



ORIGINAL



0000167050

RECEIVED

2015 NOV 25 P 12: 31

AZ CORP COMMISSION
DOCKET CONTROL

State Regulation and Compliance

Mail Station 9712
PO Box 53999
Phoenix, Arizona 85072-3999
Tel 602-250-3341
Kerri.Carnes@aps.com

November 25, 2015

Thomas Broderick, Director
Utilities Division
Arizona Corporation Commission
1200 W. Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007

RE: Self-Certification of Environmental Compatibility for the Palo Verde to North Gila 500-kV Transmission Line Project, Decision No. 70127
Docket No. L-00000D-07-0566-00135

Pursuant to Decision No. 70127, dated January 23, 2008, Condition No. 16, Arizona Public Service Company files this self-certification letter and documentation for the Palo Verde to North Gila 500-kV Transmission Line Project.

If you have any questions regarding this information, please contact me at (602)250-3341.

Sincerely,

Kerri A. Carnes

KC/kr
Attachment

Arizona Corporation Commission

DOCKETED

NOV 25 2015



cc: Docket Control
Brian Bozzo
Thomas Chenal, Chairman, Arizona Power Plant & Transmission Line Siting Committee
Linda Brumm, Arizona Department of Administration, Grants and Federal Resources/State of Arizona Energy Programs
Lisa Williams, Director, Arizona Department of Water Resources



Palo Verde Hub to North Gila 500kV Transmission Line Project

Docket No.
L-00000D-07-0566-00135
Arizona Corporation Commission
Decision No. 70127

*Certificate of Environmental
Compatibility Compliance*

December 2015

Arizona Public Service
Palo Verde Hub to North Gila 500kV Transmission Line Project

*Summary of Certificate of
Environmental Compatibility Compliance*

Introduction:

Arizona Public Service Company (APS) submits the following self-certification documentation pursuant to Condition 16 of the Palo Verde Hub to North Gila 500kV Transmission Line Project, Certificate of Environmental Compatibility Case No. 135, Docket No. L-00000D-07-0566-00135, Decision No. 70127 (January 23, 2008).

Construction on this Project has been completed and the transmission line was energized on May 26, 2015. This will be the final self-certification filing for this Project.

The following Condition Table lists all of the requirements and the status of compliance activities.

Arizona Public Service
 Summary of Certificate of Environmental Compatibility Compliance
 Palo Verde Hub to North Gila 500kV Transmission Line Project (Case 135)

Condition 1

Certificate Condition	Action of Compliance
The Applicant shall obtain all required approvals and permits necessary to construct the Project.	A summary of permits and approvals is included with this filing.

Condition 2

Certificate Condition	Action of Compliance
The Applicant shall comply with all existing applicable ordinances, master plans and regulations of the State of Arizona, the County of Maricopa, the County of Yuma, the United States, and any other governmental entities having jurisdiction.	APS standard practice includes compliance with all existing standards, regulations, and ordinances where applicable.

Condition 3

Certificate Condition	Action of Compliance
This authorization to commence construction of the Project shall expire seven years from the date the Certificate is approved by the Commission; provided, however, that prior to such expiration the Applicant or its assignees may request that the Commission extend this time limitation.	Project was certificated January 23, 2008. Authorization to commence construction on the Project expires January 23, 2015. Construction has been completed and Project was energized on May 26, 2015.

Condition 4

Certificate Condition	Action of Compliance
The Applicant shall make every reasonable effort to identify and correct, on a case-specific basis, all complaints of interference with radio or television signals from operation of the transmission line and related facilities addressed in this Certificate. The Applicant shall maintain written records for a period of five years of all complaints of radio or television interference attributable to operation, together with the corrective action taken in response to each complaint. All complaints shall be recorded to include notations on the corrective action taken. Complaints not leading to a specific action or for which there was no resolution shall be noted and explained.	APS standard practice includes tracking and responding to complaints of interference with radio and television signals as they are submitted to APS.

Condition 5

Certificate Condition	Action of Compliance
The Project shall comply with the following recommendations of the Arizona Game and Fish Department ("AGFD"): (a) Wildlife data collected by the biological monitor will be given to the AGFD's Heritage Data Management System. (b) Where possible, leave large vegetation intact to reduce habitat impact and promote regeneration. (c) Coordinate plant salvage efforts with the Arizona Department of Agriculture, in accordance with the Arizona Native Plant Law. In addition, the applicable land management agencies should be consulted regarding guidelines for revegetation efforts.	APS has complied with this Condition. Wildlife data collected by the biological monitor was provided to the AGFD's Heritage Data Management System.

Condition 6

Certificate Condition	Action of Compliance
Pursuant to A.R.S. §41-844, if any archaeological, paleontological or historical site or object that is at least fifty years old is discovered on state, county or municipal land during plan-related activities, the person in charge shall promptly report the discovery to the Director of the Arizona State Museum, and in consultation with the Director, shall immediately take all reasonable steps to secure and maintain the preservation of the discovery. If human remains and/or funerary objects are encountered on private land during the course of any ground-disturbing activities relating to the development of the subject property, Applicant shall cease work on the affected area of the Project and notify the Director of the Arizona State Museum pursuant to A.R.S. §41-865.	APS standard practice includes compliance with A.R.S. § 41-844 and A.R.S. § 41-865.

