

OPEN MEETING AGENDA ITEM



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BEFORE THE ARIZONA CORPORATION

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COMMISSIONERS

- SUSAN BITTER SMITH, Chairman
- BOB STUMP
- BOB BURNS
- DOUG LITTLE
- TOM FORESE

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AZ CORP COMMISSION  
DOCKET CENTER

Arizona Corporation Commission

DOCKETED

APR 17 2015

DOCKETED BY	<i>VM</i>	<i>EA</i>
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IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF )  
 SALT RIVER PROJECT AGRICULTURAL ) DOCKET NO. L-00000B-15-0059-00170  
 IMPROVEMENT AND POWER DISTRICT, IN )  
 CONFORMANCE WITH THE )  
 REQUIREMENTS OF ARIZONA REVISED ) ARIZONA COMMUNITIES  
 STATUTES, SECTIONS 40-360, et seq., FOR A ) UNITED'S REQUEST FOR REVIEW  
 CERTIFICATE OF ENVIRONMENTAL ) OF SITING COMMITTEE DECISION  
 COMPATIBILITY AUTHORIZING THE PRICE )  
 ROAD CORRIDOR PROJECT, NON-GILA )  
 RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY PORTION )  
 LOCATED IN THE CITY OF CHANDLER, )  
 ARIZONA OR WITHIN MARICOPA COUNTY. )

ORIGINAL

We, the residents of Arizona have come together as a Community United and respectfully request the Arizona Corp. commission to accept our formal request for review.

As of the drafting of this document, within the last fourteen days, over 700 people have signed a petition in opposition of the site line committee's recommendation to the Arizona Corp. Commission.

It is not our intent to stop the project, nor is it our intent to change the route the site line committee has recommended to the Corp. Commission. Arizona Communities United believes it is in the best interest of the community to move forward with the project however; we are requesting a vote with modifications.

The modifications we are requesting are: The power lines MUST BE BURIED from the Schrader substation the entire distance to the Gila River Indian reservation (approx. 2.7 miles) along the Union Pacific Railroad tracks and, out of respect for our neighbors and Sun Lakes, the lines should

1 also be buried on the west side of Sun Lakes from ¼ mile south of Sun Lakes to ¼ mile north of  
2 Sun Lakes.

3  
4 Arizona Communities United feels that the Union Pacific railroad track route option is the best  
5 option as it will create the least amount of disruption to the community during construction and  
6 future maintenance. The cost to bury the lines will be lower as streets and landscaping will not  
7 need to be torn up and replaced.

8  
9 Because these power lines will create significant visual & aesthetic disruption to the south  
10 Chandler area as well as tremendous declines in property value as well as significant concern over  
11 health and safety surrounding high-voltage power lines running through the heart of our  
12 community we respectfully request a vote with modifications.

13  
14 Over the last 2 ½ years, the appearance is, that decisions have been made, in advance of public  
15 meetings, behind closed doors, in a vacuum, all in the name of "the bottom line". These decisions  
16 have been made with disregard and disrespect to the neighborhoods we ALL call home.

17  
18 The south Chandler community has shared its concerns with SRP and Chandler city officials  
19 including but not limited to the visual appearance and aesthetics of south Chandler, declining  
20 property values, health and safety concerns as well as environmental impact.

21  
22 It appears that SRP has played a masterful game of divide and conquer. Because of this, the  
23 neighborhoods of south Chandler have not had a united voice. Each neighborhood has, in its own  
24 way, attempted to let SRP know they don't want the power lines in their neighborhood.

25  
26 Now that the recommendation is out of the hands of SRP and the site line committee and in the  
27 hands of the Arizona Corp. commission, it is our job, as a community United, as the constituents of

28

1 the five elected officials who will be voting on this matter, to make sure that the commissioners  
2 understand that the community's concerns are very real.

