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BEFORE THE ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION

COMMISSIONERS

KEVIN THOMPSON— CHAIR
NICK MYERS - VICE CHAIR
LEA MÁRQUEZ PETERSON
RACHEL WALDEN
RENE LOPEZ

Arizona Corporation Commission

DOCKETED

MAY 12 2025

DOCKETED BY

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF
UNS ELECTRIC, INC., IN CONFORMANCE
WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF A.R.S. § 40-
360, ET. SEQ., FOR A CERTIFICATE OF
ENVIRONMENTAL COMPATIBILITY
AUTHORIZING THE BLACK MOUNTAIN TO
GRIFFITH 230KV GEN-TIE PROJECT, WHICH
INCLUDES THE CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW
230KV TRANSMISSION LINE ORIGINATING
AT THE EXISTING BLACK MOUNTAIN
GENERATING STATION (SECTION 14,
TOWNSHIP 19 NORTH, RANGE 18 WEST),
AND TERMINATING AT THE EXISTING
GRIFFITH SUBSTATION, OPERATED BY
WESTERN AREA POWER ADMINISTRATION
(SECTION 06, TOWNSHIP 19 NORTH, RANGE
17 WEST), LOCATED WITHIN
UNINCORPORATED MOHAVE COUNTY,
ARIZONA.

DOCKET NO. L-00000F-24-0270-00242

CASE NO. 242

DECISION NO. 80882

May 8, 2025
Open Meeting

BY THE COMMISSION:

Pursuant to A.R.S. § 40-360 et seq., after due consideration of all relevant matters, the Arizona Corporation Commission ("Commission") finds and concludes that the Certificate of Environmental Compatibility ("CEC 242") issued by the Arizona Power Plant and Transmission Line Siting Committee ("Siting Committee") is hereby approved as granted by this Order.

1 The Commission, in reaching its decision, has balanced all relevant matters in the broad
2 public interest, including the need for an adequate, economical, and reliable supply of electric power
3 with the desire to minimize the effect thereof on the environment and ecology of this state, and finds
4 that granting CEC 242 is in the public interest.

5 The Commission further finds and concludes that in balancing the broad public interest in this
6 matter:

- 7 1. The Project is in the public interest because it aids the state in meeting the need for an
8 adequate, economical, and reliable supply of electric power.
- 9 2. In balancing the need for the Project with its effect on the environment and ecology of the
10 state, the conditions placed on CEC 242 effectively minimize its impact on the
11 environment and ecology of the state.
- 12 3. The conditions placed on CEC 242 resolve matters concerning the need for the Project
13 and its impact on the environment and ecology of the state raised during the course of
14 proceedings and, as such, serve as the findings on the matters raised.
- 15 4. In light of these conditions, the balancing in the broad public interest results in favor of
16 granting CEC 242.

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CEC 242 ISSUED BY THE SITING COMMITTEE IS INCORPORATED

HEREIN AND IS APPROVED BY ORDER OF THE

ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION


CHAIR THOMPSON


VICE CHAIR MYERS


COMMISSIONER MARQUEZ PETERSON


COMMISSIONER WALDEN


COMMISSIONER LOPEZ



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I, DOUGLAS R. CLARK,
Executive Director of the Arizona Corporation Commission,
have hereunto, set my hand and caused the official seal of this
Commission to be affixed at the Capitol, in the City of Phoenix,
this 12th day of May, 2025.


