



0000107790

**ORIGINAL**

**ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISS  
UTILITY COMPLAINT FORM**

2010 JAN 29 A 11:11  
RECEIVED

Investigator: Carolyn Buck

Phone:

Fax:

Priority: Respond Within Five Days

ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION  
DOCKET CONTROL

Opinion No. 2010 - 84545

Date: 1/29/2010

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

First:

Last:

Complaint By: Deborah

Fain

Account Name: Deborah Fain

Home: (000) 000-0000

Street:

Work:

City:

CBR: (

State: AZ Zip:

is: Fax

Utility Company: Sulphur Springs Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Division: Electric

Contact Name: Lainie Keltner

Contact Phone: (520) 515-3440

Nature of Complaint:

1/29/10 \*\*\*\*\*REFERRED FROM THE CHAIRMAN'S OFFICE\*\*\*\*\*

REFERENCE: Sulphur Springs Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc. No. E-01575A-08-0328

CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED - OPINION OPPOSED

SBBI, Inc Certified WOSH & HUBZone  
General Contractors  
Arizona Corporation Commission  
1200 West Washington St  
Phoenix, AZ 85007  
Re: ACC Docket No, E-01575A-08-0328  
16 August 2009

Arizona Corporation Commission  
**DOCKETED**

JAN 29 2010

DOCKETED BY *[Signature]*

Dear Madam Chairman and Commissioners:

It isn't easy to thrive or survive in today's economy. Everything is getting more expensive. It seems like growth in expenses is out of our control.

As a business person we realize that our power companies cannot provide us with power for free. We realize that their costs increase as do ours. We understand that to continue to provide power, they must have financial stability and resources to purchase and deliver the power. But, we also realize that in today's economy we have to begin to find other ways to accomplish our objectives. In the case of energy, we are lucky. We live in an area with abundant resources. Both sun and wind are outstanding sources of energy. They are renewable, clean and once operational virtually free. Think about the impact on our product/service pricing if there were no power costs!

As the second largest employer in the Mountain Empire (Elgin, Patagonia and Sonoita) SBBI supports renewable energy as a primary source of power for our area. We (our company, owners and employees) are converting our homes and businesses to solar energy. We not only expect to greatly reduce our energy costs but to also supply energy to SSVEC which they can sell to their

# ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION

## UTILITY COMPLAINT FORM

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customers. It is our hope that over time SSVEC will be able to eliminate the need for new plants and power lines which destroy our beautiful Empire.

We urge you to encourage SSVEC to more actively engage in conversion to renewable energy; to cease investing in old energy generating and distribution technologies; and, to become an active member in creating our country's first model community for renewable energy.

To the point, we do not want SSVEC to build the 69kV line. We do want the time to plan for the Mountain Empire's Renewable Energy Demonstration Project. We want to be the Model for the rest of the state and the nation.

Please help us do that!

Thank you.

Deborah Fain . . .

President

CREATIVITY EXPERTISE QUALITY

\*End of Complaint\*

Utilities' Response:

Investigator's Comments and Disposition:

1/29/10 Comments entered for the record and docketed in Docket No. E-01575A-08-0328

\*End of Comments\*

Date Completed:

Opinion No. 2010 - 84545

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**ORIGINAL**

**Board of Supervisor**



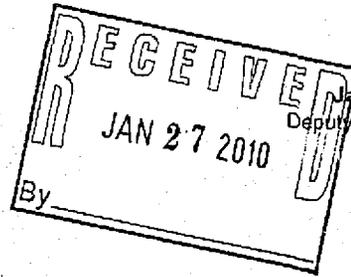
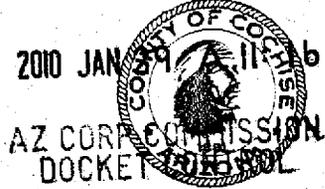
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Ann English  
Chairman  
District 2

