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BEFORE THE ARIZONA POWER PLANT AND TRANSMISSION LINE SITING COMMITTEE

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IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF )  
GILA BEND POWER PARTNERS AND ITS )  
ASSIGNS IN CONFORMANCE WITH THE )  
REQUIREMENTS OF ARIZONA REVISED )  
STATUTES 40-360.03 AND 40-360.06 FOR A )  
CERTIFICATE OF ENVIRONMENTAL )  
COMPATIBILITY AUTHORIZING )  
CONSTRUCTION OF ONE 500kV )  
TRANSMISSION LINE AND THE )  
WATERMELON SWITCHYARD IN MARICOPA )  
COUNTY, ARIZONA ORIGINATING AT THE )  
PROPOSED GILA BEND POWER PARTNERS )  
POWER PROJECT LOCATED NORTHWEST )  
OF THE CENTER OF THE TOWN OF GILA )  
BEND, ARIZONA (SECTION 19, TOWNSHIP )  
5 SOUTH, RANGE 5 WEST, G&SRB&M) AND )  
TERMINATING AT THE PROPOSED )  
WATERMELON SWITCHYARD SECTION 22, )  
TOWNSHIP 5 SOUTH, RANGE 4 WEST, A )  
DISTANCE OF APPROXIMATELY 9 MILES. )

AZ CORP COMMISSION  
CASE NO. 109  
DOCUMENT CONTROL

DOCKET NO.: L-00000V-01-0109

Arizona Corporation Commission

**DOCKETED**

APR 12 2001

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**NOTICE OF FILING  
COMMITTEE DECISION**

The Arizona Power Plant and Transmission Line Siting Committee hereby gives Notice of Filing its Decision and Certificate of Environmental Compatibility for approval by the Arizona Corporation Commission. A copy of the Decision is attached.

DATED this 11<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2001.

*Paul A. Buller for Laurie A. Woodall*  
Chairman  
Arizona Power Plant & Transmission Line  
Siting Committee



1 evidentiary presentation during the March 12, 2001 hearing, and/or for the April 5, 2001 hearing and  
2 deliberations and vote on the Application:

3	Laurie A. Woodall	Chair, and Designee for Arizona Attorney General Janet Napolitano
4		
5	Ray Williamson	Arizona Corporation Commission
6	Richard Tobin	Arizona Department of Environmental Quality
7	George Campbell	Appointed Member
8	Jeff McGuire	Appointed Member
9		
10	Mike Palmer	Appointed Member
11	Sandie Smith	Appointed Member
12	Wayne Smith	Appointed Member

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14 The Applicant was represented by Lawrence V. Robertson, Jr. of Munger Chadwick, P.L.C.  
15 An appearance of record was also entered for Karen L. Peters, Squire, Sanders & Dempsey, L.L.P..  
16 Staff of the Arizona Corporation Commission ("Commission") was represented by its counsel, Teena  
17 Wolfe. There were no intervenors.

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19 At the conclusion of the public hearings, after consideration of (i) the Application and the  
20 evidence presented during the public hearings, and (ii) the legal requirements of Arizona Revised  
21 Statutes §§40-360 to 40-360.13 and A.A.C. R14-3-213, upon motion duly made and seconded, the  
22 Committee voted to grant Applicant the following Certificate of Environmental Compatibility (Case  
23 No. 109).

24  
25 Applicant is hereby granted a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility for authority to  
26 construct the following facilities, as requested in the Application: (i) a 500 kV transmission line,  
27 (ii) 500 kV switchyard and (iii) a 500 kV interconnection. This Certificate authorizes the attachment  
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1 of an existing 230 kV circuit on the new 500 kV structures, which will be designed and constructed  
2 to accommodate a future upgrade of the 230 kV circuit to 500 kV. This Certificate authorizes (but  
3 does not require) that upgrade at a future date. If in the future a portion of the existing 230 kV line  
4 is relocated, this Certificate authorizes (but does not require) the replacement of that portion of the  
5 existing 230 kV line with a 500 kV line.

