

INTERVENTION

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BEFORE THE ARIZONA POWER PLANT
AND TRANSMISSION LINE SITING COMMITTEE

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IN THE MATTER OF THE
APPLICATION OF PINAL CENTRAL
ENERGY CENTER LLC, IN
CONFORMANCE WITH THE
REQUIREMENTS OF ARIZONA
REVISED STATUTES 40-360, ET SEQ.,
FOR A CERTIFICATE OF
ENVIRONMENTAL COMPATIBILITY
AUTHORIZING THE PINAL CENTRAL
ENERGY CENTER 230KV
GENERATION INTERTIE LINE
PROJECT, WHICH INCLUDES THE
CONSTRUCTION OF A GENERATION
TIE-LINE ORIGINATING LESS THAN
HALF A MILE TO THE SOUTHEAST
OF THE PINAL CENTRAL
SUBSTATION ON PRIVATE LAND
UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF
PINAL COUNTY AND THE CITY OF
COOLIDGE, ARIZONA, AND
TERMINATING IN THE PINAL
CENTRAL SUBSTATION IN PINAL
COUNTY, ARIZONA.

Docket No. L-00000BBB-17-0073-00174

Case No. 174

SUNZIA TRANSMISSION, LLC'S
APPLICATION FOR LEAVE TO
INTERVENE

Arizona Corporation Commission

DOCKETED

MAR 30 2017

DOCKETED BY

LAWRENCE V. ROBERTSON, JR.
ATTORNEY AT LAW
210 W. Continental Road, Suite 216A
Green Valley, AZ 85622

I. INTRODUCTION.

Pursuant to A.R.S. 40-360.05(A)(4), A.A.C. R14-3-204(D) and page 3, lines 18-19 of the March 17, 2017 Notice of Hearing issued by the Chairman of the Arizona Power Plant and Transmission Line Siting Committee ("Committee") in the above-captioned and above-docketed proceeding ("Instant Proceeding"), SunZia Transmission LLC ("SunZia") hereby makes application for leave to intervene as a party of record in the Instant Proceeding. In support of its Application SunZia submits the following information.

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1 **II. BACKGROUND.**

2 On November 24, 2015, the Chairman of the Committee on behalf of the
3 Committee issued a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility ("CEC") to SunZia in
4 Docket No. L-00000YY-15-0318-00171 (Case No. 171) authorizing the siting,
5 construction and operation within the State of Arizona of the following facilities: (i) two
6 new 500 kilovolt ("kV") interstate transmission lines and associated project facilities,
7 originating at a new substation in Lincoln County, New Mexico, and terminating at the
8 Pinal Central Substation in Pinal County, Arizona; (ii) a new 500 kV substation to be
9 known as the 500 kV Willow Substation; and (iii) a direct current ("DC") converter
10 station, which, if constructed, would be located directly east of the existing Pinal Central
11 Substation. On February 22, 2016, the Arizona Corporation Commission ("Commission")
12 pursuant to A.R.S. 40-360.07 issued its Decision No. 75464 affirming the Committee's
13 grant of a CEC to SunZia for the aforementioned SunZia Transmission Project facilities.

14 Panel "g" of Attachment "A" to the aforesaid SunZia CEC is a map which depicts
15 the location of (i) the two SunZia 500 kV transmission lines corridor and (ii) the site of the
16 SunZia DC converter station in relation to the existing Pinal Central Substation. In that
17 regard, a copy of Panel "g" was marked as Pre-Filing Exhibit-3 at the March 6, 2017 Pre-
18 Filing Conference conducted by the Chairman of the Committee in connection with the
19 Instant Proceeding. As may be noted therefrom, the SunZia CEC authorization
20 contemplates and provides for SunZia's two 500 kV transmission lines to approach the
21 Pinal Central Substation from the east, and to enter the said substation on its south side. A
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1 copy of the aforesaid Panel "g" (Pre-Filing Exhibit-3) is attached to this Application as
2 Appendix 1, and is incorporated herein by reference.