Richard R. Searle  
Vice-Chairman  
District 3

Patrick G. Call  
Supervisor  
District 1

**RECEIVED**



Michael J. Ortega  
County Administrator

James E. Vlahovich  
Deputy County Administrator

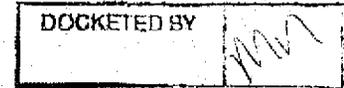
Katie A. Howard  
Clerk

January 26, 2010

Arizona Corporation Commission  
Commissioners Wing  
1200 West Washington  
Phoenix, AZ 85007-2996

Arizona Corporation Commission  
**DOCKETED**

JAN 29 2010



Re: Case Numbers [REDACTED] E-01575A-08-0328  
SSVEC 69kV Transmission Power Line proposed from Mustang Corners are to Sonoita

Dear ACC:

It has come to our attention that you are withholding approval of the construction of the referenced power lines pending additional public meetings on SSVEC's proposal. The Cochise County Board of Supervisors respectfully requests that you approve the construction of the much needed power line in the very near future.

Based on our understanding of the facts, ACC staff and an independent consultant reached the same conclusion: that the location SSVEC is proposing for this power transmission line is the best for all involved. Hence, we urge you to allow this important project to continue and stop the needless waste of rate payer money.

We understand from media accounts that some of you may question the integrity of SSVEC. The Cochise County Board of Supervisors needs to go on record as supporting SSVEC as a community partner and stands behind their open and honest practices. They have been a sponsor through the SSVEC Foundation of many local organizations and youth programs, allocating money on an annual basis for 20 scholarships. SSVEC is also a good employer within many of our communities and they encourage civic engagement on the part of their employees.

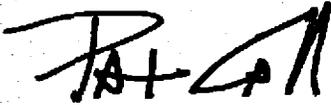
SSVEC also shared with us at a Board of Supervisors meeting, the results of an independent public relations poll that was just conducted. The results of this poll showed that 88% of its members were happy/satisfied with SSVEC service, 67% thought they communicated well with their members, and 83% thought the Sonoita line should be built as is (72% of Sonoita residents also agreed).

We also see the economic benefits related to the construction of this line. Specifically, some local subcontractors will be used for construction. In addition, other contractors will come to the area and spend money on housing and meals during construction. Although these may not be long term, both would add much needed sales to our economy.

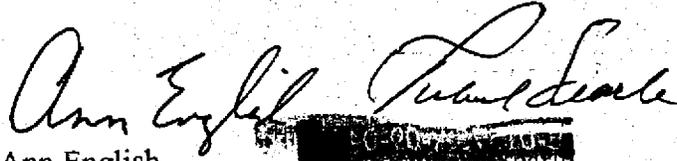
Another factor important to us is the looming deadline for the use of Federal Stimulus money for the completion of the Smart Grid Project. These monies are currently available and will be lost to the area if not used within the required time.

Ultimately, the additional expense the ACC is forcing on SSVEC to appease a few unhappy people is costing the rate payers, most of which are also taxpayers in Cochise County. During this difficult economic time, as elected officials, we should be looking for ways to assist our corporate partners and taxpayers, not adding unnecessary requirements that lead to more cost.

Sincerely,



Pat Call  
Supervisor, District 1  
Member



Ann English  
Supervisor, District 1  
Chair

~~Richard Searle~~  
Richard Searle  
Supervisor, District 1  
Vice-Chair

**ORIGINAL**



0000107792

Sheila Stoeller

**From:** Cassie Levitt [cassie.levitt@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, January 22, 2010 4:30 PM  
**To:** Mayes-WebEmail  
**Subject:** [REDACTED] E-01575A-08-0328 - 8 items

Dear Chairman,

SSVEC is a great cooperative; they are involved in our community and are very honest with their members. They support the schools and other local organizations. We receive a newsletter every month with updates, and are always made a top priority when we call. The Sonoita line has been proven to be the correct choice made by SSVEC and agreed upon with ACC and outside researchers. Their correct decision is now costing them undue time and money. The negative feedback by the Sonoita members is painting an incorrect picture of SSVEC, and these members knew of this line when they bought property. I hope that this is quickly solved and the line is put in immediately not longer wasting time and money.

