

1 BEFORE THE ARIZONA POWER PLANT LS-403

2 AND TRANSMISSION LINE SITING COMMITTEE

3

4 IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION) DOCKET NO. TBA
 OF UNS ELECTRIC, INC., IN) L-00000F-24-0270-00242
 5 CONFORMANCE WITH THE REQUIREMENTS) LS CASE NO. 242
 OF A.R.S. § 40-360, ET. SEQ., FOR)
 6 A CERTIFICATE OF ENVIRONMENTAL)
 COMPATIBILITY AUTHORIZING THE)
 7 BLACK MOUNTAIN TO GRIFFITH 230 KV)
 GEN-TIE PROJECT, WHICH INCLUDES)
 8 THE CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW 230KV)
 TRANSMISSION LINE ORIGINATING AT)
 9 THE EXISTING BLACK MOUNTAIN)
 GENERATING STATION (SECTION 14,)
 10 TOWNSHIP 19NORTH, RANGE 18 WEST),)
 AND TERMINATING AT THE EXISTING)
 11 GRIFFITH SUBSTATION, OPERATED BY)
 WESTERN AREA POWER ADMINISTRATION)
 12 (SECTION 06, TOWNSHIP 19 NORTH,) PREFILING CONFERENCE
 RANGE 17WEST), LOCATED WITHIN)
 13 UNINCORPORATED MOHAVE COUNTY,)
 ARIZONA.)
 14 _____)

15 At: Phoenix, Arizona

16 Date: December 11, 2024

17 Filed: December 23, 2024

18

19 REPORTER'S TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

20 (Pages 1 through 16)

21

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1 BE IT REMEMBERED that the above-entitled and
2 numbered matter came on regularly to be heard before the
3 Arizona Power Plant and Transmission Line Siting
4 Committee, commencing at 3:00 p.m. on December 11, 2024,
5 with all participants appearing via videoconference.

6

7 BEFORE: Adam Stafford, Chairman

8

9 APPEARANCES:

10 For the Applicant:

11 Meghan H. Grabel, Esq.
12 Elias Ancharski, Esq.
13 OSBORN MALEDON
14 2929 North Central Avenue
15 21st Floor
16 Phoenix, Arizona 85012

17 and

18 Megan Hill
19 Tucson Electric Power Company
20 88 East Broadway, MS HQE910
21 P.O. Box 711
22 Tucson, Arizona 85702

23 ALSO PRESENT:

24

25 Clark Bryner, UNSE
 Tod Brewer, Assistant to Chairman Stafford

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1 CHMN STAFFORD: Let's go on the record.

2 Now is time set for the prefiling
3 conference for the Black Mountain gen-tie project by, is
4 it, UNSE Electric or just UNSE? What's the entity name?

5 MS. GRABEL: UNS Electric and for short we
6 call it UNSE.

7 CHMN STAFFORD: Okay. Start with
8 appearances.

9 MS. GRABEL: Meghan Grabel of Osborn
10 Maledon on behalf of UNS Electric. With me from my
11 office is my colleague Elias Ancharski. And with me from
12 UNSE is in-house regulatory counsel Megan Hill and the --
13 I forget your title all the time, I'm sorry, Clark
14 Bryner, the big head honcho of line siting.

15 CHMN STAFFORD: All right. You've got
16 three exhibits for the prefiling conference, 1, 2, and 3?

17 MS. GRABEL: That's correct. We actually
18 have four, too. Proposed notice of hearing.

19 CHMN STAFFORD: Oh, yeah. That's -- is
20 that an exhibit or is it just -- pull it up. But I have
21 that, yeah. Was that -- did you mark that as an exhibit,
22 or just sent us the Word copy so we can have it ready to
23 file?

24 MS. GRABEL: We can do whatever you're
25 comfortable with, Mr. Chairman.

1 CHMN STAFFORD: Okay.

2 MS. GRABEL: We did want to send it to you
3 early because the publication deadlines are kind of fast
4 approaching in this case because of the holidays. We
5 were hoping to have it by -- I mean, the best-case
6 scenario would be December 20, worst-case December 23
7 because we need to get it published in the first
8 newspaper on December 23.

9 CHMN STAFFORD: Okay. Yeah, I think we can
10 get it to you by the 20th. You should have it ready to
11 go to be filed.

12 All right. The three prefiling exhibits
13 are admitted.

14 (Exhibits 1 through 3 were admitted.)

15 CHMN STAFFORD: Let's go ahead -- gotten
16 notice of hearing. So the publication, which papers and
17 what dates?

18 MS. GRABEL: Yeah, so we're going to
19 publish the official notice, which is the newspaper of
20 general circulation, is Today's News-Herald. That's a
21 paper out of Lake Havasu. And we want to publish on
22 December 27 and 29. And we calculated that the deadline
23 for filing was January 7, but because we're having the
24 hearing on February 3, we need to have the publications
25 done by January 2. So we figured let's get them out of

1 the way and do them in late December.