3  
4 The position of the Arizona Communities United movement is in the highest support and respect  
5 of businesses, both current and future, not just in the price corridor but all over Chandler and the  
6 rest of the Phoenix metropolitan area.

7  
8 Arizona Communities United takes pride in the aesthetic and visual appearance of our community,  
9 this is important to us. We live and work in the south Chandler area, we love it or we wouldn't be  
10 here. Installing these above ground power lines is a decision that will affect this community  
11 negatively for well in excess of 100 years.

12  
13 Communities all across America are burying high-voltage power lines. Reasons ranging from,  
14 safety and security from terrorist threats, to simply improving the visual and aesthetic appearance  
15 of a community. Additionally, utility companies from across the country are reporting the cost to  
16 maintain lines that have been buried is significantly lower in the long term than lines placed above  
17 ground. Burying high-voltage power lines attracts businesses and potential homeowners alike by  
18 creating a desirable place to raise a family. It is time for Arizona to come into the twenty-first  
19 century and bury the lines. THIS IS A QUALITY OF LIFE ISSUE.

20  
21 Only four days after the site line committee made the recommendation to the Corporation  
22 commission, SRP sent out a press release indicating that they have been in talks with the Gila  
23 River Indian reservation and a solar farm will be developed on tribal land. This is not a four-day  
24 project, negotiations of this magnitude take years. SRP has used a bait and switch tactic, using the  
25 "price corridor future power needs" to convince the community that they need to have the power  
26 lines head South through the reservation thus, paving the way for a solar farm.

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1 SRP stands to make a tremendous amount of money selling solar power back to the citizens of  
2 Arizona. As SRP comes into the solar market, it allows us all to understand why they are now  
3 charging various fees to individuals and businesses that elect to install solar.

4  
5 This tactic has violated the trust relationship that SRP has spent many years establishing with the  
6 public. SRP cannot afford to lose the trust of the community. It appears that all of the route  
7 options with the exception of the one currently on the Arizona Corp. commission desk were never  
8 really an option and only provided as a ruse to allow for the divide and conquer tactic over the  
9 neighborhoods. Forcing neighborhoods to fight amongst one another and putting this community  
10 in a situation where the majority wants the power lines to go south to the reservation, paving an  
11 easy path for SRP to have a solar farm.

12  
13 Arizona Communities United supports the idea of the solar farm. Renewable energy is a fantastic  
14 approach to our future power needs and we support the idea of creating this resource. It is  
15 unfortunate this is the way the situation was and handled; SRP now has a lot of trust to earn back.

16  
17 In reviewing the proposed plan, it is a twenty year plan. The plan states that the project will  
18 increase SRP's capacity from 380 MW to 1100 MW, this is a 720 MW increase in capacity.

19  
20 Arizona Communities United is confident that if these lines, currently proposed to be 230 KV are  
21 installed above ground, as soon as the solar farm moves forward, SRP will hang additional lines to  
22 bring the power back into the grid. The number of lines hanging on the polls will increase and the  
23 amount of power running through these lines will significantly increase well beyond the initial 230  
24 KV they said they are installing for "the benefit of the price corridor".

25  
26 Because it makes the most sense to bury the lines, we encourage SRP, when burying the lines for  
27 the benefit of the community; this will be the ideal and optimal time to bury the additional conduit  
28 necessary to easily pull the lines needed to bring power back into the grid from the solar farm.

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We have gathered significant evidence showing that communities across America are burying high-voltage power lines as a standard procedure. Additionally, the cost to bury these lines has significantly come down over time.

Despite numerous requests, SRP has yet to provide any actual cost breakdown for burying the lines. They continue to use scare tactics and the media in an attempt to convince the general public that if lines get buried for the benefit of one small segment of the population, it will come at the expense of the entire SRP customer base. If the only rationale to not burying these lines is due to "the bottom line", this is a weak argument. The expense to keep the lines above ground includes an un-calculable amount of property devaluations and increased health care costs.

Respectfully submitted,



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