DOUGLAS R. CLARK
Executive Director

DISSENT: _____

DISSENT: _____

1 **BEFORE THE ARIZONA POWER PLANT**
2 **AND TRANSMISSION LINE SITING COMMITTEE**

3 IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION
4 OF UNS ELECTRIC, INC., IN
5 CONFORMANCE WITH THE
6 REQUIREMENTS OF A.R.S. § 40-360, ET.
7 SEQ., FOR A CERTIFICATE OF
8 ENVIRONMENTAL COMPATIBILITY
9 AUTHORIZING THE BLACK MOUNTAIN
10 TO GRIFFITH 230 KV GEN-TIE PROJECT,
11 WHICH INCLUDES THE CONSTRUCTION
12 OF A NEW 230 KV TRANSMISSION LINE
13 ORIGINATING AT THE EXISTING BLACK
14 MOUNTAIN GENERATING STATION
15 (SECTION 14, TOWNSHIP 19 NORTH,
16 RANGE 18 WEST), AND TERMINATING
17 AT THE EXISTING GRIFFITH
18 SUBSTATION, OPERATED BY WESTERN
19 AREA POWER ADMINISTRATION
20 (SECTION 06, TOWNSHIP 19 NORTH,
21 RANGE 17 WEST), LOCATED WITHIN
22 UNINCORPORATED MOHAVE COUNTY,
23 ARIZONA.

Docket No. L-00000F-24-0270-00242

Case No. 242

**CERTIFICATE OF
ENVIRONMENTAL
COMPATIBILITY**

17 **A. INTRODUCTION**

18 Pursuant to notice given as provided by law, the Arizona Power Plant and
19 Transmission Line Siting Committee (“Committee”) held public hearings in Phoenix,
20 Arizona, on March 24, 2025, through March 25, 2025, in conformance with the
21 requirements of the Arizona Revised Statutes (“A.R.S.”) § 40-360 *et seq.* for the
22 purpose of receiving evidence and deliberating on the December 20, 2024 Application
23 of UNS Electric, Inc. (“Applicant” or “UNSE”) for a Certificate of Environmental
24 Compatibility (“Certificate”) in the above-captioned case.

25 The following members and designees of members of the Committee were
26 present at one or more of the hearing days for the evidentiary presentations, public
27 comment and/or the deliberations:
28

1	Adam Stafford	Chairman, Designee for Arizona Attorney General Kris Mayes
2		
3	Gabby Saucedo Mercer	Designee of the Chairman, Arizona Corporation Commission ("Commission")
4	Leonard Drago	Designee for Director, Arizona Department of Environmental Quality
5		
6	David French	Designee for Director, Arizona Department of Water Resources
7	Roman Fontes	Appointed Member, representing counties
8	David Kryder	Appointed Member, representing agricultural interests
9	Margaret "Toby" Little	Appointed Member, representing the general public
10	Jon Gold	Appointed Member, representing the general public
11	David Richins	Appointed Member, representing the general public

12 The Applicant was represented by Meghan H. Grabel and Elias Ancharski of
 13 Osborn Maledon, P.A. and in-house counsel for UNSE, Megan C. Hill. No parties
 14 requested intervention pursuant to A.R.S. § 40-360.05.

15 At the conclusion of the hearing, the Committee, after considering the
 16 (i) Application, (ii) evidence, testimony, and exhibits presented by the Applicant, and
 17 (iii) comments of the public, and being advised of the legal requirements of A.R.S. §§
 18 40-360 through 40-360.13, upon motion duly made and seconded, voted 9 to 0 grant
 19 Applicant, its successors and assigns, this Certificate for the construction of the Black
 20 Mountain to Griffith 230 kilovolt ("kV") Generation Tie Line Project ("Project") as
 21 described below.

22 **B. PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

23 The Project consists of an approximately 3-mile, single-circuit 230 kV
 24 transmission line mounted on steel double-circuit-capable monopole structures near
 25 Kingman, Mohave County, Arizona. The Project will interconnect the proposed Black
 26 Mountain Generation Station expansion, a 200-megawatt natural gas-fired generating
 27 facility, with the Griffith Substation. A map of the final approved Project, including
 28

the Project corridor, is included as **Exhibit A**.

Route and Corridor

Preferred Route

Applicant's Preferred Route originates at the proposed future Black Mountain Generating Station expansion 230 kV substation on the west side of Yuma Road. It crosses Yuma Road to the east right-of-way ("ROW") (0.04 mile), turns north and continues north 0.36 mile, crossing Yucca Drive and an existing UNSE 69 kV transmission line. Here, it turns east and follows the north ROW of Yuma Road approximately 1 mile before turning north. The line continues north 0.78 mile along the west ROW of Apache Road to Navajo Drive. It then turns east, crosses the existing UNSE 69 kV transmission line a second time, and follows the south ROW of Navajo Drive 0.53 mile. The route then turns north, crossing the existing UNSE 69 kV transmission line a third time and continues 0.34 mile before turning west (0.15 mile) to enter the Griffith Substation.

