

ORIGINAL



Arizona Corporation Commission Docket No. L-00000F-09-0190-00144 Case #144 Vail to

0000099513

Public Comment

Dear Chairman Foreman and Members of the Arizona Power Plant and Transmission Line Siting Committee,

I am a customer of Tucson Electric Power. I am also a resident along a designated Scenic Arizona Scenic Highway in Vail, AZ; SR 83 in the Empire Mountains in Supervisor Ray Carroll's District 4. I write today as a spokesman for the Hilton Ranch Road Community Association, a registered Neighborhood Association with Pima County in the vicinity of the proposed Vail to Valencia project. Please see the attached letter signed by several members of our Community Association in regard to concerns about Case 144.

I also have a few personal concerns I would like to share with you as well.

When I spoke in front of the Commissioners on August 18th 2008, Commissioner Mayes made the comment to me after I spoke: "...And so I hope that going forward the company learns a lesson from this case from its customers, which is you need to maximum outreach prior to do any case being filed and also multiple alternatives have to be offered. So I commend everybody who has been involved in this case for making those points."

It doesn't seem like much changed with this case, which was filed about eight months after these comments were made.

It is my understanding from reading the transcripts online that TEP intends to share the cost of a large 345kvA transformer with UNS Electric, indeed potentially bearing the majority of the cost for "future capacity" of 552 megawatts worth of a transformer. If this is the case why weren't we as customers of TEP and members of a community organization in the vicinity of the proposed project notified of this? Why were the notices written to imply that this project was merely an upgrade with a few minor changes? Cost is not the only issue. It is the idea of TEP receiving 552 megawatts of power without having to justify the need or say where it is going that is disturbing.

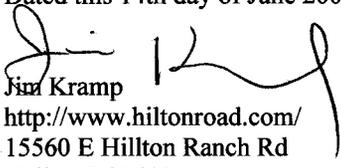
Just because all of us from our community do not waste the physical resources and time to attend meetings held outside of our area does not mean we do communicate with each other. We are a predominately working class neighborhood and many of us have long commutes and we are tired at the end of the day. Gas is expensive too.

We place a certain amount of trust in the fact that individuals in our community have settled into certain roles with certain responsibilities. It just sort of happened that way. Elizabeth Webb is the one who typically attends electric events and reports back. She may not represent all of us, but she keeps us informed. If she can't make electric meetings, such as the Rosemont project meeting that was held in March at Acacia Elementary, we are sure to have someone else there. I know she attended three separate meetings about this particular project, Case 144. I maintain our website, attend specific environmental meetings, report back via email and typically chair neighborhood meetings. We have others in our community who are responsible for other local issues. Others are responsible for food and beverage planning. Others plan and attend public outreach events where we need a face. When we need a large cohesive effort that is when we come together. This is the way a community conserves its limited resources.

I also very concerned about the perceived attempt to diminish the role of the BLM in this case to the public. The Nogales substation is located on BLM property. The preferred alignment crosses BLM land. It is extremely difficult to see this (if at all) on any of the photos on the Unisource Energy Services website. It is not mentioned on the project display board for right of way on the Unisource Energy Website except in a very general way. "Establish positive long term relationships between Unisource Energy Services and the landowner". There is a case where the Commission granted a certificate eight years ago where the Forest Service still has not allowed access through its land in Southern Arizona. Doesn't it make sense to work with the federal agencies concurrently? Also, and very important to our community is that fact that we have future and foreseeable projects in the area as well as potential cumulative impacts.

Again, I ask you to read the letter signed by many of the members of our Community Association with the mailing facilitated by me and take these comments into consideration.

Thank you,
Dated this 14th day of June 2009


Jim Kramp
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Arizona Corporation Commission
1200 West Washington Street

Public Comment

Dear Chairman Foreman and Members of the Arizona Power Plant and Transmission Line Siting Committee,

We the undersigned are customers of Tucson Electric Power (TEP) and have some concerns regarding the proposed Vail to Valencia case before the Committee. We are also members of the Hilton Road Community Association. Our area is a very diverse one with very high end custom homes to more modest mobile homes. We have a mixture of retirees and younger couples with children still in school.