Cassandra Levitt

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2010 JAN 29 A 11: 17  
AZ CORP COMMISSION  
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Arizona Corporation Commission

DOCKETED

JAN 29 2010

DOCKETED BY *MM*

**Sheila Stoeller**

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**From:** David MacCollum [maccollum1@cox.net]  
**Sent:** Friday, January 22, 2010 4:19 PM  
**To:** Mayes-WebEmail  
**Subject:** Proposed SSVEC Sonoita powerline

January 22, 2010

**TO:** Arizona Corporation Commissioner Paul Newman  
Arizona Corporation Commissioner Gary Pierce  
Arizona Corporation Commissioner Kris Mayes  
Arizona Corporation Commissioner Sandra Kennedy  
Arizona Corporation Commissioner Bob Stump

**RE:** [REDACTED]  
E-01575A-08-0328

I have been a member of Sulphur Springs Valley Electric Cooperative (SSVEC) since 1965. In 1969 I was elected to the SSVEC Board of Directors and served for nine years until 1978. I am a licensed Professional Engineer in both Arizona and California and an engineering consultant with a national and international practice. I am proud of our excellently managed Cooperative and its development of a well-designed electrical distribution system to serve its members. I have reviewed in detail the engineering study by Navigant as ordered by your Commission.

At a rate hearing a year ago in Sierra Vista, a small group voiced concerns against the construction of a 69,000-volt transmission line. A quarter of these people did not even reside within our Cooperative's service area.

It is my professional opinion that this in-depth engineering study clearly shows that the concerns of this small group are totally without merit. Further, to best serve SSVEC's members in Elgin, Sonoita and Patagonia, the construction of this environmentally friendly transmission line and substation should be granted immediately by the Arizona Corporation Commission. Any further delay creates a wrongful and economic burden on SSVEC.

Respectfully,

David V. MacCollum, P.E., CSP  
1515 Hummingbird Lane  
Sierra Vista, Arizona 85635  
Telephone: 1-520-458-4100  
E-mail: [maccollum1@cox.net](mailto:maccollum1@cox.net)

**Sheila Stoeller**

---

**From:** Mark Boyle [mark@sierrafloors.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, January 22, 2010 4:18 PM  
**To:** Mayes-WebEmail  
**Subject:** SSVEC

Re:  
SSVEC 69 kV line that runs from Mustang Corners down to Sonoita.

As a coop member I find this to be a giant waste of SSVEC time and of the members money. This is not a case of emanate domain, but a clear cut case of ownership of land the coop and it's members purchases years ago. Now we are being punished for havening the foresight to plan head, and look towards the future and save some money. But in todays world it just don't pay to work hard and plan ahead ,for the majority is the enemy, and it takes such a small minority to stop progress in it's treks. Where is the common scene in this matter or is there a plan to have Tucson Eclectic bring in the power from that direction, I wounder.

Stop wasting my money and get this approved.

Mark Boyle  
Benson, AZ

Sheila Stoeller

---

From: Cassie [cassie@sierracycles.com]  
Sent: Friday, January 22, 2010 4:14 PM  
To: Mayes-WebEmail  
Subject: [REDACTED] E-01575A-08-0328

Dear Chairman,

SSVEC has been a part of my community my whole life, they are very supportive of the local school and are always open and honest with our dealings. I have heard nothing but negative views of SSVEC during this sonata line dilemma, which are creating a distorted view of the cooperative. Since the SSVEC staff, ACC Staff, and the outside researchers are in agreement SSVEC's time and money is being wasted by people that knew of this when they bought their property. Since it was determined by Chairman Mayes that the ACC does not have jurisdiction they should not allow them to assert it anyways. SSVEC has always been a fabulous company to work with and a great asset to our community.