Condition 7

Certificate Condition	Action of Compliance
The Applicant shall design the transmission lines so as to mitigate impacts to raptors.	APS standard design practices include efforts to minimize the risk to raptors.

Condition 8

Certificate Condition	Action of Compliance
The Applicant shall use non-specular conductor and dulled surfaces for transmission line structures.	APS standard design practices include the use of non-specular and dulled surfaces for transmission structures.

Condition 9

Certificate Condition	Action of Compliance
<p>Within 120 days of the Commission decision granting this Certificate, Applicant will post signs in public rights-of-way giving notice of the Project corridor to the extent authorized by law. Within 45 days of securing easement or right-of-way for the Project, the Applicant shall erect and maintain signs providing public notice that the property is the site of a future transmission line. Such signage shall be no smaller than a normal roadway sign. The Applicant shall place signs in prominent locations at reasonable intervals such that the public is notified along the full length of the transmission line until the transmission structures are constructed. The signs shall advise:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) That the site has been approved for the construction of Project facilities; (b) The expected date of completion of the Project facilities; (c) A phone number for public information regarding the Project; (d) The name of the Project; (e) The name of the Applicant; and (f) The Applicant's website. <p>Sign placement will be reported annually in accordance with Condition 16.</p>	<p>APS complied with this Condition by posting signage in public rights-of-way giving notice of the Project corridor. This was documented in prior self-certification filings.</p> <p>APS posted signage notifying the public of acquired rights-of-way in 2010. This was documented in the 2010 self-certification filing.</p>

Condition 10

Certificate Condition	Action of Compliance
In the event that the Project requires an extension of the term of this Certificate prior to completion of	Construction has been completed and Project was energized on May 26, 2015, therefore an extension of

construction, Applicant shall use reasonable means to directly notify all landowners and residents within a one-half mile of the Project corridor for which the extension is sought. Such landowners and residents shall be notified of the time and place of the proceeding in which the Commission shall consider such request for extension.

the term is not required.

Condition 11

Certificate Condition	Action of Compliance
<p>Before construction on this Project may commence, the Applicant must file a Plan of Development approved by the Bureau of Land Management ("BLM") with Docket Control with copies to the affected areas of jurisdiction. Applicant will comply with the BLM's Standard Construction and Operating Procedures and Mitigation Measures and Other Mitigation Measures as outlined in the Finding of No Significant Impact, attached hereto as Exhibit C.</p>	<p>APS has complied with this Condition. The final POD as approved by BLM was filed with docket control on August 7, 2013 with copies sent to the affected areas of jurisdiction.</p>

Condition 12

Certificate Condition	Action of Compliance
<p>Applicant shall retain a qualified biologist to monitor all ground clearing/disturbing construction activities that may affect sensitive species or habitat. The biological monitor will be responsible for ensuring proper actions are taken if a special status species is encountered. If Sonoran desert tortoises are encountered during construction, the Applicant shall follow the AGFD's Guidelines for Handling Sonoran Desert Tortoises.</p>	<p>APS has complied with this Condition.</p>

Condition 13

Certificate Condition	Action of Compliance
<p>With respect to the Project, Applicant shall participate in good faith in state and regional transmission study forums to coordinate transmission expansion plans related to the Project and to resolve transmission constraints in a timely manner.</p>	<p>APS coordinates its transmission planning with other transmission providers and stakeholders in the Desert Southwest, and the Western Interconnection as a whole, through its active participation in the Southwest Area Transmission (SWAT) planning group, membership in WestConnect, membership in the Western Electricity Coordinating Council (WECC) and participation in the WECC Transmission Expansion Planning Policy Committee (TEPPC) and its Technical Advisory Subcommittee (TAS).</p>

Condition 14

Certificate Condition	Action of Compliance
<p>The Applicant shall provide copies of this Certificate to the Yuma County Planning and Zoning Commission, the Maricopa County Planning and Development Department, the Arizona State Land Department, the State Historic Preservation Office, and AGFD.</p>	<p>APS has complied with this Condition. Copies were mailed to each of the jurisdictions and agencies on January 28, 2008.</p>

Condition 15

Certificate Condition	Action of Compliance
<p>Prior to the date this transmission line is put into commercial service, the Applicant shall provide homebuilders and developers within one mile of the center line of the Certificate route the identity, location, and a pictorial depiction of the type of power line being constructed, accompanied by a written description, and encourage the developers and homebuilders to include this information in the developers' and homebuilders' homeowners' disclosure statements.</p>	<p>APS has complied with this Condition. A Project information/disclosure packet was mailed to the identified homebuilders and developers on November 5, 2010. Examples of the documents were provided in the 2010 self-certification filing. APS provides information for developers regarding transmission facilities on its siting website at www.aps.com/siting along with links to current and completed High Voltage transmission siting Projects.</p>