What we have in common in our rural landscape is a sense of responsibility to our community and a strong sense of unity. This is in part because we have little to no services in our region and have to depend on each other. A drive to the grocery store is now quite close since one was built in Rita Ranch at just about 16-20 miles from our homes. We do not live in a fire district, we pay to be included. We typically do not have cell phone service out here. Internet service in some places can only be provided by satellite.

Our community has been left out lately in infrastructure and industrial land use issues that strongly impact our future and we expect that you will read our concerns and listen, as perhaps they will also echo the sentiments of other rural communities in Arizona.

Here are areas of specific concern and some suggestions for the future:

1. Public Outreach by the Utility Companies: In Line Site Case 144 there was no public meeting held in Vail or Corona de Tucson. If a meeting is to be held in an area outside of our community, we would suggest that the notification given be done in a timely manner so that we may prepare and carpool. Or the Company could provide a shuttle. We would also suggest that meetings start later in the day so that our community would have time to arrive home or arrive at the meeting after work. 5:30pm is too early. 6:00-6:30pm is more reasonable for a community that has many younger members.

2. Advertisement of Open Houses: Another important aspect of public outreach is clear concise information in the advertising for the meetings. Advertising construction of a completely new transmission line from a TEP substation after disconnecting it from a non-TEP substation to supply non-TEP customers as an *"upgrade that would involve only a few changes to the existing transmission line route"* is disingenuous. And that is how it was advertised in the newspaper for the May and Dec 2008 Open Houses in Tucson.

3. Availability of Information to TEP Customers. This project will use shared equipment between two utility companies and travel through TEP's service territory. We would suggest that future joint projects have a listing on both websites just as the Sahuarita to Nogales project is listed on both websites with an explanation of the joint project. We would also suggest putting the website information on the newspaper advertisements for the Open Houses for those who cannot attend.

4. Cooperating with Other Agencies. We suggest that the Committee work with the BLM, on whose land the Nogales substation sits and where the preferred alignment in Segment 1A would cross. There are cumulative impacts associated with several transmission lines, structures, and future projects in our area. Additionally, the NEPA process *requires* social, economic and rural lifestyle issues to be

considered while Arizona only *allows* them to be considered. We sincerely hope you will take these factors into consideration under Total Environment when you make your decision about granting your conditions in this Certificate.

5. Vail to Kantor Line: The potential of this line to be used as Option 1 and 3 in Rosemont Mine's plan of Operations. As of today, June 14th 2009, the Vail to Kantor line which still does not exist, is listed on Augusta Resources website as two possible alternatives. It is our understanding that TEP has asked Rosemont to remove these two options from Augusta Resource's website but it still has not done so.

http://www.augustaresource.com/upload/Plan_of_Operations/2.7_Electrical_Power_Supply.pdf
<http://www.augustaresource.com/section.asp?pageid=6320>

This creates great unease about this project among residents in my community, as if TEP/UNS Electric is being disingenuous about this aspect as well.

6. Structure color. We request any new transmission structures installed next to existing lattice structures be constructed of galvanized steel. In virginal areas with sky and mountains as a backdrop we would also request galvanized steel.

7. Potential use of the Vail Substation as a gas fired power plant. TEP had the land up zoned by the City of Tucson for this purpose.

Another concern as a TEP customer is the exporting of power to a community far south of the Vail Substation when it was mentioned several times in Line Site Case 137 (Cienega) that there were constraints on the Vail Substation via transmission line length. I question how much of this case is about providing reliable energy to Santa Cruz County and how much is about tying the Tucson Electric Power and UNS Electric regional grid together for future projects. Is this the basis for granting a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility? We question the future cumulative environmental costs to my area, such as water and air quality, especially if a gas fired power plant, of any kind, is constructed in the vicinity of the Vail Substation.

Our families live in a growing region already threatened by many environmental polluters. We recommend our community have a proactive role in transmission planning, (particularly since the Vail Substation is expected to have many projects in the next few years) and request that a Citizens' Advisory Council, comprised of various community associations, emergency responders, and environmental groups is added to the conditions of the Certificate of Environmental Compatibility, should it be granted.

Thank you,
Dated this 14th day of June 2009

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Pursuant to AAC R14-3-204

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