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ORIGINAL

OPEN MEETING AGENDA ITEM
ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION

UTILITY COMPLAINT FORM

Investigator: Brad Morton

Phone: (

Fax:

Priority: Respond Within Five Days

Opinion No. 2010 - 87499

Date: 6/18/2010

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

Arizona Corporation Commission

DOCKETED

First:

Last:

Complaint By: Leslie F.

Kramer

JUN 21 2010

Account Name: L

Home: (000) 000-0000

DOCKETED BY

Street:

Work:

City: Sonoita

CBR:

State: AZ Zip: 85637

is:

Utility Company: Sulphur Springs Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Division: Electric

Contact Name:

Contact Phone:

Nature of Complaint:

From: at]
Sent: Wednesday, June 16, 2010 2:15 PM
To: 'mailmaster@azcc.gov'; 'mayes-web@azcc.gov'; 'pierce-web@azcc.gov'; 'newman-web@azcc.gov';
'kennedy-web@azcc.gov'; 'stump-web@azcc.gov'
Cc: 'John Maynard'; 'Sara.HummelRajca@mailhouse.gov'; 'Ron.Barber@mail.house.gov'
Subject: consolidated dockets E-01575A-08-0328 and E-01575A-09-0453

Dear Commissioner Mayes and Commissioners:

A friend recently forwarded to me an interesting article (copy attached) about solar energy, discovering that SSVEC had made the Solar Electric Power Association's top ten list and was ranked as the NUMBER ONE solar utility per customer in 2009 with 56 watts per customer, beating out Maui Electric Company of Hawaii which came in as a distant second with 33 watts per customer.

SSVEC should be tooting its own horn about this award but that wouldn't help its case for the 69kV line would it? Instead SSVEC is mum on solar and the sort of press release they do send out is attached ("SSVEC Eager to Begin Sonoita Line Project"). SSVEC is doing its best to avoid any spotlight on how much the residents of this community are utilizing solar even though many of us will now wait years to get our rebates.

In 2009, the Mountain Empire communities held the 2nd Annual Santa Cruz County Renewable Energy Expo in Sonoita which was attended by over 300 people on a snowy day. Homeowners are utilizing solar like crazy in this area which I am certain will keep SSVEC at number one in 2010. Commissioner Mayes stated that she wanted to see how this community would respond to the 69kV line by embracing alternative energy. We have done so and SSVEC doesn't want you to know.

I respectfully request that the Commission obtain an updated report on the solar installs in the V7 area before the upcoming June hearings so that a full picture of our community's dedication to clean energy and saving cooperator dollars is clear. A decision acknowledging that there is no need for a 69kV is in the best interest of

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the public, SSVEC and its cooperative members.

Thank you for your consideration.

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Sulphur Springs Valley
Electric Cooperative, Inc.
A Touchstone Energy Cooperative
For more information #10-001
contact Jack Blair
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For Immediate Release

SSVEC Eager to Begin Sonoita Line Project

Sierra Vista, January 14—Sulphur Springs Valley Electric Cooperative (SSVEC) has asked the Arizona Corporation Commission (ACC) to let it begin construction of a new 69-kV transmission power line to serve the Elgin, Sonoita, and Patagonia areas.

The cooperative's request comes on the heels of an independent third party study which confirmed that SSVEC's proposal for that line is the most cost effective method to solve reliability and power quality problems that have long plagued the area.

Presently only one high voltage feeder line serves 2,400 consumers in Elgin, Sonoita, and Patagonia areas. That line is 360 miles long and has become overloaded due to growth, leading to hundreds of hours of outages annually, along with power quality problems that could damage motors and electronic equipment belonging to consumers.

The study, which was ordered by the ACC and paid for by SSVEC customers at a cost of \$360,000, said that SSVEC "should take immediate action" to address those problems and called the line proposed by SSVEC "the preferred alternative."

The study examined 20 different alternatives, including other routes for the new line or reducing the need for a new line by increasing energy efficiency, developing renewables like wind or solar energy, or using fossil fuel generators.

The study found that many of those solutions simply are not workable with today's technology or would provide only partial or short-term solutions at great expense.

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The study was performed by Navigant Consulting of Massachusetts, one of the nation's leading electric utility engineering firms.

"We are pleased that the study reaffirmed the work of our own excellent engineering staff," said Creden Huber, CEO of the cooperative. "It also affirms what the ACC's own engineering staff concluded. The ACC ordered us to do the study. We cooperated fully with the independent firm that conducted the study. The results are unambiguous. There is a problem and this is the best way to solve it. Further delay or make-shift solutions could wind up wasting millions of ratepayer dollars. It is time to move forward."

Huber added that the study found that the selected route affects the landscape views of fewer people than would alternative routes. It was that issue which prompted some local opposition to the line, despite the cooperative's having owned rights of way for the line for 28 years. "That right-of-way is a matter of public record that was available to everyone who purchased property along that route since 1982," said Huber.

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SSVEC has posted the entire study on its Web site, www.ssvec.org and so has the ACC.

"If we can't get this line built, a permanent moratorium on new meters in that area will become a fact of life," said Huber. "We hate that as much as anyone because we're in business to sell electricity."
SSVEC hopes that the ACC will act on the motion quickly.

End of Complaint

Utilities' Response:

Investigator's Comments and Disposition:

Opinion docketed

End of Comments

Date Completed: 6/18/2010

Opinion No. 2010 - 87499
