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October 1, 2010

Docket Control
Arizona Corporation Commission
1200 West Washington
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

RE: Arizona Public Service Company Q43 500kV Transmission Line and Switchyard Interconnection Project
Transmission Line Project, Decision No. 71281
Docket No. L-00000D-09-0280-00146

L-00000D-09-0279-00148

Pursuant to Decision No. 71281, dated October 7, 2009, Condition No. 10:

"Before construction on this Project may commence, the Applicant must file a construction mitigation and restoration plan ("Plan") with ACC Docket Control. Where practicable, the Plan shall specify that the Applicant use existing roads for construction and access, minimize impacts to wildlife, minimize vegetation disturbance outside of the Project right-of-way, and revegetate, unless waived by the landowner, native areas following construction disturbance."

Arizona Public Service Company is hereby filing its Construction Mitigation and Restoration Plan for the Q43 500kV Transmission Line and Switchyard Interconnection Transmission Line Project.

If you should have any questions, please contact Erinn Andreasen at 602-250-3276.

Sincerely,

Susan Casady

SC/tem

Attachments

CC: Prem Bahl
Brian Bozzo

Arizona Corporation Commission

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CONSTRUCTION, MITIGATION, AND RESTORATION PLAN

Arizona Public Service Company
Q43 500kV Transmission Line and Switchyard Interconnection
Project

October 1, 2010

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INTRODUCTION

The Q43 Transmission Line and Switchyard Interconnection Project Construction, Mitigation, and Restoration Plan (CMRP or the Plan) has been developed in accordance with the project's Certificate of Environmental Compatibility (CEC) Condition 10.¹ This condition states that:

"Before construction on this Project may commence, the Applicant must file a construction mitigation and restoration plan ("Plan") with ACC Docket Control. Where practicable, the Plan shall specify that the Applicant use existing roads for construction and access, minimize impacts to wildlife, minimize vegetation disturbance outside of the Project right-of-way, and revegetate, unless waived by the landowner, native areas following construction disturbance."

The goals of the Plan will be to:

- Avoid impacts where practical
- Where impacts are unavoidable, minimize impacts
- Focus on site preparation to facilitate natural processes of revegetation

GENERAL CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES AND MITIGATION PLAN

The Q43 Transmission Line and Switchyard Interconnection Project (see Attachment A) consist of two parts: 1) construction of the Q43 Switchyard and 2) the construction of the 500kV transmission line to the switchyard. This CMRP addresses both the construction of the switchyard and transmission line. The switchyard will be constructed on property that was previously used for commercial agriculture. The site was cleared and graded prior to being provided to APS.² The transmission line consists of two (2) line segments from the existing Hassayampa – North Gila 500kV line to the Switchyard site. Construction of this project will take approximately fourteen (14) months, with an expected in-service date of December 1, 2011.

Following is a general sequential description of the construction activities associated with the Q43 Transmission Line and Switchyard Interconnection Project. The activities and mitigation processes are described in the following primary groups:

¹ Decision No. 71281 (Docket No. L-00000D-09-0280-00146)

² These activities are subject to the provisions in case No. 145 (Docket No. L-00000JJ-09-0279-00145)

- Pre-construction Activities
- Construction Activities
- Post-construction Activities

1.0 Pre-construction Activities

Pre-construction activities include surveying for the switchyard, transmission line design; designation of access and spur roads; designation of structure construction staging areas; designation of conductor stringing, tensioning, and pulling areas; identification of biological and cultural resources; and providing notice and securing permits that will be necessary before construction.

1.1 Survey of the Centerline

Ground survey and staking will be performed to verify and locate the centerline of the transmission line route, structure locations, and right-of-way boundaries. The right-of-way width will be 200 feet. Activities will be limited to access and spur roads; designated structure construction staging areas; and conductor stringing, pulling and tensioning areas.

1.2 Access and Spur Roads

Where possible, existing paved and unpaved highways and roads will be used for the initial transportation of materials and equipment from the construction yard and storage areas to locations where they will be needed along the transmission line right-of-way. Existing access roads will be used, and new spur roads to structure sites will be constructed (as appropriate). Spur roads are roads developed off of existing roads or access roads to reach structure locations. Access and spur roads will be approximately 30 feet wide. If necessary, existing roads will be upgraded, and all permanent roads utilized will be left in a condition equal to or better than their condition prior to construction. Any access not needed for the maintenance of the transmission line will be designated temporary access and will be restored to pre-construction conditions.

1.3 Structure Construction Staging Areas

Structure construction staging areas will be located at each structure site. These areas will be used for structure assembly and erection. The size of the staging area depends on the type of structure used. At the tower locations, staging areas will be approximately 100 feet by 200 feet. Exceptions to staging area dimensions may occur due to environmental constraints.

1.4 Conductor Stringing, Tensioning, and Pulling Areas

Conductor stringing, tensioning, and pulling areas will be located at intervals between structures along the right-of-way. These areas will be approximately 100 feet by 400 feet. Exceptions to dimensions may occur due to environmental constraints.

1.5 Vegetation Avoidance and Sensitive Plant Identification

The construction of this project occurs primarily on previously disturbed land with no qualifying plant species along this route. The occurrence of natural vegetation along this portion of the proposed project is limited.

1.6 Jurisdictional Washes

There are no jurisdictional washes in the vicinity of the first phase of project development.

1.7 Informational Signs

Informational signs were placed on the project site to provide notice of the future transmission line.