6  
7 Applicant's 500 kV transmission line will originate at Applicant's Gila Bend generating  
8 station (Section 19, Township 5 South, Range 5 West, G&SRB&M), and follow an easterly  
9 alignment for approximately 9 miles, terminating at Applicant's proposed Watermelon Switchyard  
10 (Section 22, Township 5 South, Range 4 West, G&SRB&M). The 500 kV transmission line  
11 alignment will parallel and be adjacent to the south side of Watermelon Road for approximately 7.5  
12 miles, and the remaining 1.50 miles will extend in an easterly direction from that point where  
13 Watermelon Road terminates at Old U.S. Highway 80. The transmission line will consist of steel  
14 monopole structures designed and constructed to accommodate two 500 kV circuits. Where the  
15 Applicant's proposed transmission line is coincident with Arizona Public Service Company's  
16 ("APS") existing Liberty to Gila Bend 230 kV transmission line, APS' Liberty to Gila Bend 230 kV  
17 transmission line will occupy one circuit position of the Applicant's double circuit structures and the  
18 existing structures currently supporting APS' Liberty to Gila Bend 230 kV transmission line will be  
19 removed. The routing, design, height and material composition of the 500 kV and 230 kV  
20 transmission line facilities will be as testified to by Applicant's witness Walther at the April 5, 2001  
21 hearing, and as depicted in Exhibit "A" attached hereto.

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25 The 500 kV Watermelon Switchyard will be located on approximately 40 acres in the SW  
26 1/4 of Section 22, Township 5 South, Range 4 West, G&SRB&M. It will serve both as the  
27 termination point of the 500 kV transmission line hereby certificated, and as the point of  
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1 interconnection of that transmission line with the two 500 kV transmission lines previously  
2 certificated to APS in Case No. 102. The design, height and material composition of the  
3 Watermelon Switchyard facilities shall be as set forth in the Application and supporting exhibits.

4 The 500 kV interconnection at the Watermelon Switchyard will ultimately interconnect  
5 Applicant's Gila Bend electric generation station with the Hassayampa Switchyard via the two 500  
6 kV transmission lines certificated by the Committee in Case No. 102 and the 500 kV transmission  
7 line certificated in Case Nos. 24 and 31. The details of these interconnections will be the subject  
8 of contractual arrangements to be entered into between Applicant and APS, and Applicant and the  
9 Salt River Project ("SRP"), respectively.  
10

11 The issuance and approval of this Certificate of Environmental Compatibility by the  
12 Committee and the Commission will satisfy Condition No. 15 of the Certificate of Environmental  
13 Compatibility granted to Applicant in Case No. 106.  
14

15 This Certificate of Environmental Compatibility is granted upon the following conditions.

- 16 1. Applicant shall comply with all existing applicable air and water  
17 pollution control standards and regulations, and with all existing  
18 applicable ordinances, master plans and regulations of the State of  
19 Arizona, the County of Maricopa, the United States and any other  
20 governmental entities having jurisdiction.
- 21 2. Applicant shall provide the Commission with copies of any  
22 transmission agreements it ultimately enters into with APS and SRP,  
23 respectively, within 30 days of execution of those agreements.
- 24 3. In connection with the final design and construction of the  
25 transmission line and switchyard facilities herein authorized,  
26 applicant shall:
- 27 A. Use existing access;
  - 28 B. Minimize vegetation clearing;
  - C. Revegetate or restore areas of construction disturbance;
  - D. Use non-specular conductor and dulled structures;
  - E. Consolidate proposed 500 kV and existing 230 kV  
transmission line facilities on single supporting

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structures (pursuant to the request of the Town of Gila Bend and members of the public);

- F. Where possible, match the transmission supporting structure height and span distance with those APS' Gila River 500 kV transmission line facilities previously authorized in Case No. 102 (pursuant to the request of the Town of Gila Bend);
- G. Locate the transmission line supporting structures so that the line spans the archaeological site identified in Applicant's cultural resources study;
- H. Complete the native plant survey prior to commencement of construction, and, if necessary, develop a plant salvage program;
- I. Landscape the Watermelon Switchyard with arid plant materials; and
- J. Construct an 8' to 10' earthen berm on the west side of the Watermelon Switchyard in the location depicted in Applicant's hearing Exhibit A-4.

