

E-01575A-08-0328

E-01575A-09-0453



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ORIGINAL

OPEN MEETING AGENDA ITEM
ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION

UTILITY COMPLAINT FORM

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Investigator: Deb Reagan

Phone:

Fax:

Priority: Respond Within Five Days

Opinion No. 2010 87585

Date: 6/25/2010

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

Complaint By: **First:** Allison **Last:** Bunting

Account Name: Allison Bunting

Home:

Street:

Work:

City: Sonoita

CBR:

State: AZ **Zip:** 85637

is:

Utility Company: Sulphur Springs Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Division: Electric

Contact Name: Lainie Keltner

Contact Phone:

Nature of Complaint:

***** E-01575A-08-0328 AND E-01575A-09-0453 *****

Customer sent the following -

From: Alison Bunting [mailto:
Sent: Thursday, June 24, 2010 12:02 PM
To: Utilities Div - Mailbox
Subject: Docket E-01575A-08-0328 and E-01575A-09-0453

Arizona Corporation Commission

DOCKETED

JUN 25 2010

DOCKETED BY

June 24, 2010

Arizona Corporation Commission
Chairman Kristin Mayes
Commissioner Paul Newman
Commissioner Sandra Kennedy
Commissioner Bob Stump
Commissioner Gary Pierce

Docket E-01575A-08-0328 and E-01575A-09-0453

Dear Chairman Mayes and Commissioners

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2010 JUN 25 P 4: 04
AZ CORP COMMISSION
DOCKET CONTROL

ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION
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Last year I was very pleased with your decision to require Sulphur Springs Valley Electrical Cooperative (SSVEC) to conduct an independent feasibility study to address the reliability and connectivity issues in our community before granting them permission to increase rates for electricity. I have not been pleased, however, with the way in which SSVEC conducted the study, including the lack of opportunity to discuss the results of their study in public forums.

I continue to believe that SSVEC is acting in an outdated, fiscally irresponsible, and underhanded manner in this matter. I do not understand why they insist on installing a 69kV line when their own analysis states that our community only needs a small increased power resource of 2,000 kilowatts by 2029, which could be accommodated by upgrading the current V7 feeder. And they refuse to even consider the use of renewable energy in lieu of installing the 69kV line to serve Elgin/Sonoita/Patagonia. If there is a potential commercial customer that SSVEC is planning for, this has not been disclosed and should definitely not be paid for by residential customers.

I urge to deny their request for a rate increase.

Sincerely,

Alison Bunting

Sonoita, AZ 85637
End of Complaint

Utilities' Response:

Investigator's Comments and Disposition:

Comments entered for the record and filed with Docket Control.
End of Comments

Date Completed: 6/25/2010

Opinion No. 2010 - 87585

ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION

UTILITY COMPLAINT FORM

annually) and decrease carbon dioxide emissions by approximately 4.4 million pounds per year (comparable to taking 380 cars off the roads). In addition, it's expected to create or sustain more than 80 jobs!

Excel Energy, Colorado's largest electric utility, has a project near Grand Junction, Colorado to determine how solar power integrated into an active coal power plant can reduce coal consumption and lower emissions. Using technology that is already proven at large-scale installations in Spain and North Africa, an Excel spokesperson says "you can add solar power without adversely affecting the power plant - you're just tying into the existing system. It's low cost and it's an efficient use of energy." Excel hopes that they will be able to provide 10 percent or more of the energy input to the plant from solar.

Anheuser Busch, the maker of Budweiser and the largest brewery in the United States, is taking a leadership role in employing alternative energy technology in its 12 breweries in the U.S. The company's suitably titled Bio-Energy Recovery System (BERS) process uses anaerobic digestion to convert most of the brewer's nutrient-rich wastewater to produce methane, which in turn is used to heat boilers. AB's goal is to achieve at least 15 percent renewable energy use in all of its 12 U.S. breweries by the end of 2010. The company's Houston, Texas brewery uses a combination of alternative energy technologies which provide 70 percent of the brewer's energy needs at its Houston facility.

Lamar Advertising Co will be converting some 1,370 billboards throughout Florida to renewable energy. The \$12.5 million project will place solar or wind power on billboards throughout the state.

The U.S. Department of Energy will invest more than \$200 million over five years to expand and accelerate the development, commercialization, and use of solar and water power technologies throughout the United States.

Twentieth Century Fox Film Corporation is installing a 158 kW solar PV system at the Fox Studios Lot in Century City, California.

Ted Turner and Southern Company, a major utility company serving the U.S. Southeast, is building large scale solar photovoltaic projects in the U.S. Southwest where solar resources are currently most efficient and in demand.

The list goes on. But, it does not include SSVEC or the Mountain Empire.

Recently SSVEC was recognized as the number one cooperative in the United States for having the most solar watts installed per customer. This is an admirable achievement and makes one think that SSVEC should be listed among the innovative and forward thinking communities cited above. Unfortunately, the widespread implementation of renewable energy in SSVEC's territory was not because of SSVEC's actions. It was despite them.

Other parts of the United States are actively implementing and integrating renewable energy instead of extending and expanding existing coal power generating systems. Not so for our utility cooperative, SSVEC.

The United States government has set expansion of renewable energy as a national goal. This is also the goal of the Mountain Empire. Unfortunately it is not the goal of our cooperative. SSVEC has not followed suit.

SSVEC members in the Mountain Empire are working hard to establish their community as a model rural community for renewable energy. They are doing it without the help of their cooperative. In fact, as evidenced by this hearing today, the cooperative is the member's biggest adversary.

On Tuesday the ACC must decide if SSVEC should be allowed to install a 69kV line at a cost of \$14+ million or should instead be asked to find an alternative that uses renewable energy. Other communities have been able to find technologies and methodologies that move them away from coal and toward renewable. Why cannot our cooperative? Why does our cooperative ignore us?

ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION

UTILITY COMPLAINT FORM

I strongly urge the ACC to deny the request to immediately install the high voltage line. I respectfully request that the ACC challenge SSVEC to identify an alternative using renewable energy. Many other communities are doing. Solving problems is what engineers do.

As the only oversight organization in the state with authority over the actions of cooperatives, I plead with you to consider our community and our goal - to become a model rural community for renewable energy. Please let us achieve this goal. Delay the 69kV line.

Sincerely,

Member SSVEC
Patagonia Resident

Deborah Fain
President

EMAIL: dfain
http://
End of Complaint

Utilities' Response:

Investigator's Comments and Disposition:

Comments entered for the record and filed with Docket Control.
End of Comments

Date Completed: 6/25/2010

Opinion No. 2010 - 87584