The proposed width of the corridor is 500 feet. The final ROW for the Project will be 125 feet.

Alternative Route

Applicant's Alternative Route originates at the proposed future Black Mountain Generating Station expansion 230 kV substation on the west side of Yuma Road. The Project crosses Yuma Road to the east ROW (0.04 mile), turns south and continues south 0.14 miles to an unnamed primitive dirt road (on the same alignment as English Drive). Here, it continues east on the north side of the dirt road, crossing two privately-owned parcels, approximately 0.98 mile before turning north. The line continues north 0.1 mile along the west ROW of Apache Road to Griffith Road. It then turns east and follows the south ROW of Griffith Road 0.36 mile to the Arizona Department of Transportation ("ADOT") frontage road. The route then turns north, crosses Griffith Road and follows the west ROW of the ADOT Frontage Road approximately 1.22 miles

1 to a primitive dirt road (on the same alignment as Navajo Drive). The route then turns
2 west and follows the south side of the dirt road for 0.17 mile. The route then turns north,
3 crosses UNSE's existing 69 kV transmission line, and continues 0.34 mile before
4 turning west (0.15 mile) to enter the Griffith Substation.

5 The proposed width of the corridor is 500 feet. The final ROW for the Project
6 will be 125 feet.

7 CONDITIONS

8 This Certificate is granted upon the following conditions:

9 1. This authorization to construct the Project on the Preferred Route shall
10 expire ten (10) years from the date this Certificate is approved by the Commission, with
11 or without modification. Construction of the Project shall be complete, such that the
12 Project is in-service within this ten-year timeframe. However, prior to the expiration of
13 the time period, the Applicant may request that the Commission extend the time
14 limitation.

15 2. In the event that the Project requires an extension of the term(s) of this
16 Certificate prior to completion of construction, the Applicant shall file such time
17 extension request at least one hundred and eighty (180) days prior to the expiration of
18 the Certificate. The Applicant shall use reasonable means to promptly notify Mohave
19 County, the City of Kingman, Lake Havasu City, Bullhead City, ADOT, and all
20 landowners and residents within a one (1) mile radius of the centerline of the Project,
21 all persons who made public comment at this proceeding who provided a mailing or
22 email address, and all parties to this proceeding. The notification provided will include
23 the request and the date, time, and place of the hearing or open meetings during which
24 the Commission will consider the request for extension. Notification shall be no more
25 than three (3) business days after the Applicant is made aware of the hearing date or the
26 open meeting date.

1 3. During the development, construction, operation, maintenance, and
2 reclamation of the Project, the Applicant shall comply with all existing applicable air
3 and water pollution control standards and regulations, and with all existing applicable
4 statutes, ordinances, master plans, and regulations of any governmental entity having
5 jurisdiction including, but not limited to, the United States of America, the State of
6 Arizona, Mohave County, the City of Kingman, Lake Havasu City, Bullhead City, and
7 their agencies and subdivisions, including but not limited to the following:

8 (a) All applicable land use regulations;

9 (b) All applicable zoning stipulations and conditions including, but not
10 limited to, landscaping and dust control requirements;

11 (c) All applicable water use, discharge and/or disposal requirements of
12 the Arizona Department of Water Resources and the Arizona
13 Department of Environmental Quality;

14 (d) All applicable noise control standards; and

15 (e) All applicable regulations governing storage and handling of
16 hazardous chemicals and petroleum products.

17 4. The Applicant shall obtain all approvals and permits necessary to
18 construct, operate and maintain the Project required by any governmental entity having
19 jurisdiction including, but not limited to, the United States of America, the State of
20 Arizona, Mohave County, the City of Kingman, Lake Havasu City, Bullhead City, and
21 their agencies and subdivisions.

