is increasingly tunnel-visioned either from poor research or from unspoken motives that offer profit to someone if this line is approved by the Commission. The "someone" is not the consumer - we, the so-called owners of a so-called cooperative. One need only to canvas this area of Southeastern Arizona to tally the numbers of wind generators and solar panels a rapidly growing number of consumers have already been using. Wind and sun are with us 365 days a year. Where has our thinking gone that, in the midst of these clearly viable sources of energy, we are still discussing increasing our dependency on coal-generated electricity?

Asked what statistical data SSVEC has to substantiate the alleged need for more of this type of energy, the company offered only this: new construction may be coming to the areas of Rio Rico and Tubac. Where has our thinking gone that we are not requiring all new home and business construction to provide solar panels for electricity, and cisterns to collect rain water from a gutter system. The old paradigm suggests dependency; the new paradigm offers independence.

More than 40 years ago, electrical transmission lines have been proved to be unhealthy to reproductivity in an environment. Yet we continue to grant permission to build more and bigger. An old adage, born of humorous observation, tells us that "What is obvious to a child goes unnoticed by an engineer." Wind, sun, global

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warming, environmental harm seem not to be enough to send the engineers of SSVEC back to the drawing board. Like a gila monster to his prey, they are hooked to their one and only one solution to a "problem" that may, in fact, not even exist.

During the last decade of the last century, another "cooperative" cleverly convinced Boards of Supervisors of one county after another in the State of Colorado that a 345-KV powerline was absolutely essential to national security. In a grand stretch of logic, the company convinced each county that by constructing such an enormous enterprise - far greater than met the needs of each county - this source of electricity would be ready for emergency use in any other part of the country by the mere "flip of a switch." We need only to ask the residents of New Orleans how successful this "flip of the switch" was during their emergency.

I ask this: simply and logically, deny SSVEC's request for permission from the Commission. If it is constructed, I am confident that it will become a useless relic within a decade.

Most Sincerely,

Susan Shields
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

End of Complaint

Utilities' Response:

See Investigators' Comments & Disposition

End of Response

Investigator's Comments and Disposition:

8/10

I called customer @ 4:56 p.m. and left a voice mail message to acknowledge receipt of her Opinion. I stated that her Opinion would be docketed so that the Commissioners will have an opportunity to read her concerns regarding the 69 KV transmission line. FILE CLOSED.

I emailed this OPINION to Carmen Madrid @ ACC Phoenix Office to have this docketed towards Sulphur Springs Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc. -Docket No. E-01057A-08-0328

End of Comments

Date Completed: 8/11/2009

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