2 CHMN STAFFORD: Okay. And you're going to
3 file on December 20; correct?

4 MS. GRABEL: Correct.

5 CHMN STAFFORD: Okay.

6 MS. GRABEL: I'll just let you know that
7 because Lake Havasu is a little bit away from the
8 project, that's the newspaper of general circulation.
9 We're also going to do courtesy notice of hearing
10 publications in the Mojave Valley Daily News -- that's in
11 Bullhead City -- and in the Kingman Miner.

12 CHMN STAFFORD: Mojave Valley what news?

13 MS. GRABEL: Daily News.

14 CHMN STAFFORD: Daily News, okay. And
15 Kingman Miner?

16 MS. GRABEL: Correct. M-i-n-e-r.

17 CHMN STAFFORD: Yeah, that's what I
18 figured.

19 Okay. You got looks like from the map,
20 you're going to have four signs.

21 MS. GRABEL: Correct. Two along the
22 highway, one near the Black Mountain generating station
23 and then one closer to the Griffith Substation.

24 CHMN STAFFORD: Okay. So that -- what
25 highway is that? Is that the 40 that's the orange line

1 on the map with the --

2 MS. GRABEL: Yes, that's correct.

3 CHMN STAFFORD: All right. Looks good.

4 Affected jurisdictions?

5 MS. GRABEL: We're going to have five of
6 them. One is Mojave County. And then we'll do the three
7 kind of surrounding cities, so it's City of Kingman, Lake
8 Havasu City, and Bullhead City. And the alternative
9 route also implicates the Arizona Department of
10 Transportation, and so we'll treat ADOT as another
11 affected jurisdiction.

12 CHMN STAFFORD: Okay. Bullhead. What was
13 the other one?

14 MS. GRABEL: Lake Havasu.

15 CHMN STAFFORD: Lake Havasu, okay, yeah.

16 All right. We're going -- looks you're
17 planning on having the hearing at -- in Kingman at the
18 Beale Celebrations.

19 MS. GRABEL: That's right. Beale
20 Celebration Center. I'll tell you, finding a hearing
21 location in Kingman was not easy, so this was the best
22 that we could do. We do have accommodations for
23 committee members at the Hampton Inn. And we're using
24 the A/V team to make sure that we have our Wi-Fi in this
25 location.

1 CHMN STAFFORD: Okay. Good. So what is
2 it? Is that a venue they have weddings and things like
3 that?

4 MS. GRABEL: Weddings and parties, right.
5 It's like a big room, and they have a kitchen in the back
6 so we'll have a place for lunch, et cetera.

7 CHMN STAFFORD: Okay. And lodgings, you
8 said, will be at the Hampton?

9 MS. GRABEL: Hampton Inn in Kingman. And
10 we do have a room block. The cutoff date is January 2,
11 so one month prior to the hearing. So if we want
12 committee members to reach out to Hampton Inn or Tod can
13 reach out to Patti and we can reserve rooms for them.

14 CHMN STAFFORD: I think it's going to be --
15 everyone's going to need accommodations unless they're
16 attending remotely. So let me think. Who would
17 attend -- yeah, probably have a couple members attending
18 remotely, but I'll be there in person and so will
19 probably at least four or five other members.

20 We've got it scheduled for starting on the
21 3rd and running through the 7th?

22 MS. GRABEL: Correct.

23 CHMN STAFFORD: All right. I guess, have a
24 plan for the tour. You said you had two alternate
25 routes -- one alternate route and a preferred route?

1 MS. GRABEL: Correct. They're relatively
2 short lines. It's a three-mile line, and so my hope is
3 that we can do a virtual tour. But if we want to do a
4 tour, we can do it on Tuesday morning, and we'll have an
5 itinerary prepared for you by the prehearing conference.

6 CHMN STAFFORD: Okay. And what worked in
7 this last hearing -- because we were supposed to go on a
8 tour this morning, but we did -- no, tour yesterday, but
9 we did not because the -- I guess the issue was the
10 members were trying to gauge how far the edge of the
11 corridor was going to be from structures they could see
12 on the tour. And so they just pulled up in Google Earth
13 and they could say here's this thing, here's -- where the
14 map of the -- with the corridor so they could show them
15 the measurement of it. And so after we did that, we
16 decided we didn't need to take the tour.

17 MS. GRABEL: Yeah. We'll definitely
18 consider that.

19 CHMN STAFFORD: Okay. So -- but a tour, if
20 we do it, shouldn't take too long because we're not that
21 far from it?

22 MS. GRABEL: No, I think it's probably
23 about 20 minutes. It's not a very far drive from
24 Kingman.

25 CHMN STAFFORD: All right. Well, that'll

1 make the tour less onerous.

2 MS. GRABEL: Right.

3 CHMN STAFFORD: And, Tod, what do we have
4 this set for the prehearing conference date?

5 MR. BREWER: We have this scheduled
6 January 29 at three p.m., Mr. Chairman.

7 CHMN STAFFORD: Application on the 20th.
8 The procedural order. Yes, have me a draft CEC by the
9 prehearing conference.

10 Do you guys anticipate much public comment
11 for this?

12 MS. GRABEL: We haven't had any opposition
13 to the gen-tie, so I don't anticipate much.

14 CHMN STAFFORD: Okay. And then what about
15 public officials, are any of them going to show up and
16 make public comment?