22 5. The Applicant shall comply with the Arizona Game and Fish Department
23 ("AGFD") guidelines and recommendations for handling protected animal species,
24 should any be encountered during construction and operation of the Project, and shall
25 consult with AGFD or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, as appropriate, on other issues
26 concerning wildlife. The Applicant commits to follow the mitigation measures on page
27 7 of Exhibit C of the Application, as applicable and feasible.

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1 6. The Applicant shall design the Project's facilities to incorporate
2 reasonable measures to minimize electrocution of and impacts to avian species in
3 accordance with the Applicant's avian protection program. Such measures will be
4 accomplished through incorporation of Avian Power Line Interaction Committee
5 guidelines set forth in the current versions of *Suggested Practices for Avian Protection*
6 *on Power Lines* and *Reducing Avian Collisions with Power Lines* manuals.

7 7. The issuance of a Certificate by the Commission is a state action pursuant
8 to A.R.S. §§ 41-861 through 41-864, also known as the State Historic Preservation Act
9 ("State Act") and is subject to review by the Arizona State Historic Preservation Office
10 ("SHPO"). As a state agency, the Commission remains the responsible entity for
11 compliance with the State Act.

12 A. The Applicant, on behalf of the Commission, shall consult with SHPO
13 regarding the Project and its impacts on historic properties and
14 construction shall not commence until SHPO has had an opportunity to
15 review and comment.

16 B. If a Project involves federal funding, permitting, licensing, or approval
17 pursuant to 36 CFR § 800.16(y), it may be a federal undertaking pursuant
18 to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act ("NHPA") (36
19 CFR Part 800). Section 106 of the NHPA requires SHPO concurrence on
20 the adequacy of the federal agency's efforts to identify historic properties
21 and establish an area of potential effects. If any part of the Project is a
22 federal undertaking, the federal agency shall consult with SHPO directly.
23 The Applicant will provide SHPO with notice of federal agency
24 involvement if not known prior to issuance of this Certificate.

25 8. If any archaeological, paleontological, or historical site or a significant
26 cultural object is discovered on state, county, or municipal land during the construction
27 or operation of the Project, the Applicant or its authorized representative shall promptly
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1 report the discovery to the Director of the Arizona State Museum ("ASM"), and in
2 consultation with the Director, shall immediately take all reasonable steps to secure and
3 maintain the preservation of the discovery as required by A.R.S. § 41-844.

4 9. All prehistoric cultural resources, including both known and yet-to-be-
5 discovered sites, will be avoided if feasible. If avoidance of the site is infeasible, the
6 resources will be left in-situ or reburied in a nearby area, after consultation with the
7 Colorado River Indian Tribes ("CRIT").

8 10. The Applicant shall comply with the notice and salvage requirements of
9 the Arizona Native Plant Law (A.R.S §§ 3-901 *et seq.*) and shall, to the extent feasible,
10 minimize the destruction of native plants during the construction and operation of the
11 Project.

12 11. The Applicant shall make every reasonable effort to promptly investigate,
13 identify, and correct, on a case-specific basis, all complaints of interference with radio
14 or television signals from operation of the Project addressed in this Certificate and
15 where such interference is caused by the Project take reasonable measures to mitigate
16 such interference. The Applicant shall maintain written records for a period of five (5)
17 years of all complaints of radio or television interference attributable to operations,
18 together with the corrective action taken in response to each complaint. All complaints
19 shall be recorded and shall include notation on the corrective action taken. Complaints
20 not leading to a specific action or for which there was no resolution shall be noted and
21 explained. Upon request, the written records shall be provided to the Staff of the
22 Commission. The Applicant shall respond to complaints and implement appropriate
23 mitigation measures. In addition, the Project shall be evaluated on a regular basis so
24 that damaged insulators or other line materials that could cause interference are repaired
25 or replaced in a timely manner.

12. Encounters of Human Remains.

A. If human remains and/or funerary objects are encountered during the course of any ground-disturbing activities related to the construction or operation of the Project, the Applicant shall cease work on the affected area of the Project and notify the Director of the ASM as required by A.R.S. § 41-865 for private land, or as required by A.R.S. § 41-844 for state, county, or municipal lands.

