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BEFORE THE ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION

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BOB STUMP  
Chairman  
GARY PIERCE  
Commissioner  
BRENDA BURNS  
Commissioner  
BOB BURNS  
Commissioner  
SUSAN BITTER SMITH  
Commissioner

Arizona Corporation Commission  
**DOCKETED**  
DEC - 3 2013  
DOCKETED BY nr

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION  
OF ARIZONA PUBLIC SERVICE  
COMPANY, PURSUANT TO ARIZONA  
REVISED STATUTE § 40-252, FOR AN  
AMENDMENT OF ARIZONA  
CORPORATION COMMISSION DECISION  
NO. 70127

DOCKET NO. L-00000D-07-0566-00135  
CASE NO. 135  
ORDER MODIFYING DECISION NO.  
70127  
DECISION NO. 74206  
ORDER

Open Meeting  
November 13 and 14, 2013  
Phoenix, Arizona

BY THE COMMISSION:

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. On July 2, 2013, Arizona Public Service Company (“APS” or “Company”) filed with the Arizona Corporation Commission ( “Commission”) a request (“Application”) to amend Decision No. 70127 (January 23, 2008) pursuant to the Commission’s authority under A.R.S. 40-252 (Decision No. 70127 and its approved Certificate of Environmental Compatibility [“CEC”] will be referred to collectively as “Case No. 135”).

2. Case No. 135 approved a CEC granted by the Arizona Power Plant and Transmission Line Siting Committee for APS to build approximately 110 miles of 500kV transmission (“Second Line”), including switchyard facilities. The Second Line would originate at the Hassayampa Switchyard and terminate at the North Gila substation in Yuma County, Arizona and would be constructed parallel to the Southwest Powerlink 500kV transmission line (“Existing

1 Line"). At the time the Company filed its Application for Case No. 135, the expected participant  
2 owners of the Second Line were APS, Salt River Project, Imperial Irrigation District, and Wellton  
3 Mohawk Irrigation and Drainage District. As of the date of this Application, APS is the sole  
4 participant owner. Case No. 135 authorized three possible interconnection points for the Second  
5 Line: Arlington Valley Energy Facility Switchyard, Hassayampa Switchyard, or Redhawk Power  
6 Plant. On February 5, 2010, APS filed a letter with Commission Docket Control informing the  
7 Commission that it had selected Hassayampa Switchyard as the interconnection point.

8 3. In its Application, the Company requests a change in location and corridor width  
9 along a short section of the 110-mile corridor. Specifically, APS requests approval to relocate  
10 approximately a 1,500-foot long segment of the corridor east of the North Gila substation. APS  
11 also requests that the Commission approve the Company's use of a Y-Pole structure that was not  
12 contemplated at the time Case No. 135 was granted. An illustration of the Y-pole structure is  
13 attached as Exhibit A to this Decision. Details of the requested modifications are as follows:

14 **Modification 1**

15 4. To accommodate final design of the Second Line's termination point at the North  
16 Gila substation, APS requests to relocate approximately 1,500 feet of the corridor immediately east  
17 of the North Gila Substation. For this 1,500-foot section, the proposed corridor would begin at the  
18 centerline of the Existing Line and extend south for a width of 500 feet.

19 5. At the time APS filed its application for Case No. 135, APS expected the Second  
20 Line to terminate at the North Gila substation in a bay position occupied by the jointly owned  
21 Existing Line. APS anticipated the Existing Line participant owners would reach agreement to  
22 move the Existing Line from its current position to the open bay position. This in turn would  
23 facilitate (1) building the Second Line north of the Existing Line and (2) allowing the line to enter  
24 the substation on the north side of the Existing Line. However, due to the complicated nature of  
25 the transaction involving several participant owners of the transmission lines and related  
26 equipment, the participant owners did not reach an agreement to move the Existing Line to the  
27 open bay position.

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1           6.       Accordingly, APS finalized its engineering plan terminating the Second Line at the  
2 open bay position. This final design resulted in the Second Line crossing over the Existing Line  
3 and entering the North Gila substation on the south side of the Existing Line. To accommodate the  
4 revised design, APS requests that an approximate 1,500-foot section of the corridor immediately  
5 east of the North Gila substation be relocated. For this 1,500-foot section, the proposed corridor  
6 would start at the centerline of the Existing Line and extend south 500 feet.

7           7.       The land on which both the certificated corridor and proposed new corridor are  
8 located is owned by the Bureau of Land Management (“BLM”) and was included in the original  
9 study area of for the CEC.