3 On March 15, 2017, Pinal Central Energy Center LLC ("Energy Center") filed an
4 Application with the Commission's Docket Control requesting a CEC for "an
5 approximately 0.4-mile 230 kV alternating current generation transmission tie-in line and
6 associated substation facilities connecting the proposed 20 megawatt Pinal Central Energy
7 Center Solar Facility to the existing Pinal Central Substation." That Application was
8 assigned Docket No. L-00000BBB-17-0073-00174 (Case No. 174), and the Committee's
9 evidentiary hearing thereon is currently scheduled to commence on April 18, 2017 at 2:00
10 p.m. in Casa Grande, Arizona.

11 Prior to Energy Center filing its Application on March 15, 2017, SunZia had
12 occasion to express its concern as the possibility that Energy Center's planned route for its
13 proposed 230-kV gen-tie line might conflict with the siting approvals previously granted
14 to SunZia in the vicinity of the Pinal Central Substation for the SunZia Transmission
15 Project. Such occasion was in response to a February 2, 2017 letter received by SunZia
16 from Energy Center's environmental consultant, Environmental Planning Group ("EPG").
17 SunZia's response and expression of concerns was in the form of a February 22, 2017
18 letter from SunZia's Project Manager, Tom Wray, to Devin Petry of EPG. A copy of that
19 letter was attached to Energy Center's Application as Exhibit(s) H-3 and H-4; and, a copy
20 of the same is attached to this Application as Appendix 2 and incorporated herein by this
21 reference.

1 In that same letter, SunZia also expressed its willingness to meet and confer with
2 representatives of Energy Center in an effort to see if a routing for Energy Center's
3 proposed 230-kV gen-tie line could be agreed upon which would not conflict with or
4 impair the siting and routing approvals previously granted to SunZia by Decision No.
5 75464. Thereafter, during the aforesaid March 6, 2017 Pre-Filing Conference with the
6 Chairman of the Committee, representatives of Energy Center and representatives of
7 several prospective parties in the contemplated Committee proceeding on Energy Center's
8 forthcoming CEC Application, counsel for SunZia reiterated both SunZia's aforesaid
9 concerns and its willingness to meet and confer with representatives of Energy Center to
10 see if a mutually acceptable routing for Energy Center's proposed 230-kV gen-tie line
11 could be agreed upon.

12 In connection with the foregoing, Exhibit A-1, Exhibit A-2, Exhibit A-3, Exhibit
13 D-1, Figure 1 and Figure 2 to Energy Center's March 15, 2017 Application depict the
14 close proximity of Energy Center's proposed route for its 230-kV gen-tie line in relation to
15 the previously authorized alignment for SunZia's two 500 kV transmission lines. In
16 addition, the Introduction section of Energy Center's Exhibit "B" to its March 15, 2017
17 Application expressly acknowledges on page B-1 that SunZia's 500 kV transmission lines
18 have been previously permitted; and, it states that "The proposed Gen-tie is designed to
19 cross below...the future SunZia transmission line." Elsewhere, at page B-3 of Exhibit "B,"
20 Energy Center again acknowledges "Two parallel 500 kV transmission lines are proposed
21 to be constructed near the [Energy Center] Project and were recently permitted by the
22 Arizona Corporation Commission [for the] ...SunZia Southwest Transmission Project." In
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1 that regard, at page 7 of its Application, Energy Center expresses its intent that "...the
2 Project will...be compatible with existing plans in the vicinity of the proposed site" Suffice
3 it to say, SunZia's CEC and the resulting regulatory and permitting approvals represent
4 "existing plans" of "private entities" within the contemplation and meaning of A.R.S. 40-
5 360.06(A)(1).
6

7 Against the above background, on March 20, 2017, fourteen (14) representatives of
8 SunZia and Energy Center and their respective engineering consultants met and conferred
9 with the objective of exploring what design alternatives might exist which would allow
10 Energy Center to site, construct and operate its contemplated 230 kV gen-tie line without
11 obstructing or interfering with that siting, construction and operation of SunZia's two 500
12 kV transmission lines contemplated and approved by the Commission in its Decision No.
13 75464. No definitive decisions or conclusions were reached at that time, and SunZia and
14 Energy Center and their respective engineering consultants have scheduled another
15 meeting for April 4, 2017.
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19 **III. CONCLUSION.**