4.

- a) The Applicant shall make every reasonable effort to identify and correct, on a case-specific basis, all complaints of interference with radio or television signals from operation of the line and related facilities. In addition to any transmission repairs, the relevant corrective actions may include, adjusting or modifying receivers, adjusting or repairing, replacing or adding antennas, antenna signal amplifiers, filters, lead-in cables, or other corrective actions.
- b) The Applicant shall maintain written records for a period of 5 years, of all complaints of radio or television interference attributable to operation together with the corrective action taken in response to each complaint. All complaints shall be recorded to include notations on the corrective action taken. Complaints not leading to a specific action or for which there was no resolution should be noted and explained. The record shall be signed by the project owner and also the complainant, if possible, to indicate concurrence with the corrective action or agreement with the justification for a lack of action.
- c) Applicant shall advise interested persons how they may express concerns or submit complaints to Applicant or the Arizona Corporation Commission when they believe the transmission line or switchyard facilities herein authorized are creating noise in excess of applicable HUD standards or causing interference with communications signals in excess of applicable FCC standards. Such complaints as may be filed with the Commission shall be processed pursuant to those provisions of A.A.C. R14-2-212(A) and (C) applicable to service disputes.

1 5. This authorization to construct the aforementioned facilities shall  
2 expire five (5) years from the date this Certificate of Environmental  
3 Compatibility is approved by the Commission, unless construction is  
4 completed to the point that the 500 kV transmission line and 500 kV  
5 switchyard are capable of operating by that time; provided, however,  
6 that prior to such expiration Applicant may request that the  
7 Commission extend this time limitation.

8 The Committee has reviewed Arizona Corporation Commission Decision No. 46865 (Feb.  
9 23, 1976), which granted a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility for the Liberty to Gila Bend  
10 230 kV transmission line in Case No. 26. The Committee finds as a matter of fact, and concludes  
11 as a matter of law, that implementation of the above-described routing and design of Applicant's 500  
12 kV transmission line, and the related effect on the current routing and design of APS' existing 230  
13 kV transmission line, would be consistent with the Certificate of Environmental Compatibility issued  
14 in Decision No. 46865 and would not require an additional Certificate of Environmental  
15 Compatibility. This finding of fact and conclusion of law imposes no obligation on APS, the owner  
16 of the Liberty to Gila Bend 230 kV transmission line.

17 GRANTED this 11th day of April, 2001.

18 Arizona Power Plant and Transmission Line  
19 Siting Committee

20 By:   
21 Laurie A. Woodall, Chair

1                   **ORDER OF ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION AFFIRMING AND**  
2                   **APPROVING CERTIFICATE OF ENVIRONMENTAL COMPATIBILITY**

3                   Having considered the foregoing decision of the Arizona Power Plant and Transmission Line  
4                   Siting Committee in light of the decision-making factors specified in Arizona Revised Statues §40-  
5                   360.06, and, pursuant to Arizona Revised Statues §40-360.07(c), having balanced in the broad public  
6                   interest the need for an adequate, economical and reliable supply of electric power with the desire  
7                   to minimize the effect thereof on the environment and ecology of Arizona, it is the decision of this  
8                   Commission that the Certificate of Environmental Compatibility granted by the Committee on  
9                   \_\_\_\_\_, 2001 in Case No. 109 should be, and hereby is, affirmed and approved.  
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12                   **BY ORDER OF THE ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION**  
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16                   \_\_\_\_\_  
17                   CHAIRMAN

18                   \_\_\_\_\_  
19                   COMMISSIONER

20                   \_\_\_\_\_  
21                   COMMISSIONER

22                   IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I, BRIAN C. McNEIL,  
23                   Executive Secretary of the Arizona Corporation  
24                   Commission, have hereunto, set my hand and caused the  
25                   official seal of this Commission to be affixed at the  
26                   Capitol, in the City of Phoenix, this \_\_\_\_\_ day of  
27                   \_\_\_\_\_, 2001.

28                   \_\_\_\_\_  
29                   BRIAN C. McNEIL  
30                   Executive Secretary

31                   Dissent: \_\_\_\_\_  
32                   212387