#### 10 **Modification 2**

11           8.       APS intends to use a Y-Pole structure in one particular location in an area on BLM  
12 land approximately seven (7) miles east of the North Gila substation instead of the originally  
13 planned H-Frame structure. APS states that the use of the modified transmission structure in this  
14 location will preserve an access road used for ingress and egress to the area for line maintenance,  
15 minimize ground disturbance, and result in a smaller footprint. Use of the Y-Pole structure will  
16 eliminate the need to relocate the access road in this mountainous area of the corridor.

#### 17 **Staff Analysis**

18           9.       Regarding Modification 1, Staff has reviewed the information provided in the  
19 Application with respect to history, reasons for requesting the modification, and engineering and  
20 environmental impacts of the proposed modification. Because the final detailed design requires  
21 that the Second Line cross over the Existing Line and enter the North Gila substation on the south  
22 side of the Existing Line, the change in both the corridor location and width as proposed by APS  
23 are reasonable. APS has provided a letter, dated February 15, 2012, from BLM indicating that the  
24 proposed location for the Second Line is within the surveys of the original environmental analysis  
25 (see Exhibit B). BLM therefore views this modification as a minor change to the project and will  
26 cooperate with APS to approve the change on the BLM lands. Staff recommends approval of this  
27 modification.

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ORDER

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that Decision No. 70127 is modified to revise the Project Alignment approved within the Certificate of Environmental Compatibility in accordance with the Company's application and the recommendations of Staff.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Decision No. 70127 is modified at page 4, line 9 to add:

At this termination point in Link 50, starting at the North Gila substation and extending east approximately 1,500 feet, the Project has a 500-foot corridor which begins at the centerline of the existing Southwest Powerlink 500kV transmission line and extends 500 feet south.

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1 IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Decision No. 70127 is modified to permit APS to use a  
2 Y-pole transmission structure as described in Exhibit B to this Decision.

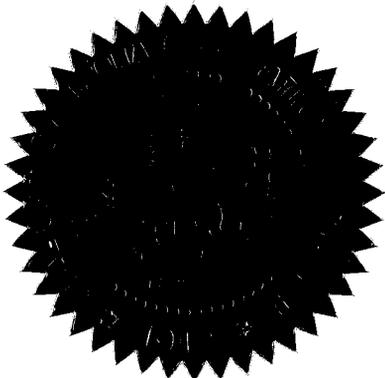
3 IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that all other conditions of the Certificate of Environmental  
4 Compatibility approved by Decision No. 70127 shall remain in effect.

5 IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that this decision shall become effective immediately.

6  
7 **BY THE ORDER OF THE ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION**

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10  CHAIRMAN  COMMISSIONER

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12  COMMISSIONER  COMMISSIONER  COMMISSIONER



15 IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I, JODI JERICH, Executive  
16 Director of the Arizona Corporation Commission, have  
17 hereunto, set my hand and caused the official seal of this  
18 Commission to be affixed at the Capitol, in the City of  
19 Phoenix, this 3rd day of December, 2013.

20   
21 JODI JERICH  
22 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

23 DISSENT: \_\_\_\_\_

24 DISSENT: \_\_\_\_\_

25 SMO:ML:sms\CHH  
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1 SERVICE LIST FOR: Arizona Public Service Company  
2 DOCKET NO. L-00000D-07-0566-00135

3 John Foreman, Chairman  
4 Arizona Power Plant and Transmission  
5 Line Sitting Committee  
6 Office of Attorney General  
7 1275 West Washington Street  
8 Phoenix, Arizona 85007

9 Linda J. Benally  
10 Melissa M. Krueger  
11 Pinnacle West Capital Corporation  
12 400 N. 5th Street, MS 8695  
13 Phoenix, Arizona 85004  
14 Attorneys for Arizona Public Service Company

15 Ms. Janice M. Alward  
16 Chief Counsel, Legal Division  
17 Arizona Corporation Commission  
18 1200 West Washington Street  
19 Phoenix, Arizona 85007

20 Mr. Steven M. Olea  
21 Director, Utilities Division  
22 Arizona Corporation Commission  
23 1200 West Washington Street  
24 Phoenix, Arizona 85007