*Cassie Cleere*

## Sheila Stoeller

---

**From:** tina hungerford [electricgal@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, January 22, 2010 3:24 PM  
**To:** Newman-Web; Pierce-Web; Mayes-WebEmail; Kennedy-Web; Stump-Web  
**Subject:** The Sonoita 69KV Line Extension

Commissioners-Bob Stump, Sandra Kennedy, Gary Pierce, Paul Newman and Chairman-Kris Mayes,

I am very concerned about a commission that has been heavy handed in governing over a utility cooperative and this commission also also has such a skewed perception of this utility cooperative.

Never mind that you have gone beyond your limitations (which you even admitted at one of your meetings) concerning the new line that is badly needed for the Sonoita, Patagonia, Elgin and Canelo areas - you also have pushed them (SSVEC) above and beyond what any other company would need to do to prove their sincere intentions to provide a more reliable service to this area.

You are costing serious dollars in this obstruction that costs each and every member of this coop and that includes me.

You have insulted the employees of this company - and yes I have listened to your meetings via the internet and Mr. Newman if you will pardon me - you need to seriously consider some therapy! You rant and do not make sense in your arguments. How the heck did you get elected? You really have no business calling **anyone** names, i.e. rednecks! Keeping you around would be comic relief if it wasn't such a serious matter that you are ruling over.

SSVEC is wonderful utility cooperative. They and their employees are very good to the community that they all live in and share in. It is obvious to me that you really do not know them and you have formed your bias by listening to a few disgruntled people - some who do not even live in our community!!!! How ridiculous is that?

Your commission needs to move on this as quickly as possible and stop the insanity!!!!

---

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**Sheila Stoeller**

---

**From:** Leo P Swatloski [w7jpi@sunnccast.net]  
**Sent:** Friday, January 22, 2010 3:20 PM  
**To:** "mailto:Newman-web"@azcc.gov; Pierce-Web; Mayes-WebEmail; Kennedy-Web; Stump-Web  
**Subject:** Sonoita Reliability Project

Dear Mr. Newman, Pierce, Mayes, Kennedy, and Stump:

Reference Case Numbers: [REDACTED] and E-01575A-08-0328

Last summer, your decision to block SSVEC's 69 Kv line to Sonoita and to order SSVEC to conduct an alternative power study was seriously flawed. Even I a retired Air Force Officer, but still a lay person in these matters knew that there were no alternative systems to replace the 69 Kv line. Solar and wind, widely in use today, are not productive most of the day and some times for days on end which means that a backup line would be necessary. Other systems are experimental and costly and SSVEC is not in the research business. I knew that and I am certain that ACC engineers knew that, so why the adverse decision against SSVEC? They had presented a sound engineering case for the 69 Kv line to improve reliability to the 2400 Whetstone, Elgin, Sonoita and Patagonia SSVEC members. The V7 line which serves the area is the longest (350 miles) in the SSVEC inventory and has the most outages. Were you possibly influenced by the glowering NIMBYs in the audience? That's not a good reason.

Now the \$350,000 study by Navigant Consulting has been completed and delivered and SSVEC has been thoroughly vindicated. Their plan for a 69 Kv sub transmission line and a substation in Sonoita is the best way to improve reliability in the V7 area. Not one of the dissident recommended alternatives proved feasible and all were examined by Navigant.

It is now time for action. I recommend that the SSVEC Reliability Project be placed on the ACC agenda as soon as possible.

Leo P Swatloski  
Retired Freedom Fighter  
SSVEC Customer 30 yrs +  
P O Box 453  
Sonoita, AZ 85637

**Sheila Stoeller**

---

**From:** PAUL MIHALIK, Sr. [mihalik28@msn.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, January 22, 2010 2:53 PM  
**To:** Newman-Web; Mayes-WebEmail; Kennedy-Web; Stump-Web; Pierce-Web  
**Subject:** New 69KV transmissiion line for Sonoita,Az.

