



SEP 29 2015 BEFORE THE ARIZONA POWER AND UTILITIES BOARD

DOCKETED BY *W*

**TRANSMISSION LINE SITING COMMITTEE**

2015 SEP 29 A 4 35

AZ CORP COMMISSION  
DOCKET NO. 190000YY-15-0318-00171

Case No. 171

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF SUNZIA TRANSMISSION LLC, IN CONFORMANCE WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES 40-360, ET SEQ., FOR A CERTIFICATE OF ENVIRONMENTAL COMPATIBILITY AUTHORIZING THE SUNZIA SOUTHWEST TRANSMISSION PROJECT, WHICH INCLUDES THE CONSTRUCTION OF TWO NEW 500 KV TRANSMISSION LINES AND ASSOCIATED FACILITIES ORIGINATING AT A NEW SUBSTATION (SUNZIA EAST) IN LINCOLN COUNTY, NEW MEXICO, AND TERMINATING AT THE PINAL CENTRAL SUBSTATION IN PINAL COUNTY, ARIZONA. THE ARIZONA PORTION OF THE PROJECT IS LOCATED WITHIN GRAHAM, GREENLEE, COCHISE, PINAL, AND PIMA COUNTIES.

**NOTICE OF INTENT TO BECOME A PARTY BY:**

**1. WINKELMAN NATURAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

**-AND-**

**2. REDINGTON NATURAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

Pursuant to A.R.S. § 40-360.05(A) and A.A.C. R14-3-204, Winkelman Natural Resource Conservation District ("Winkelman") and Redington Natural Resource Conservation District ("Redington"), by and through their counsel, Lat J. Celmins of Margrave Celmins, P.C. hereby submit their Notice of Intent to Become a Party in this proceeding.

Winkelman and Redington, (collectively "Districts") are local, political subdivisions of the State of Arizona with responsibilities to protect the natural resources within their jurisdictions consistent with the Natural Resource Policy

1 of the State of Arizona and the Districts' own long range plans. The Districts  
2 were established by the Arizona Constitution, Article XIII, § 7 and A.R.S. §37-  
3 1001, *et seq.* and are legal subdivisions of the State of Arizona. They are  
4 organized by the vote of the landowners within the District and are managed by  
5 the Board of Directors elected by local citizens. The Districts are a form of self-  
6 government authorized to identify and address resource conservation needs  
7 within their jurisdictions. The Sunzia Southwest Transmission Project impacts  
8 the vital interests of the Districts and the Districts have a statutory right to  
9 participate because the proposed routing of Sunzia's transmission lines  
10 traverses the Districts' boundaries and adversely impacts its core interests.

13 Winkelman is located in the eastern part of Pinal County, the southwest  
14 corner of Gila County, the southwest corner of Graham County and a portion of  
15 northeast Pima County. Substantial portions of Arizona's major rivers, the San  
16 Pedro and the Gila, wind through the District. Winkelman encompasses 1.6  
17 million acres of land. The land ownership is a combination of private, State and  
18 Federal lands. Portions of the Tonto and Coronado National Forests lie within  
19 the District's boundaries together with BLM lands, Arizona State Trust Lands  
20 and private lands.

23 Redington encompasses 290,000 acres of land in the San Pedro River  
24 Valley which runs 31 miles north - northwest through the middle of the District  
25 and is the area's most defining geographical, ecological and social-historic  
26 feature. The single largest landowner in the District is the Arizona Land  
27

1 Department which holds 168,000 acres for public schools and other public  
2 purposes. Federal lands are approximately 77,000 acres and private lands are  
3 45,000 acres.

4  
5 The Districts' mission is to protect, restore, and conserve land, water and  
6 soil resources, and to preserve the water rights in the area. The Districts are  
7 also charged to prevent soil erosion, protect the tax base of lands within their  
8 boundaries and assist private owners in order that they make reliable and  
9 responsible use of their lands.

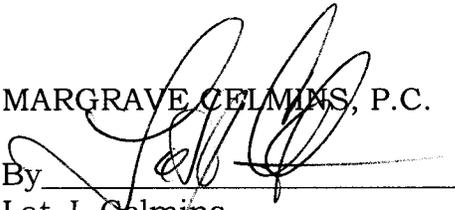
10  
11 Sunzia's proposed routing for two new single-circuit overhead 500 KV  
12 transmission lines and associated facilities originates in Lincoln County, New  
13 Mexico, runs through Graham, Greenlee, Cochise, Pinal and Pima counties and  
14 transverses the Districts' lands terminating at the Pinal Central Sub-Station in  
15 Pinal County, Arizona. The proposed routing clearly effects the vital interests of  
16 the Districts and their core responsibilities.

17  
18 The Districts have actively participated in various Sunzia proceedings  
19 relating to the approval and routing of the transmission lines. The Districts  
20 have raised important habitat and environmental issues effecting their lands  
21 including particularly adverse impacts relating to the Gila and San Pedro River  
22 water sheds including, but not limited to: (i) harmful effects on wildlife habitat  
23 areas, plants and animal species; (ii) negative effects on cultural resources and  
24 archaeological sites; (iii) troubling effects on vital resources and existing water  
25 sheds; (iv) serious conflicts with the Districts' land use plans and policies; (v)

1 harmful impacts on wilderness areas; and (vi) undesirable effects on rural  
2 lifestyle and socio economic conditions. Additionally other conservation and  
3 natural resource matters are a concern because the Districts have a vital  
4 interest in the routing of Sunzia's transmission lines through their boundaries.  
5

6 Winkelman and Redington respectfully request that they be permitted to  
7 participate as a party in all present and future hearings, proceedings and  
8 matters related thereto and receive all documents, filings which are made in  
9 this Docket. All pleadings, filings and other communications which are a part  
10 of this record can be directed to the undersigned by mail or email at:  
11 lcelmins@mclawfirm.com .  
12

13 MARGRAVE CELMINS, P.C.

14 By   
15 \_\_\_\_\_

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22 **CERTIFICATION OF MAILING**

23 Pursuant to A.A.C. R14-3-204, the **original** of the foregoing and 25 copies  
24 were filed this 28 day of September, 2015 with:

25 Utilities Division-Docket Control

26 **ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION**

27 1200 West Washington Street

28 Phoenix, Arizona 85007

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**Copy** of the foregoing mailed this 28 day of September, 2015 to:

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