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Case 62

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Ms Laurie Woodall
Asst Attorney General
Chairman, Arizona Power Plant and Transmission Line Siting Committee.

2003 AUG 18 P 12 25

Re: West Valley-South Power Line and Substation Project

ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION
DOCUMENT CONTROL

Dear Ms. Woodall,

My name is Laurel Arndt, I am a Maricopa County Parks Board and Trail Commission member. I have worked with the Maricopa County Parks Dept for three years as a voluntary representative of District I (Supervisor Fulton Brock). I am also an environmental planner working in the valley.

I am writing to express my concerns regarding the application submitted by the Arizona Public Service Company for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility authorizing the West Valley-South 230 KV Transmission lines and three substations.

My concerns are not only as a commissioner but also as a Maricopa County citizen.

I have been very fortunate to live in the valley over 20 years. In these years I have spent many hours hiking and biking in our regional parks. The White Tanks Regional Park is unique in what it provides to the residents of the west valley. Despite its desert location it represents a unique lush desert environment and offers to its visitors and neighboring residents an incredibly beautiful view shed of the valley. These qualities are something that the current community and the visitors of the park should be allowed to experience for many years to come. Preservation of the park characteristics, habitat and view sheds should be given thoughtful consideration in the siting of a major infrastructure project such as the West Valley-South project. It is understandable that with the rapid growth in the west valley that infrastructure needs will become a paramount concern. Finding a balance between the natural and built environment is and important and sensitive issue

It is my concerns as a Parks Board member and a planner that the "Proposed" or "Alternative" routes do not represent an attempt at reaching a cooperative agreement between the needs of APS, the community and the municipal interests. These concerns I have mentioned have been expressed to APS by the Maricopa Parks Department, Parks Board and the Maricopa County Flood Control and Transportation Department as they work on coordinating parks and trail projects around the White Tanks Regional Parks. Yet it does not appear that these concerns have been heard by APS, as the "Proposed" or "Alternative" routes will infact be a great detriment to the surrounding community, visitors, the park itself and the future County Regional Trail.

The location of a substation at the "door" to the park and large kV lines obstructing the view shed from the park are a detriment to the west valley. I question the need for a substation in such a location that will dramatically effect the quality of our natural park. The same holds true of kV lines which will dramatically effect the view shed. Current and future constituents of the west valley and the should not have to bear the negative impact of this project when there are other alternatives that have are available. Minor relocations of the power lines would significantly mitigate the effect of the power lines, the same can be said for relocation of the substation. These other viable alternatives were discussed with Maricopa County yet have not found their way to a "Proposed" or "Alternative" system option.

It is my belief that the system options that are presented to not accurately represent the possible solutions to mitigating the siting of the West Valley-South Project. I would hope that the Arizona Power Plant and Transmission Line Siting Committee deny the application and instruct the applicant to bring forth and additional alternative that would be less of an impact on a significant community treasure such as the White Tanks Regional Park.

Thank you for your time in consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

Laurel Arndt
Maricopa County Parks Board Commissioner
Environmental Planner
2638 E. Silverwood Dr, Phx, AZ 85048

Arizona Corporation Commission
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