17 MS. GRABEL: I don't have a feel for that.
18 Clark, can you answer the Chairman's question?

19 MR. BRYNER: Yeah, I don't anticipate any
20 public officials will show up. If they do, it would be
21 in support.

22 CHMN STAFFORD: Okay. And permit status,
23 I'm assuming this is a permitted use in the county?

24 MS. GRABEL: That's correct. We just need
25 to acquire basically land rights for the rights-of-way.

1 And then there's an interconnection with the WAPA line
2 that we're still working through. But nothing further.

3 CHMN STAFFORD: Okay. So you're purchasing
4 easements? What's --

5 MS. GRABEL: Right. Working with
6 landowners to acquire -- correct.

7 CHMN STAFFORD: And then you said you need
8 to get an intertie with, you said, it's the WAPA
9 substation? Is that what you're tapping into?

10 MS. GRABEL: I think that's right.

11 Mr. Bryner, is that correct?

12 Yes.

13 CHMN STAFFORD: Okay. Is that going to
14 trip -- trigger NEPA because it's a WAPA substation? Or
15 do they just need to do their own assessment?

16 MS. GRABEL: I think it does trigger NEPA,
17 but it will just be the minor action. They won't have to
18 go through a full NEPA analysis.

19 CHMN STAFFORD: So instead of the
20 environmental assessment study, environmental impact
21 statement, then?

22 MR. BRYNER: Actually, Mr. Chair, it should
23 be a categorical exclusion is the lowest level of NEPA,
24 and that's what we expect.

25 CHMN STAFFORD: Okay.

1 MS. GRABEL: That's the word I was looking
2 for. I had C.E. in my head, and I couldn't remember what
3 it stood for.

4 CHMN STAFFORD: And you said you're going
5 to have Peaks Audio there to make sure we have adequate
6 Wi-Fi?

7 MS. GRABEL: That's correct. We already
8 put them in touch with the hotel to make sure we have
9 good Wi-Fi service.

10 CHMN STAFFORD: So they'll have the same
11 setup with the iPads and tablets and have the exhibits on
12 there for everybody?

13 MS. GRABEL: Correct.

14 CHMN STAFFORD: Okay. And the amount of
15 the filing fee, I'm assuming, is a thousand bucks?

16 MS. GRABEL: That's correct.

17 CHMN STAFFORD: Now, the Commission is
18 obligated by statute to pay the costs of reporting and
19 transcribing any application hearing as well as the
20 actual and necessary expenses incurred by the committee
21 members in connection with their participation in the
22 hearing from the filing fee. Costs and fees exceeding
23 the amount of the applicant's fee may, with the
24 applicant's consent, be incurred by the committee and
25 charged to the applicant.

1 Does the applicant consent to pay the
2 Commission those costs in excess of the filing fee?

3 MS. GRABEL: We do.

4 CHMN STAFFORD: Okay. So it will be the
5 standard three-day turnaround for the transcripts.

6 Anything else we need to cover for this?

7 MS. GRABEL: Social media, you've raised
8 this before. We were going to plan to publish the notice
9 hearing on Facebook and Instagram. I don't know if
10 that's something you want to include.

11 CHMN STAFFORD: Yeah. Typically, they use
12 whatever their outreach -- they've done outreach by
13 social media before they file to kind of make sure that
14 they're taking the temperature of the area and -- no one
15 wants to get surprised at one of these things with a
16 whole bunch of people showing up in opposition that you
17 haven't spoken to before.

18 MS. GRABEL: Correct.

19 CHMN STAFFORD: So, yeah, it's the common
20 practice to go ahead and do a Facebook ad for whatever
21 the appropriate radius would be. Probably about -- I
22 think they do the mailings to target the landowners; it's
23 usually a mile radius. But when they do the social
24 media, it's much broader. It's more like five- to
25 10-mile radius, I think they typically do, because it's

1 electronic. They just kind of make sure -- are there
2 any, like, neighborhoods around here? What's the
3 location looking like?

4 MS. GRABEL: It's pretty rural. There's a
5 prison nearby and a smattering of kind of trailer home
6 residences. But there's not any neighborhood to speak
7 of.

8 CHMN STAFFORD: Right. And it's an
9 existing plant, anyway, so it's not like, oh, wow, this
10 is popping up right next to my house. You know,
11 there's -- the existing plant's been there for over a
12 decade. So okay.

13 I think that's everything I have.

14 Tod, is there anything else we need?

15 MR. BREWER: I don't believe so,

16 Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

17 CHMN STAFFORD: Anything else from the
18 applicants?

19 MS. GRABEL: Not from us. Thank you,
20 Mr. Chairman. That was easy.

21 CHMN STAFFORD: Yeah. Prefilings are
22 usually pretty smooth. Excellent.

23 You got everything you need, Jennifer.

24 THE COURT REPORTER: I do. Thank you,
25 Chairman.

1 CHMN STAFFORD: Thank you very much. With
2 that, we're adjourned, and have a happy holiday. And we
3 will see you in the new year.

4 MS. GRABEL: Thank you.

5 (Proceedings concluded at 3:12 p.m.)

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