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March 12, 2010

AZ CORP COMMISSION
DOCKET CONTROL

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Jane J. Rodda
Administrative Law Judge
Hearing Division
Arizona Corporation Commission
400 W. Congress
Tucson, AZ 85701-1347

Re: SSVEC Public Forums as ordered in Decision #71274

Dear Judge Rodda;

In response to Decision #71274, SSVEC requested that I serve as moderator of two forums: March 9, 2010 at Patagonia High School, and March 11, 2010 at Elgin Elementary School.

I thought it would be appropriate to inform you of my observations regarding these forums and to provide you with a copy of my formal comments to those attending.

The first part of the forum was devoted to presentations by SSVEC and TRC regarding the several procedures with the Commission, the purpose of the Sonoita Reliability Project, the results of the Independent Feasibility Study, remarks concerning renewable energy generation plans of SSVEC, and the results of an independent public opinion poll on several issues regarding the project and SSVEC in general. The remainder of the forum was devoted to questions, comments and statements from public members in attendance.

Although not all members of the public went away fully satisfied that change would occur based upon their comments, it was my intent as moderator and my observation that all who wanted to speak were given ample opportunity to do so and that the utility presenters provided appropriate information and answers to all questions. This included some follow-up with individuals regarding specific problems outside of the forum's agenda.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Cordially,

Judith A. Gignac

cc: Kristin K. Mayes, Chair, ACC
Gary Pierce
Paul Newman
Sandra Kennedy
Bob Stump

Arizona Corporation Commission
DOCKETED

MAR 15 2010

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**PUBLIC MEETING COMMENTS
PATAGONIA AND ELGIN
MARCH 9 AND 11, 2010
Opening Comments**

Good Evening and welcome to what is the first/second of two public forums. These forums are being conducted per the requirements of the Arizona Corporation Commission regarding Sulphur Springs Valley Electric Cooperative's plans to construct a new substation and 69 kV sub transmission power line. The line and substation will serve the Sonoita/Patagonia/Elgin Areas. They are part of what has been called the Sonoita Reliability Project.

My name is Judy Gignac and I have been asked to moderate this public forum. First, let me tell you a little about myself:

- 40 year resident of the area
- 12 years as member of Cochise County Board of Supervisors
- 8 years on the Arizona Board of Regents and served as President
- 30+ years as a member of Arizona Town Hall and served as Chair for two years presiding over several 150-200 person plenary sessions.
- 22 years as Vice President and General Manager of Bella Vista Water Company (retired in 2004) and General Manager of Bella Vista Ranches (retired in 2009).

As I am sure most of you know, last year, Sulphur Springs had a case pending before the Commission. Various members of the public expressed their concerns to the Commission. These concerns included the need for the proposed 69 kV line; the proposed routing of the proposed line; the level of information that the Cooperative had provided to its members regarding the Project; whether other routes had been adequately explored; and whether renewable generation, including the use of distributed generation application, could either supplant or delay the necessity of building the line. Various members of the public asked the Commission to order Sulphur Springs to delay its planned construction of the proposed line until such time as an Independent Feasibility Study could be conducted. This study was meant to verify the Cooperative's conclusions regarding the need and routing of the proposed line. Ultimately, the Commission ordered Sulphur Springs to have an Independent Feasibility Study conducted and file the results of the Study with the Commission by December 31, 2009. This has been accomplished as ordered. The Commission also ordered the following and I will read these two paragraphs directly from Commission Decision No. 71274:

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Sulphur Springs Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc. as a matter of compliance, shall docket by October 30, 2009, a report setting forth the manner and dates it shall conduct public forums in the communities served by the planned 69kV line and associated upgrades. The report shall discuss the topics to be addressed at the public forums and topics shall include, but not limited to, addressing how renewable energy generation (in particular distributed generation) could be incorporated into the generation plans to serve the area covered by the planned 69 kV line and associated upgrades.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that by July 30, 2010, Sulphur Springs Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc., as a matter of compliance, shall docket a report discussing the outcome of the public forums and also discussing how it plans to incorporate reasonable and effective renewable energy proposals resulting from the public forums.

This is why we are here tonight.

The Commission subsequently ordered these public forums be conducted by an independent moderator which is my role. Although like most of you I am a Cooperative member, I am not otherwise affiliated in any way with Sulphur Springs, nor do I reside within what has been termed "the Affected Areas" to be impacted by the Project. I have formed no opinion whatsoever about this Project and my role here is to simply make certain that this public forum is conducted in an orderly and efficient manner to facilitate the free exchange of information between all concerned.

Now let me introduce you to the following individuals who have prepared presentations on various aspects of the issues that are the subject of this public forum.

Jack Blair, SSVEC, Chief Member Services Officer, Overview of ACC Proceedings (first) and Public Opinion Poll (last)

Deborah White SR/WA-NAC, SSVEC, Real Property/GIS Manager, Sonoita Reliability Project review,

Rick F. Goodwin P.E., TRC Solutions, Project Manager, Independent Feasibility Study

Patrick K. Scharff P.E., TRC Solutions, Principal Engineer, Independent Feasibility Study

Thomas M. Engels Ph.D., TRC Solutions, Senior Scientist, Independent Feasibility Study

Ron Orozco P.E., SSVEC, Engineering Manager, Renewable Energy Generation Plans

After all of these individuals have given their presentations, I will open up the forum to comments and questions from the audience. For those who wish to speak request slips were offered when you came into the forum. Hopefully you took one and filled it out. If you have not turned in your slip into Roxanne (raise you hand, Roxanne) or if you didn't pick up a slip and wish to speak, please raise your hand and the slips will be picked up or handed out as needed. I will call a couple of names at a time so that we always have a few people waiting to speak. When you come up to microphone, I ask that you present your question and/or comments to the appropriate member of the panel. Please try and speak as clearly as you can as this public forum is being recorded both in audio and video form. You may want to consider passing if your question has already been asked and answered. Please know that in order to ensure there is a free exchange of ideas and that all interested parties understand each other, members of the panel may ask you a question as well.

With the housekeeping out of the way and since we have a lot to cover tonight, I will ask our first presenter to begin.