I am writing you to appeal to your sense of fairness concerning the need for the approval of this additional power for the Sonoita,Patagonia, Elgin area. Although citizens have the right to object to the power line, as a relative handful have done, it is important that the ACC gives due consideration to the recommendation of the study performed by Navigant at a cost of 360,000 dollars. Leaving strong personal feelings out as expressed by those who object to the line and any undesirable features on the landscape, the proposed power line is in fact a genuine need for the people in the area proposed to be served by the line.. It is costly to be postponing a project that will, sooner or later , have to be built to serve real power needs. In the meantime, the Sonoita,Patagonia, and Elgin people are dependant on your just decision to provide for their needs. Please consider that we depend on your wisdom and sense of fair-play to use your power and authority to do what is right for the people of these communities. Paul A. Mihalik, Sr. Lt.Col.USAF (Ret), resident of Patagonia.

**Sheila Stoeller**

---

**From:** Ami Rodriguez [amirod.tampa@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, January 22, 2010 2:33 PM  
**To:** Stump-Web; Kennedy-Web; Mayes-WebEmail; Pierce-Web; Newman-Web  
**Subject:** SSVEC and the Sonoita Line Issue [REDACTED] E-01575A-08-0328

Dear ACC Commissioners,

I am writing this letter to you in support of Sulphur Springs Valley Electric Cooperative (SSVEC) and their efforts regarding the new line that is to be built in Sonoita. Although there is great controversy in the area right now surrounding this issue, I believe that SSVEC has acted accordingly, and in the interest of their members and the citizens of Cochise County.

SSVEC is a non-profit, member owned cooperative. The main objective of an electric cooperative is to bring power to underserved areas. These are the very entities that actually "turned the lights on" in thousands of rural communities throughout the country. Cooperatives not only provide power to their members, but they also are very active within their communities. SSVEC sponsors children each year to make the journey to our nation's capital through the Washington Youth Tour Project. The co-op also provides several scholarships each year to local children, they assist families in financial need and they attend and financially support dozens of local events and charities throughout Cochise County. SSVEC also provides thousands of rural consumers access to broadband technology that otherwise would not be available if not for the co-op initiative to bring high-speed Internet service to their members.

The bottom line is that the people in Sonoita were very much aware of the easement rules when they purchased their property. They bought the land assuming "it would never happen". SSVEC has made every attempt to keep them happy, but it's now time for technology to move forward. The monies being wasted right now on hearings, surveys and public relations is only hurting SSVEC members. As a member owned entity, this money would have gone back into the community in the form of dividends but is now being spent on needless litigation and the like.

So please accept this letter as a statement of full support of SSVEC and their decision to build the 69 kV line in Sonoita. We are a country of progress, it's time to act like it.

Sincerely,

Ami Rodriguez

**ORIGINAL**  
Sheila Stoeller



0000107795

**From:** Cassie Levitt [cassie.levitt@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, January 22, 2010 4:30 PM  
**To:** Mayes-WebEmail  
**Subject:** E-01575A-09-0453& [REDACTED] - 8 items

Dear Chairman,

SSVEC is a great cooperative; they are involved in our community and are very honest with their members. They support the schools and other local organizations. We receive a newsletter every month with updates, and are always made a top priority when we call. The Sonoita line has been proven to be the correct choice made by SSVEC and agreed upon with ACC and outside researchers. Their correct decision is now costing them undue time and money. The negative feedback by the Sonoita members is painting an incorrect picture of SSVEC, and these members knew of this line when they bought property. I hope that this is quickly solved and the line is put in immediately not longer wasting time and money.

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Arizona Corporation Commission  
**DOCKETED**

JAN 29 2010

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AZ CORP COMMISSION  
DOCKET CONTROL

2010 JAN 29 A 11: 20

RECEIVED

## Sheila Stoeller

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**Sent:** Friday, January 22, 2010 4:19 PM  
**To:** Mayes-WebEmail  
**Subject:** Proposed SSVEC Sonoita powerline

January 22, 2010

**TO:** Arizona Corporation Commissioner Paul Newman  
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Arizona Corporation Commissioner Kris Mayes  
Arizona Corporation Commissioner Sandra Kennedy  
Arizona Corporation Commissioner Bob Stump

**RE:** E-01575A-09-0453  


I have been a member of Sulphur Springs Valley Electric Cooperative (SSVEC) since 1965. In 1969 I was elected to the SSVEC Board of Directors and served for nine years until 1978. I am a licensed Professional Engineer in both Arizona and California and an engineering consultant with a national and international practice. I am proud of our excellently managed Cooperative and its development of a well-designed electrical distribution system to serve its members. I have reviewed in detail the engineering study by Navigant as ordered by your Commission.