B. If human remains and/or funerary objects are encountered during the course of any ground-disturbing activities related to the construction or operation of the Project on federal land, the Applicant shall cease work on the affected area of the Project and notify the federal land manager as required by the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act ("NAGPRA"; Public Law 101-601; 25 U.S.C. 3001-3013). The project shall not proceed without federal agency approval.

13. Within one hundred twenty (120) days of the Commission's decision approving this Certificate, the Applicant shall post signs in or near public ROWs, to the extent authorized by law, reasonably adjacent to the Project giving notice of the Project. Such Signage shall be no smaller than a roadway sign. The signs shall advise:

(a) The future site of the Project;

(b) A phone number and website for public information regarding the Project; and

(c) Refer the Public to the Docket.

Such signs shall be inspected at least once annually and, if necessary, be repaired or replaced, and removed at the completion of construction.

The Applicant shall make every reasonable effort to communicate the decision either approving or disapproving the Certificate in digital media.

1 14. At least ninety (90) days before construction commences on the Project,
2 the Applicant shall provide Mohave County, the City of Kingman, Lake Havasu City,
3 Bullhead City, ADOT, and known builders and developers who are building upon or
4 developing land within one (1) mile of the centerline of the Project with a written
5 description, including the approximate height and width measurements of all structure
6 types, of the Project. The written description shall identify the location of the Project
7 and contain a pictorial depiction of the facilities being constructed. The Applicant shall
8 also encourage the developers and builders to include this information in their
9 disclosure statements. Upon approval of this Certificate by the Commission, the
10 Applicant may commence construction of the Project.

11 15. The Applicant shall use non-specular conductor and non-reflective
12 surfaces for the transmission line structures on the Project.

13 16. The Applicant shall be responsible for arranging that all field personnel
14 involved in the Project receive training as to proper ingress, egress, and on-site working
15 protocol for environmentally sensitive areas and activities. Contractors employing such
16 field personnel shall maintain records documenting that the personnel have received
17 such training.

18 17. The Applicant shall follow the most current Western Electricity
19 Coordinating Council ("WECC") and North American Electric Reliability Corporation
20 ("NERC") planning standards, as approved by the Federal Energy Regulatory
21 Commission ("FERC"), National Electrical Safety Code ("NESC") standards, and
22 Federal Aviation Administration ("FAA") regulations.

23 18. The Applicant shall participate in good faith in state and regional
24 transmission study forums to coordinate transmission expansion plans related to the
25 Project and to resolve transmission constraints in a timely manner.
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1 19. The Applicant shall provide to Commission Staff, (a) a copy of the final
2 written System Impact Studies and Facilities Studies completed by the Western Area
3 Power Administration pursuant to the Protective Agreement that has been executed for
4 this docket; and, (b) a copy of the final decision document culminating from the
5 National Environmental Policy Act process, as applicable.

6 20. When Project facilities are located parallel to and within one hundred
7 (100) feet of any existing natural gas or hazardous pipeline, the Applicant shall:

- 8 A. Ensure grounding and cathodic protection studies are performed to show
9 that the Project's location parallel to and within one hundred (100) feet
10 of such pipeline results in no material adverse impacts to the pipeline or
11 to public safety when both the pipeline and the Project are in operation.
12 The Applicant shall take appropriate steps to ensure that any material
13 adverse impacts are mitigated. The Applicant shall provide to Staff of the
14 Commission, and file with Docket Control, a copy of the studies
15 performed and additional mitigation, if any, that was implemented as part
16 of its annual compliance-certification letter; and
- 17 B. Ensure that studies are performed simulating an outage of the Project that
18 may be caused by the collocation of the Project parallel to and within one
19 hundred (100) feet of the existing natural gas or hazardous liquid pipeline.
20 The studies should either: (i) show that such simulated outage does not
21 result in customer outages, or (ii) include operating plans to minimize any
22 resulting customer outages. The Applicant shall provide a copy of the
23 study results to Staff of the Commission and file them with Docket
24 Control as part of the Applicant's annual compliance certification letter.
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1 21. The designation of the corridor in this Certificate, as shown in **Exhibit A**,
2 does not authorize a ROW greater than 125 feet wide for the Project nor does it grant
3 the Applicant exclusive rights within the corridor outside of the final designated
4 transmission ROW. The maximum height of the structures shall not exceed 195 feet.

