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AZ CORP COMMISSION
DOCKET CONTROL

June 11, 2009

Judge Jane Rodda
Arizona Corporation Commission
Docket Control
1200 West Washington Street
Phoenix, AZ. 85007

Re: SSVEC rate case, docket #E-01575A-08-0328

Honorable Judge Rodda:

I am writing this letter voicing my opposition to the request by the Sulphur Springs Valley Electric Cooperative (SSVEC) for a rate increase. SSVEC has, concomitant with this proposed rate increase, undertaken a costly project labeled the "Sonoita Reliability Project." This project is controversial at several levels:

- 1) Figures presented by SSVEC to illustrate the need for additional electrical supply do not appear to be consistent with figures available through the ACC and other sources with respect to peak load, outages and proposed population growth in the area,
- 2) Total cost of the proposed project has not been made available to the members of the Cooperative,
- 3) All viable alternatives have not been examined – notably any alternative that includes local generation using "green" techniques,
- 4) SSVEC's Board of Directors has consistently refused to acknowledge the community in discussion of this project,
- 5) The proposed project is counter to the Santa Cruz Comprehensive Plan for NE Santa Cruz,
- 6) The proposed project is a 20th century response to a perceived problem – the 21st century demands solutions that offer alternatives to the environmental damage created by the generation of electrical power through combustion of coal and distribution through sensitive areas.

The community, in concert with experts in the field (both contractors and consultants), believe that the Sonoita/Patagonia/Elgin community can implement a plan that will be more cost effective, reliable and environmentally sustainable than the costly solution offered by SSVEC.

I urge denial of this rate increase or at least tabling the request until a feasibility study has been conducted to determine the best solution. It is inappropriate to expect members of the Cooperative to pay for a project that is not the most economical, efficient and sustainable.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Respectfully,

Linda Kennedy, Ph.D.
Director

Cc: ACC Commission, SSVEC Board of Directors

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