Condition 16

Certificate Condition	Action of Compliance
<p>The Applicant shall submit a self-certification letter annually, identifying progress made with respect to each Condition contained in the Certificate, including which Conditions have been met. Each letter shall be submitted to the Utilities Division Director on December 1 beginning in 2008. Attached to each certification letter shall be documentation explaining how compliance with each Condition was achieved. Copies of each letter along with the corresponding documentation shall be submitted to the Arizona Attorney General and Department of Commerce Energy Office. The requirement for the self-certification shall expire on the date the Project is placed into operation.</p>	<p>Compliance with this Condition is evidenced by the submission of this filing. Construction has been completed and Project was energized on May 26, 2015. This is the final self-certification filing. The Governor's Office of Energy Policy, previously the Department of Commerce Energy Office, was transferred to the Arizona Department of Administration - Office of Grants and Federal Resources (ADOA-GFR), effective May 11, 2015. APS submits this filing to ADOA-GFR in compliance with this condition.</p>

Condition 17

Certificate Condition	Action of Compliance
<p>Applicant shall work in good faith with the Yuma Proving Ground commanding officer regarding the final right-of-way on that portion of the route within the Yuma Proving Ground.</p>	<p>APS has complied with this Condition. The final design complies with the letter from the Department of the Army, Yuma Proving Grounds dated November 21, 2006.</p>

Condition 18

Certificate Condition	Action of Compliance
<p>Within the Project area, construction activities will avoid to the extent practicable designated wildlife water sources to allow free access by Bighorn Sheep.</p>	<p>APS has complied with this Condition.</p>

Condition 19

Certificate Condition	Action of Compliance
<p>Applicant shall conform to Western Electricity Coordinating Council/North American Electric Reliability Corporation N-1 and N-1-1 contingency planning criteria. N-1 contingency shall not result in any load dropping or generation tripping.</p>	<p>APS has complied with this Condition.</p>

Condition 20

Certificate Condition	Action of Compliance
<p>Except when entering switchyards and substations, the minimum spacing between the center lines of the two 500 kV systems should be the greater of: 1) 130 feet; or 2) the height of the tallest tower involved in that particular span.</p>	<p>The final design meets the minimum spacing requirements specified.</p>

Condition 21

Certificate Condition	Action of Compliance
<p>Before commencing construction of Project facilities located within 100 feet of any existing natural gas or hazardous liquid pipeline, the Applicant shall:</p> <p>(a) Perform the appropriate grounding and cathodic protection studies to show that the Project's location within 100 feet of such pipeline results in no material adverse impacts to the natural gas or hazardous liquid pipeline or to public safety when both are in operation. As a compliance matter, a report of studies shall be provided to the Commission Staff. If material adverse impacts are noted in the studies, Applicant shall take appropriate steps to ensure that such material adverse impacts are eliminated. Applicant shall provide to the Commission Staff written documentation of the actions</p>	<p>APS has complied with this Condition. No APS facilities are within 100 feet of any existing pipeline.</p>

that will be taken and documentation showing no material adverse impact will occur; and,

(b) Perform a technical study simulating an outage of the facility that may be caused by the collocation of the Project within 100 feet of the existing natural gas or hazardous liquid pipeline. This study should either: i) show that such outage does not result in customer outages; or ii) include operating plans to minimize any resulting customer outages. Applicant shall provide a copy of this study to Commission Staff.

Condition 22

Certificate Condition	Action of Compliance
Applicant shall pursue good faith efforts to reach a commercially reasonable agreement for interconnection at a new Arlington Valley 500kV switchyard. Applicant shall file with the Commission Utilities Division no later than December 31, 2010, a report summarizing its efforts, the option(s) ultimately selected, and the reasons other option(s) were not selected.	APS has complied with this Condition. A letter was filed in ACC Docket Control on February 5, 2010 which provided notification of the interconnection location.

Condition 1

The Applicant shall obtain all required approvals and permits necessary to construct the Project.

Compliance

As of November 1, 2015, APS has obtained the following permits and approvals associated with the Palo Verde Hub to North Gila 500-kV Transmission Line Project.

Issuing/Approving Agency	Type	Application/Approval Status
Bureau of Land Management (BLM)	FONSI	Approved 11/6/07
Arizona State Land Department 14-115754	Right of Way Yuma County	Approved 6/16/2013
Arizona State Land Department 14-115755	Right of Way Maricopa County	Approved 6/16/2013
Arizona State Land Department 14-116645	Access R/W Yuma County	Approved 6/16/2013
Arizona State Land Department 14-116644	Access R/W Maricopa County	Approved 6/16/2013
Bureau of Land Management (BLM)	Plan of Development	Approved 7/10/2013
Yuma Proving Ground	Right of Way	Approved 12/15/2013
Bureau of Reclamation	Right of Way	Approved 1/8/2014