5 22. The Applicant shall submit a compliance certification letter annually,
6 identifying progress made with respect to and current status of each condition contained
7 in this Certificate. The letter shall be submitted to Commission's Docket Control
8 commencing on December 1, 2025. Attached to each certification letter shall be
9 documentation explaining how compliance with each condition was achieved. Copies
10 of each letter, along with the corresponding documentation, shall be submitted to the
11 Arizona Attorney General's Office. With respect to the Project, the requirement for the
12 compliance letter shall expire on the date the Project is placed into operation.
13 Notification of such filing with Docket Control shall be made to Mohave County, the
14 City of Kingman, Lake Havasu City, Bullhead City, ADOT, all parties to this Docket,
15 and all parties who made a limited appearance in this Docket.

16 23. The Applicant shall provide a copy of this Certificate to Mohave County,
17 the City of Kingman, Lake Havasu City, Bullhead City, and ADOT.

18 24. Any transfer or assignment of this Certificate shall require the assignee
19 or successor to assume, in writing, all responsibilities of the Applicant listed in this
20 Certificate and its conditions as required by A.R.S. § 40-360.08(A) and R14-3-213(F)
21 of the Arizona Administrative Code.

22 25. In the event the Applicant, its assignee, or successor, seeks to modify the
23 Certificate terms at the Commission, it shall provide copies of such request to Mohave
24 County, the City of Kingman, Lake Havasu City, Bullhead City, ADOT, the CRIT, all
25 parties to this Docket, and all parties who made a limited appearance in this Docket.

26 26. The Certificate Conditions shall be binding on the Applicant, its
27 successors, assignee(s) and transferees, and any affiliates, agents, or lessees of the
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1 Applicant who have a contractual relationship with the Applicant concerning the
2 construction, operation, maintenance or reclamation of the Project. The Applicant shall
3 provide in any agreement(s) or lease(s) pertaining to the Project that the contracting
4 parties and/or lessee(s) shall be responsible for compliance with the Conditions set forth
5 herein, and the Applicant's responsibilities with respect to compliance with such
6 Conditions shall not cease or be abated by reason of the fact that the Applicant is not in
7 control of or responsible for operation and maintenance of the Project facilities.

8 **FINDINGS OF FACT AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

9 This Certificate incorporates the following Findings of Fact and Conclusions of
10 Law:

11 1. The Project aids the State and the Southwest Region of the United States
12 in meeting the need for an adequate, economical, and reliable supply of electric power.

13 2. When constructed in compliance with the conditions imposed in this
14 Certificate, the Project aids the state, preserving a safe and reliable electric transmission
15 system.

16 3. During the course of the hearing, the Committee considered evidence on
17 the environmental compatibility of the Project as required by A.R.S. § 40-360 *et seq.*

18 4. The Project and the conditions placed on the Project in this Certificate
19 effectively minimize the impact of the Project on the environment and ecology of the
20 State.

21 5. The conditions placed on the Project of this Certificate resolve matters
22 concerning balancing the need for the Project with its impact on the environment and
23 ecology of the state arising during the course of the proceedings, and, as such, serve as
24 finding and conclusions on such matters.

25 6. The Project is in the public interest because the Project's contribution to
26 meeting the need for an adequate, economical and reliable supply of electric power
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1 outweighs the minimized impact of the Project on the environment and ecology of the
2 State.

3
4 **DATED** this 31st day of March, 2025.

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8
9 Adam Stafford
10 Assistant Attorney General
11 Chairman, Arizona Power Plant and
12 Transmission Line Siting Committee
13 2005 North Central Avenue
14 Phoenix, Arizona 85004
15 Adam.Stafford@azag.gov
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CERTIFICATION OF MAILING

ORIGINAL of the foregoing e-filed this 31st day of March, 2025, with:

Utilities Division – Docket Control

ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION

1200 W. Washington St.

Phoenix, AZ 85007

COPIES of the foregoing e-mailed this 31st day of March, 2025, to:

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EXHIBIT A