1.8 Cultural Resources

A class 1 cultural resources survey was conducted. Site and project files were checked at the Arizona State Museum (ASM) and the data received were examined to determine if previously recorded cultural resources were within the Whitewing Ranch and one-mile buffer. The ASM record check revealed that four cultural resource surveys have been conducted within the buffer area, and that two of these surveys included portions of the Whitewing Ranch (the surveys for the Southern Pacific Pipeline Project and the Level 3 Fiber Optic Line Project that crosses the southern boundary of the Ranch and project site).

No cultural resources have been previously recorded within the project site. However, three sites have been recorded within the one-mile radius. One historic site (Welton-Phoenix-Mesa-Eloy Spur of the Southern Pacific Railroad-presently UPRR) is considered eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. This is the existing inactive railroad that is located just south of the project site.

2.0 Construction Activities

This portion of the Plan addresses construction clearing requirements (when necessary), grading, and monitoring. Prior to the commencement of construction activities, an APS resource specialist will instruct all construction personnel in cultural and biological sensitivity.

2.1 Vegetation Clearing

Vegetation clearing will follow best management practices incorporating American National Standards Institute (ANSI) A-300 Part 7, Integrated Vegetation Management (IVM) practices which are recognized industry wide. IVM is a system of managing plant communities whereby managers set objectives, identify compatible and incompatible vegetation, consider action thresholds, and evaluate, select and implement the most appropriate control methods.

2.2 Removal of Obstructions

If necessary, the removal of trees, limbs, brush, and obstructions to access will be removed for safety reasons and limited to those that hang over the roadway, hindering the driver's sight, or those with less than 12 feet of vertical clearance above the access roads. Pruning will follow ANSI –A300 Part 1 Guidelines.

2.3 Construction Area Requirements

Construction areas include the switchyard site, access roads, structure construction staging areas, and sites for conductor stringing, tensioning, and pulling. Disturbance to access roads (limited to only a few areas), structure construction staging areas, and sites for conductor stringing, tensioning, and pulling will consist of trimming of shrubs and small trees at ground level, to allow for re-sprouting, where applicable. Areas that will be disturbed include:

- Permanent and temporary access (including new and upgrades)
- Structure construction staging areas (approximately 100 by 200 feet at pole and tower locations) to allow efficient and safe assembly and erection of structures
- Sites for conductor stringing, tensioning, and pulling at intervals and located between structures along the right-of-way (approximately 100 by 400 feet)
- Lay-down areas
- Switchyard grading (Switchyard site was previously graded and cleared by property owner prior to being transferred to APS. This was covered under Case 145.)

2.4 Grading

Grading will be limited to the construction of access roads, spur roads, and the switchyard site. Some access will utilize existing roads. The method of restoration will consist of returning disturbed areas back to their original condition.

2.5 Cultural Resources-Discoveries

Pursuant to Condition #6 of the Certificate of Environmental Compatibility issued for this project (Case No. 146, Decision 71281, Docketed October 7, 2009), APS commits to the following:

If any previously unidentified cultural resources (including burials and/or cremations) are discovered during the course of this project, all work at that specific location shall immediately cease, steps will be taken by the contractor and/or APS personnel to protect the discovery, and the APS Archaeologist (Jon Shumaker 602-371-5298 office, 602-677-1747 cell) shall be contacted immediately in order to make arrangements for the appropriate treatment of the discovery.

2.6 Special Conditions

Dust control measures will be used on all roads when dust creates a nuisance or hazard and will include the following:

- Where necessary, water will be used to control dust when grading roads, and will be applied to unpaved roads, a potential source of airborne dust.
- Open-bodied trucks transporting materials that are likely to become airborne when in motion will be covered, and other stockpiles will be enclosed as necessary.
- Earthen and other materials that may become airborne will be removed promptly from paved roads.

3.0 Post Construction Activities

The ultimate success of mitigating measures used for the project depends to a great extent on the reclamation practices taken for lands following construction of facilities. The following describes the stabilization and rehabilitation measures proposed for the construction of the project.

3.1 Cleanup and Reclamation of Affected Area(s)

Construction sites and access roads will be kept in an orderly condition throughout the construction period. Refuse and trash will be removed from the sites and disposed of in an approved manner (e.g., in an approved landfill).

Temporary access roads, structure construction staging areas, and conductor stringing, tensioning, and pulling areas will be restored to their original conditions when construction is complete. After construction, the land will be restored to its original contour. Disturbance during construction will be minimized by the trimming of shrubs and small trees in structure construction staging areas and conductor stringing, tensioning, and pulling areas, where applicable. This will increase the chances of vegetation re-establishment in disturbed areas. Revegetation will not be applied to disturbed areas designated as permanent access or inside the switchyard boundaries.

3.2 Soil Replacement and Stabilization

The majority of this phase of the project crosses agricultural land for which the topsoil has not been preserved. The construction contractor will, when appropriate, recontour cleared areas and replace and stabilize soil over temporary access roads.

3.2.1 Soil Replacement

The grading and the movement of earth will be limited to access road areas, switchyard site and areas where recontouring is necessary. All disturbed areas, outside the switchyard boundaries, will be reshaped to conform to the adjacent terrain as nearly as practical.

3.2.2 Recontouring of Disturbed Areas

For those areas outside the switchyard boundaries, the construction contractor shall recontour disturbed areas by grading, to restore the site to approximately the original contour of the ground. All site areas that require grading will be sloped to drain appropriately.

Attachment A