20 As of this juncture, it is unknown as to whether SunZia and Energy Center can agree upon
21 a design and routing for Energy Center's proposed 230 kV gen-tie line that would not
22 obstruct or interfere with the siting, construction and operation of SunZia's two 500 kV
23 transmission lines as contemplated and approved in Decision No. 75464. In addition,
24 even if an agreement should be reached in advance of the commencement of the
25 Committee's evidentiary hearing on Energy Center's Application on April 18, 2017, there
26 is no one other than SunZia itself who can fully represent and express SunZia's interest in
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1 that hearing, including being sure that such agreement is fully and accurately presented to
2 and understood by the Committee as its relates to a preservation and protection of
3 SunZia's rights and interests under Decision No. 75464.

4
5 Accordingly, in view of the foregoing circumstances, SunZia hereby requests that it
6 be granted Intervener status and all rights as a party of record in the Instant Proceeding.

7
8 Dated this 30th day of March, 2017.

9
10 Respectfully submitted.

11 Lawrence V. Robertson, Jr.
12 Of Counsel, Munger Chadwick, PLC
13 210 W. Continental Road, Suite 216A
14 Green Valley, Arizona 85622

15 and

16 Doug Fant
17 Southwestern Power Group, II
18 3610 N. 44th Street, Suite 250
19 Phoenix, Arizona 85018
20 Attorneys for SunZia Transmission LLC

21 By:

22 

23 _____
24 Lawrence V. Robertson, Jr.

25 The original and 25 copies of the
26 foregoing Application will be filed
27 this 30th day of March, 2017 with
28 Docket Control.

A copy of the foregoing Application
will be hand-delivered or emailed this
30th day of March, 2017 to the
following individuals:

LAWRENCE V. ROBERTSON, JR.
ATTORNEY AT LAW
210 W. Continental Road, Suite 216A
Green Valley, AZ 85622

1 Chairman Thomas K. Chenal
2 Arizona Power Plant and Transmission
3 Line Siting Committee
4 Attorney General's Office
5 1275 West Washington Street
6 Phoenix, Arizona 85007
7 thomas.chenal@azag.gov

8 Jeffrey W. Crockett
9 Crockett Law Group, PLLC
10 2198 E. Camelback Road, Suite 305
11 Phoenix, Arizona 85016
12 Attorney for Pinal Central Energy Center, LLC
13 jeff@jeffcrockettlaw.com

14 Tim LaSota
15 Interim Chief Counsel
16 Legal Division
17 Arizona Corporation Commission
18 1200 West Washington Street
19 Phoenix, Arizona 85007

20 Elijah Abinah, Acting Director
21 Utilities Division
22 Arizona Corporation Commission
23 1200 West Washington Street
24 Phoenix, Arizona 85007