At a rate hearing a year ago in Sierra Vista, a small group voiced concerns against the construction of a 69,000-volt transmission line. A quarter of these people did not even reside within our Cooperative's service area.

It is my professional opinion that this in-depth engineering study clearly shows that the concerns of this small group are totally without merit. Further, to best serve SSVEC's members in Elgin, Sonoita and Patagonia, the construction of this environmentally friendly transmission line and substation should be granted immediately by the Arizona Corporation Commission. Any further delay creates a wrongful and economic burden on SSVEC.

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E-mail: [maccollum1@cox.net](mailto:maccollum1@cox.net)

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**Sent:** Friday, January 22, 2010 3:20 PM  
**To:** "mailto:Newman-web"@azcc.gov; Pierce-Web; Mayes-WebEmail; Kennedy-Web; Stump-Web  
**Subject:** Sonoita Reliability Project

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Reference Case Numbers: E-01575A-09-0453 and 

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It is now time for action. I recommend that the SSVEC Reliability Project be placed on the ACC agenda as soon as possible.

Leo P Swatloski  
Retired Freedom Fighter  
SSVEC Customer 30 yrs +  
P O Box 453  
Sonoita, AZ 85637

## Sheila Stoeller

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**From:** PAUL MIHALIK, Sr. [mihalik28@msn.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, January 22, 2010 2:53 PM  
**To:** Newman-Web; Mayes-WebEmail; Kennedy-Web; Stump-Web; Pierce-Web  
**Subject:** New 69KV transmissiion line for Sonoita,Az.

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**Sheila Stoeller**

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**From:** Ami Rodriguez [amirod.tampa@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, January 22, 2010 2:33 PM  
**To:** Stump-Web; Kennedy-Web; Mayes-WebEmail; Pierce-Web; Newman-Web  
**Subject:** SSVEC and the Sonoita Line Issue - E-01575A-09-0453 [REDACTED]

Dear ACC Commissioners,

I am writing this letter to you in support of Sulphur Springs Valley Electric Cooperative (SSVEC) and their efforts regarding the new line that is to be built in Sonoita. Although there is great controversy in the area right now surrounding this issue, I believe that SSVEC has acted accordingly, and in the interest of their members and the citizens of Cochise County.

SSVEC is a *non-profit, member owned cooperative*. The main objective of an electric cooperative is to bring power to underserved areas. These are the very entities that actually "turned the lights on" in thousands of rural communities throughout the country. Cooperatives not only provide power to their members, but they also are very active within their communities. SSVEC sponsors children each year to make the journey to our nation's capital through the Washington Youth Tour Project. The co-op also provides several scholarships each year to local children, they assist families in financial need and they attend and financially support dozens of local events and charities throughout Cochise County. SSVEC also provides thousands of rural consumers access to broadband technology that otherwise would not be available if not for the co-op initiative to bring high-speed Internet service to their members.

The bottom line is that the people in Sonoita were very much aware of the easement rules when they purchased their property. They bought the land assuming "it would never happen". SSVEC has made every attempt to keep them happy, but it's now time for technology to move forward. The monies being wasted right now on hearings, surveys and public relations is only hurting SSVEC members. As a member owned entity, this money would have gone back into the community in the form of dividends but is now being spent on needless litigation and the like.

So please accept this letter as a statement of full support of SSVEC and their decision to build the 69 kV line in Sonoita. We are a country of progress, it's time to act like it.

Sincerely,

Ami Rodriguez