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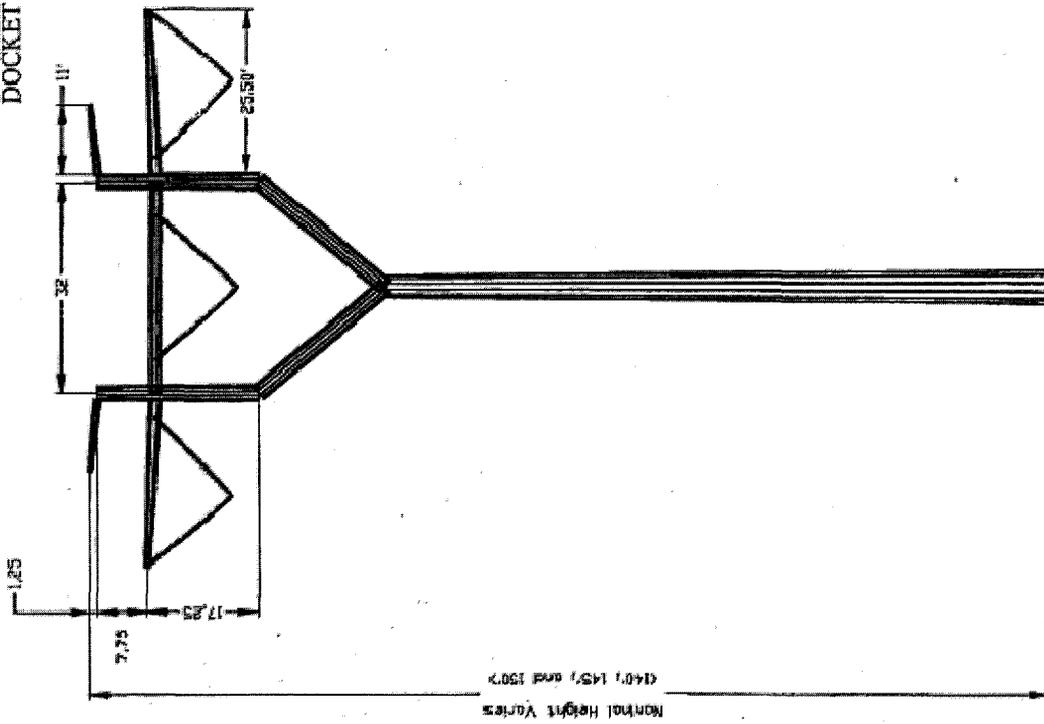
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# EXHIBIT A

EXHIBIT C  
Page 9 of 9

DOCKET NO. L-00000D-07-0566-00135

Decision No. \_\_\_\_\_



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# EXHIBIT B



DOCKET NO. L-00000D-07-0566-00135  
United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
Yuma Field Office  
2555 East Gila Ridge Road  
Yuma, AZ 85365  
[www.blm.gov/az/](http://www.blm.gov/az/)

In Reply Refer To:  
AZA 33305 (C020)  
2850

February 15, 2012

Arizona Public Service Company  
Attn: Paul Herndon, Senior Siting Consultant  
P.O. Box 53933, Station 4616  
Phoenix, Arizona 85072-3933

Re: Palo Verde to North Gila II 500kV Transmission Line aka Hassayampa to North Gila, CEC Case 135

Dear Mr. Herndon:

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has conducted the environmental review and has produced an Environmental Assessment (EA) No. AZ-220-2006-008 for the Palo Verde Hub to North Gila Substation 500kV Transmission Project, approved November 2007.

The project is proposed to be sited and constructed within a designated 1-mile wide utility corridor, ½ mile on either side from centerline of the existing transmission line. The EA considered impacts to all resources and the cumulative effects based on the resources' geographic areas. The archaeological survey is one resource that needs to be site-specific and, in this case, there was a 300-foot-wide survey for 112 miles in length. The cultural survey included an additional area between 100 and 800 feet of survey along various portions of the project area.

It is our understanding that Arizona Public Service Company (APS) would like to request changing the transmission line location from the north side of the existing transmission line to the south side of the existing transmission line for approximately 1,500 feet immediately east of the North Gila Substation (see enclosed map). This change request is within the 1-mile designated utility corridor and it is within the surveys of the environmental analysis. However, if the newly proposed route deviates from the 1-mile corridor, the BLM will require APS to conduct new surveys prior to proceeding with authorization of a right-of-way grant. The BLM views this as a minor change to the project and will cooperate with APS to approve the change on the associated Federal lands.

If you have any questions please contact Supervisory Project Manager Eddie Arreola at 602-417-9505 or at [earreola@blm.gov](mailto:earreola@blm.gov).

Sincerely

John MacDonald  
Field Manager

Enclosure

Decision No. 74206