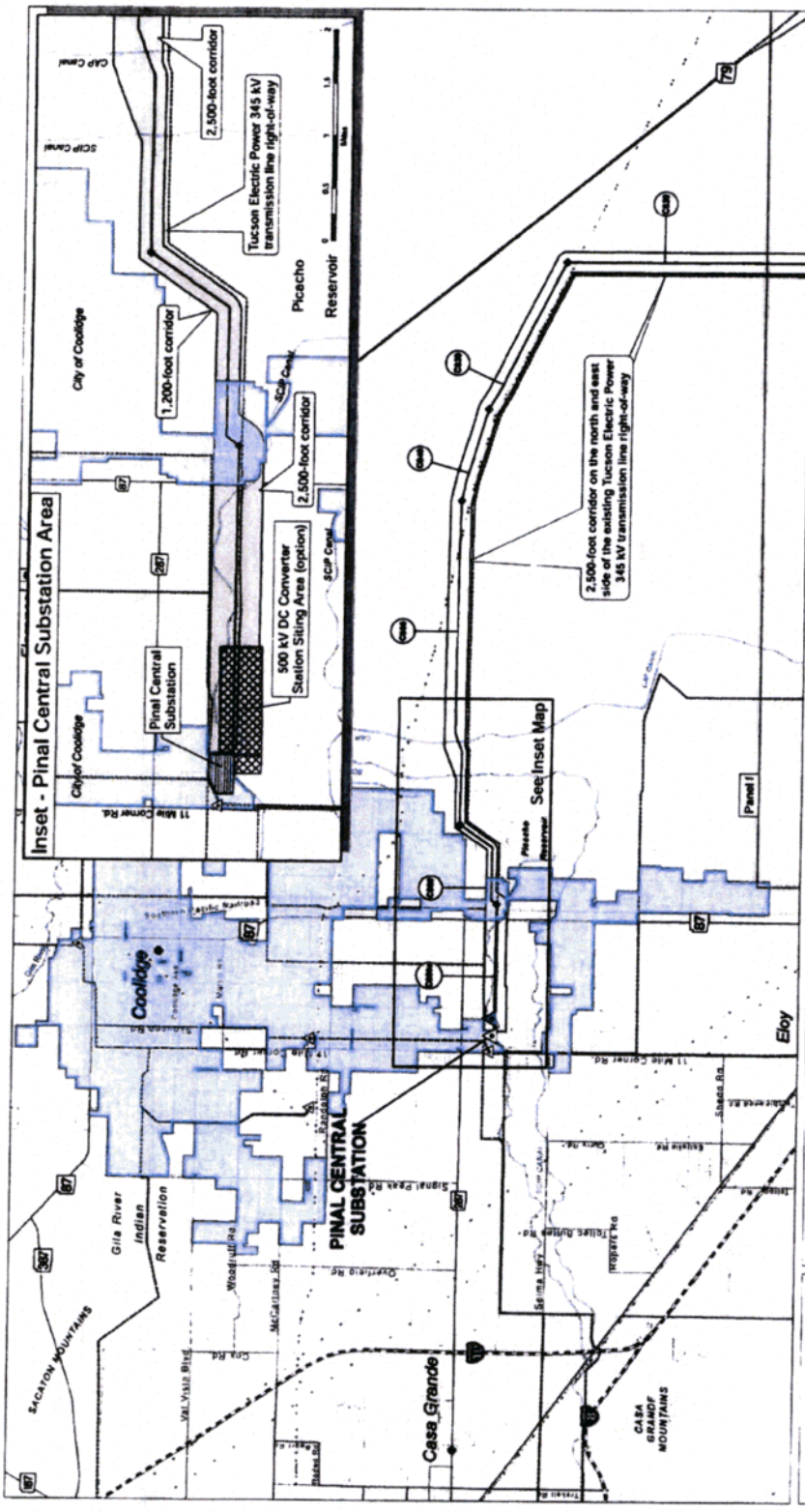
25 Jess Melin, Director – Business Development
26 Pinal Central Energy Center, LLC
27 700 Universe Blvd.
28 Juno Beach, Florida 33408
Jess.Melin@nexteraenergy.com

Tom C. Wray, Project Manager
SunZia Southwest Transmission Project
3610 N. 44th Street, Suite 250
Phoenix, Arizona 85018
twray@southwesternpower.com

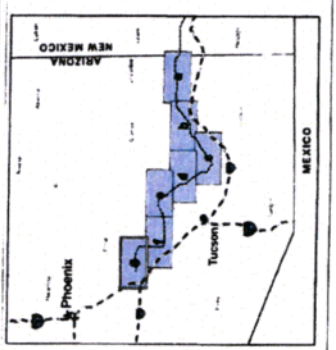
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27 By 

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Appendix 1




Sources
 Bureau of Land Management, Arizona State Office, 2015
 Pinal County, 2015
 USGS Topographic, 2013
 2002, 2011



