

ORIGINAL

Jennifer Ybarra



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E-01575A-09-0453

From: Save the Scenic Sonoita Grasslands [sonoitagrasslands@gmail.com]  
Sent: Friday, March 12, 2010 7:54 AM  
To: Seth  
Subject: thanks

Seth,  
Thanks for coming last night.  
I am going to write a report to the ACC on the Forums and send it to the Commissioners.

Here is the link for the Feasibility Study.

<http://www.ssvec.org/documents/sonoita/SSVECFinalReport-FiledAtACC-Website.pdf>

Here is a link to the SSVEC website if it doesn't work:

<http://www.ssvec.org/sonoitaProject.php>

December 2009 – Independent Feasibility Study of Electric Supply Alternatives

thanks for coming.  
gail

P.S. sorry we have fallen so short on the website and PR - but they have kept us pretty busy with the Corporation Commission filings.

I will send you a copy of my observations of the Forums.

P.S.S. It might not be a bad idea for you to send a report of the Elgin Forum to the Docket and - the Commission.

<[mailmaster@cc.state.az.us](mailto:mailmaster@cc.state.az.us)>, "Mayes-WebEmail" <[mayer-web@azcc.gov](mailto:mayer-web@azcc.gov)>, "Pierce-Web" <[pierce-web@azcc.gov](mailto:pierce-web@azcc.gov)>, "Paul Newman" <[newman-web@azcc.gov](mailto:newman-web@azcc.gov)>, <[kennedy-web@azcc.gov](mailto:kennedy-web@azcc.gov)>, <[stump-web@azcc.gov](mailto:stump-web@azcc.gov)>,

if you copy the mailmaster, they will know you sent it to the Docket  
Docket # E-01575A-08-0328

Thanks again.

Arizona Corporation Commission  
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MAR 15 2010

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## Jennifer Ybarra

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**From:** Roxanne Williams [rwilliams@ssvec.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 11, 2010 2:47 PM  
**To:** Mayes-WebEmail; Pierce-Web; Stump-Web; Kennedy-Web; Newman-Web  
**Subject:** SSVEC Public Forum in Patagonia

Dear Chairman Mayes and Commissioners:

Please see below the article that appeared in the Sierra Vista Herald regarding the public forum held in Patagonia re: the 69kV transmission line.

I have sent the original and 13 copies to docket control so it can be docketed.

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### Sparks don't fly at public forum on controversial power line

*Wed. 03/10/2010 - 01:38*

By Dana Cole  
Herald/Review

PATAGONIA — Herbert Loveland drove from Benson so he could speak during a public forum in Patagonia Tuesday evening.

The forum, conducted by Sulphur Springs Valley Electric Cooperative, is the second of five public sessions the utility will be holding in different locations throughout its service area. During an August 2009 meeting, the Arizona Corporation Commission ordered the cooperative to conduct an independent third-party feasibility study regarding a controversial power line SSVEC is proposing to build from Whetstone to Sonoita, followed by public forums where communities could view the study's findings, ask questions and provide input. "I support SSVEC's line," Loveland said after listening to the presenters. "Electricity sustains life and just about everything in a home requires electricity, including medical equipment." He urged the community to support the line's construction, part of a project SSVEC says is needed to improve service for people living in Elgin, Sonoita and Patagonia. "You may not like the aesthetics of a pole, but think what it brings," Loveland concluded.

SSVEC asked Judy Gignac to serve as the forum's independent moderator. Gignac a 40-year Sierra Vista resident, briefly outlined why SSVEC has been ordered to hold the forums and introduced the presenters. At the conclusion of the presentations, Gignac also invited members of the public to speak.

There were six presenters, three from SSVEC and three from TRC Solutions, the firm that SSVEC hired to select the company that conducted the independent, third-party feasibility study.

SSVEC presenters included Jack Blair, chief member services officer; Ron Orozco, engineering manager, and Deborah White, real property manager. TRC's presenters included Rick Goodwin, an engineer and project manager, Patrick Scharff, principal engineer, and Thomas Engles, Ph.D. and senior scientist.

Scharff presented the feasibility study's findings, which he said supported SSVEC's proposed line. Reading from the report's conclusions, he said, "...SSVEC should take immediate action to address current performance issues and capacity limits..."

He added that the preferred alternative, based on feeder performance and firm capacity requirements, is the construction of the new 69kV line along the Babocomari Ranch where SSVEC has easement rights. The study examined environmental impact to the area, alternate routes and renewable energy options, as part of its recommendation, Scharff said.

Overall, members of the public were in favor of SSVEC's project. Irma Sang who, along with her husband, Fred, owns the Patagonia Market, said she supports the 69kV line. She reported problems with equipment at their store because of power surges and outages and believes the line will greatly reduce those kinds of issues.

Patagonia resident Mike O'Halloran said he supports the power line and the improvements it will bring to the community. "We have families with children growing up in this community," he said. "The only way we'll have jobs in this area is if we have reliable power."

Two people who oppose the project — Gail Getzwiller of Sonoita and Linda Kennedy, director of a research ranch that borders the Babocomari Ranch — questioned some of feasibility study's findings. Both are concerned about the environmental impact the power line could have on the area.

"I don't think people who live outside of the Sonoita area fully understand our concerns," Getzwiller said after the meeting. "We've been following this issue closely, but not everyone is as informed about the impact this could have on the area as we are."

The next public forum will be on Thursday at Elgin Elementary School, 23 Elgin Road in Sonoita, at 6 p.m.

*Roxanne Williams*

Member Services Assistant

Sulphur Springs Valley Electric Cooperative

311 E. Wilcox Dr.

Sierra Vista, AZ 85635

(520) 515-3471 phone

(520) 458-3467

[rwilliams@ssvec.com](mailto:rwilliams@ssvec.com)

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