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Arizona Corporation Commission

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

Subject: SunZia Southwest Transmission Project  
SunZia Transmission, LLC  
Ten Year Plan for 2017

To Whom It May Concern:

Pursuant to A.R.S. § 40-360.02 (A) and (C), SunZia Transmission, L.L.C. ("SunZia") hereby submits its Ten Year Plan filing for the year 2017. The information requirements associated with A.R.S. § 40-360.02 (C) are included as Appendix "A" to this filing.

The SunZia Southwest Transmission Project ("Project") is comprised of up to two extra high voltage transmission lines, substations and termination facilities that would create a new interconnection between Arizona and New Mexico. The Project would allow delivery of remotely-located power generation resources, including renewables, to power markets in the Western Electricity Coordinating Council ("WECC"), while improving regional grid reliability and power transfer across this area.

On January 23, 2015, the Record of Decision ("ROD") was executed by Janice Schneider, Assistant Secretary of the Department of Interior, Land and Minerals Management. Issuance of the ROD concludes the six-and-a-half year effort of the Bureau of Land Management ("BLM") to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act. On September 1, 2016 SunZia executed a right-of-way grant with the BLM (map included in Appendix "B"). Additionally, SunZia will pursue ROW with the Arizona State Land Department and Arizona private land owners during 2017.

On September 2, 2015, SunZia applied for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility ("CEC") from the Arizona Corporation Commission ("ACC"). During October and November, thirteen days of hearings, including two field tours, were conducted by the Arizona Power Plant and Line Siting Committee ("LSC"). On November 19, 2015, the LSC voted to issue a CEC for the SunZia Project. On February 22, 2016, following two days of hearings, the ACC issued SunZia a CEC in Decision No. 75464. All documents related to SunZia's line siting case can be found in ACC Docket No. L-00000YY-15-0318-00171.

SunZia coordinates closely with siting jurisdictions in both Arizona and New Mexico as the Project progresses. The Project is regularly reviewed and discussed at regional planning forums such as WestConnect, the Southwest Area Subregional Transmission Planning Group ("SWAT") and SWAT's various subcommittees.

This informational filing is intended to be responsive to the requirements of A.R.S. § 40-360.02 (A) and (C) as they might apply to the SunZia Project and its related electric facilities currently under study. Depending on both the timing and nature of future development, the Project may have occasion to file an amendment to this Ten Year Plan for 2017.

Additional information on the SunZia Project can be found at [www.sunzia.net](http://www.sunzia.net).

Please direct any questions that may arise from this report to the undersigned at (602) 808-2004.

Sincerely,



Tom C. Wray  
Project Manager  
SunZia Southwest Transmission Project

Appendices (2)

Cc: File

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# **Appendix “A”**

**SunZia Southwest Transmission Project  
A.R.S. § 40-360.02 (C) Information Requirements**

## Appendix "A"

### Information Requirements Pursuant to A.R.S. § 40-360.02 (C)

#### **40-360.02 (C) (1).**

##### ***The size and proposed route of any transmission lines or location of each plant proposed to be constructed.***

The SunZia Southwest Transmission Project (Project or SunZia) proposes to permit and construct up to two new single-circuit 500 kilovolt (kV) transmission lines originating at a new substation called SunZia East to be located in Lincoln County, New Mexico and terminating at the existing Pinal Central Substation in Pinal County, Arizona. The 500 kV transmission lines are planned to interconnect with the underlying EHV grid in Arizona. Depending on technical analysis of power flows and the commercial demand for transmission capacity, the Project may be constructed in two configurations: either two alternating current (AC) lines or one AC line and one direct current line, all lines operating at 500kV.

The estimated length of the proposed transmission line route is approximately 515 miles. Approximately 200 miles of the proposed route are inside the state of Arizona, and is largely located on state trust lands managed by the Arizona State Land Department, a Cooperating Agency to the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) Environmental Impact Statement process. The ownership details for the final alignment are as follows: 132 miles (or 66% of the project) on state trust land, 50 miles (or 25%) on BLM land, and 17 miles (or 9%) on private land (see map in Appendix "B").

SunZia achieved Phase 3 of the Three Phase Rating Process of the Western Electricity Coordinating Council (WECC) on March 25, 2011, which granted the Project an accepted rating of 3,000 MW for two single-circuit 500 kV AC transmission facilities. On January 27, 2015, WECC reconfirmed SunZia's Accepted Rating of 3,000 MW.

#### **40-360.02 (C) (2).**

##### ***The purpose to be served by each proposed transmission line or plant.***

The Project is conceived as a power transfer facility to transport generation from energy resources, including remotely-located renewable energy resources, to markets in the WECC, improve power transfers across the region and increase general reliability and relieve congestion of the interconnected EHV grid between Arizona and New Mexico. Project also creates a third EHV point-of-service into the Tucson. Load pocket, thereby improving reliability.

**40-360.02 (C) (3).**

***The estimated date by which each transmission line or plant will be in operation.***

Current planning indicates the first 500 kV AC transmission line would be in service by 2022.

**40-360.02 (C) (4).**

***The average and maximum power output measured in megawatts of each plant to be installed.***

Not applicable.

**40-360.02 (C) (5).**

***The expected capacity factor for each proposed plant.***

Not applicable.

**40-360.02 (C) (6).**

***The type of fuel to be used for each proposed plant.***

Not applicable.

**40-360.02 (C) (7).**

***The plans for any new facilities shall include a power flow and stability analysis report showing the effect on the current Arizona electric transmission system. Transmission owners shall provide the technical reports, analysis or basis for projects that are included for serving customer load growth in their service territories.***

Power flow studies, stability studies, dynamic system modeling and short-circuit studies will be prepared as the Project's electrical definition matures. The Project will coordinate and review these study findings with Commission Staff as they become available.

# **Appendix “B”**

## **SunZia Southwest Transmission Project Map**

**(As of July 2016)**

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