- Reference Features**
- City/Town
 - Interstate
 - Highway
 - Local Road
 - Railroad
 - River/Stream
 - State Boundary
 - County Boundary
 - City/Town Boundary
 - Artificial Boundary
 - Lake/Reservoir

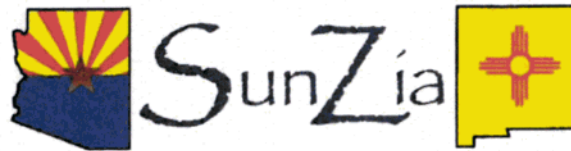
- Utilities**
- Existing Substation
 - Proposed 500 kV DC Converter Station (option)
 - Proposed 500 kV DC Converter Station (option)
 - Existing Transmission Lines
 - Pipeline
 - Canal

- Project Features**
- 2500' Wide Corridor
 - Corridor Centerline
 - Link Block
 - Link Boundary

CEC Corridor Map
SUNZIA SOUTHWEST TRANSMISSION PROJECT

 Panel 9
 Case No. 171
 Attachment A

PRR-FILING EXHIBIT - 3

Appendix 2



Sent Via US Mail

February 22, 2017

Devin Petry
Project Manager
Environmental Planning Group
4141 North 32nd Street
Suite 102
Phoenix, AZ 85018

RE: Pinal Central Energy Center Gen-Tie Project; Arizona Administrative Code Rule R14-3-219

Dear Mr. Petry:

Having received the notice and project study area map (dated February 2017) of this proposed project on February 14, 2017, we are providing our preliminary comments on this application for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility ("CEC") that will be filed by your client during March 2017 with the Arizona Power Plant and Transmission Line Siting Committee ("Committee").

As project manager for the SunZia Southwest Transmission Project ("SunZia Project") and grantee of a CEC from the Committee (Case No. 171; Arizona Corporation Commission Decision No. 75464; February 22, 2016; Docket No. L-00000YY-15-0318-00171), the proposed 230 kV alignment into Pinal Central Substation will unnecessarily cross underneath two existing 500 kV lines and two planned and permitted SunZia Project's 500 kV lines entering Pinal Central Substation on the east side of the substation. The location of the "proposed (230 kV) substation" also interferes with the planned and permitted AC-DC-AC converter station that is contained in Decision No. 75464.

As the 230 kV switchyard at Pinal Central Substation lies on the western side, an alignment that creates less interference with existing and planned 500 kV overhead transmission lines would result from approaching the 230 kV substation area from the north side of Pinal Central and entering the substation from either a northern or western approach.

Further, the map that accompanied your letter of February 2, 2017, does not correctly delineate how your proposed 230 kV gen-tie transmission line will physically conflict with existing and proposed 500 kV facilities planned to terminate in the 500 kV substation portion on the eastern end of the Pinal Central Substation.

I am enclosing "Panel g" from "Attachment A" to the SunZia Project CEC for your information.

Among the obvious siting conflicts are: (i) the likely need to raise up to four 500 kV transmission lines to allow an under-crossing of the proposed 230 kV gen-tie transmission line to the "proposed (230 kV) substation"; (ii) construction of this proposed substation within the planned and permitted area of the SunZia Project's 500 kV AC-DC-AC Converter Station; and (iii) unnecessarily increasing physical congestion in a crowded 500 kV transmission corridor containing up to five (5) overhead 500 kV transmission lines.

I suggest that we meet and confer about these conflicts prior to filing your application for the CEC with the Committee. I believe technical solutions are available that will eliminate these conflicts with the SunZia Project's existing and permitted plans.

Please contact me so that we can arrange to meet and discuss resolution to this avoidable line siting conflict with our existing plans at the Pinal Central Substation.

My email address is: twray@southwesternpower.com

Sincerely,



Tom C. Wray
Project Manager
SunZia Southwest Transmission Project

Cc:

Lawrence V. Robertson, Jr., Esq., Munger Chadwick P.A.
David Getts, SouthWestern Power Group
Mark Etherton, SouthWestern Power Group
File

Enclosure (1)