

1 BEFORE THE ARIZONA POWER PLANT

LS-421

2 AND TRANSMISSION LINE SITING COMMITTEE

3 IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF) DOCKET NO.
4 UNS ELECTRIC, INC., IN CONFORMANCE) L-00000F-24-0270-
5 WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF A.R.S. §) 00242
6 40-360, ET. SEQ., FOR A CERTIFICATE) LS CASE NO. 242
7 OF ENVIRONMENTAL COMPATIBILITY)
8 AUTHORIZING THE BLACK MOUNTAIN TO)
9 GRIFFITH 230 KV GEN-TIE PROJECT,)
10 WHICH INCLUDES THE CONSTRUCTION OF)
11 A NEW 230 KV TRANSMISSION LINE)
12 ORIGINATING AT THE EXISTING BLACK)
13 MOUNTAIN GENERATING STATION)
14 (SECTION 14, TOWNSHIP 19 NORTH,)
15 RANGE 18 WEST), AND TERMINATING AT)
16 THE EXISTING GRIFFITH SUBSTATION,)
17 OPERATED BY WESTERN AREA POWER)
18 ADMINISTRATION (SECTION 06,)
19 TOWNSHIP 19 NORTH, RANGE 17 WEST),)
20 LOCATED WITHIN UNINCORPORATED) PREHEARING
21 MOHAVE COUNTY, ARIZONA.) CONFERENCE
22)
23)

13

14 At: Phoenix, Arizona

15 Date: March 19, 2025

16 Filed: March 24, 2025

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18 REPORTER'S TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

19 (Pages 1 through 19)

20

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1 BE IT REMEMBERED that the above-entitled
2 and numbered matter came on regularly to be heard before
3 the Arizona Power Plant and Transmission Line Siting
4 Committee at Phoenix, Arizona, commencing at 2:30 p.m.
5 on March 19, 2025, with all participants appearing via
6 videoconference.

7

8 BEFORE: ADAM STAFFORD, Chairman

9

10 APPEARANCES:

11 For the Applicant:

12 OSBORN MALEDON
By: Meghan H. Grabel
13 By: Elias Ancharski
2929 North Central Avenue, 21st Floor
14 Phoenix, Arizona 85012

15 and

16 TUCSON ELECTRIC POWER COMPANY
By: Megan Hill
17 88 East Broadway, MS HQE910
P.O. Box 711
18 Tucson, Arizona 85702

19 Also Present:

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

21

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1 CHMN STAFFORD: Let's go on the record.
2 Now's the time set for the prehearing conference for
3 Docket Number L-00000F-24-0270-00242, or Line Siting Case
4 242. The application of UNS Electric, Inc., for a
5 Certificate of Environmental Compatibility.

6 Let's start with appearances, Ms. Grabel.

7 MS. GRABEL: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
8 Meghan Grabel from the law firm Osborn Maledon, on behalf
9 of UNS, Inc. With me from my firm is my colleague, Elias
10 Ancharski, and with me from TEP -- I mean, I'm sorry --
11 UNS Electric is their in-house regulatory counsel, Megan
12 Hill, and the manager of all things line siting, Clark
13 Bryner.

14 CHMN STAFFORD: Thank you.

15 Now, confirming you've got the lodging
16 arrangements for the out-of-town members for the hearing?

17 MS. GRABEL: We have. We have lodging at
18 the Embassy Suites Phoenix Downtown North, which is on
19 Thomas Road.

20 CHMN STAFFORD: Okay. Now, I still haven't
21 seen any requests to intervene.

22 MS. GRABEL: We have none.

23 CHMN STAFFORD: Okay. There are no limited
24 appearance statements?

25 MS. GRABEL: Not that we know of.

1 CHMN STAFFORD: Okay. All right. You
2 agree that August 6th, 2025, is the time limit for the
3 committee to act in compliance with the statute?

4 MS. GRABEL: We do.

5 CHMN STAFFORD: Okay. Because we just took
6 the time frame from the hearing, the original hearing and
7 the new hearing, and moved it out by that much.

8 Okay. Now, you've got, let's see, six
9 exhibits for the prehearing conference. Do you want to
10 go through those, because I think that covers, like,
11 notice to affected jurisdictions, posting and publishing,
12 all that stuff.

13 MS. GRABEL: Yeah, sure. So we have
14 Exhibit Number 1, which is the map of the proposed
15 project. Number 2 is the notice to the affected
16 jurisdictions, which are Mohave County, the city of
17 Kingman, Lake Havasu City, Bullhead City, and the Arizona
18 Department of Transportation, because the alternative
19 route crosses part of the ADOT right-of-way. Exhibit
20 Number 3 is an example of the signage that has been
21 posted of the hearing -- Notice of Hearing, rather. And
22 Exhibit 4 is a map of the locations where the signs are
23 posted. Exhibit Number 5 is a proposed tour itinerary,
24 if the committee determines to take a tour. And then
25 Number 6 is the proposed CEC that was filed.

1 CHMN STAFFORD: All right. Thank you.

2 Those are admitted.

3 (Exhibits PHC-1 through PHC-6 were
4 admitted into evidence.)

5 CHMN STAFFORD: And so I reviewed those,
6 and that establishes that you've complied with the notice
7 to the affected jurisdictions for the continued hearing
8 date. And then, let's see, the affected jurisdictions,
9 that was Mohave County, Kingman, Bullhead City, Lake
10 Havasu City, and Arizona Department of Transportation,
11 correct?

12 MS. GRABEL: Correct.

13 CHMN STAFFORD: Okay. All right. And
14 you've complied with posting and publishing requirements.
15 You republished again in, what, The Kingman Miner?

16 MS. GRABEL: Yes, we published in the
17 Today's News Herald, which is in Lake Havasu, on
18 February 5th and 9th, 2025. We published in the Mohave
19 Valley Daily News in Bullhead City, on February 5th,
20 2025. And the Kingman Daily Miner, on February 5th,
21 2025. Those are as a courtesy, because they're the most
22 local to where the project is.

23 CHMN STAFFORD: Right. Those are all at
24 least 30 days before the hearing.

25 All right. Now, let's see, I don't think

1 we've changed the agenda from the original hearing date.

2 MS. GRABEL: No, I don't think so.

3 CHMN STAFFORD: Okay. I'm seeing

4 Mr. Ancharski shake his head.

5 Are there any objections or additions to
6 the agenda?

7 MS. GRABEL: No, sir.

8 CHMN STAFFORD: Okay. We've got the
9 hearing set at the Commission. We have that for Monday,
10 Tuesday, and Wednesday. We didn't book it for the full
11 week, because I think there's -- I think there's a zero
12 chance of it going more than that at the Commission. The
13 only way I can see it lasting more than those days is if
14 were -- if the committee decides they had to do a tour,
15 we could schedule it at some other time, but we'll see
16 what the committee's pleasure is.

17 What's your estimated time for the hearing?
18 You think you -- I seem to recall you said you'd be done
19 with your direct in one day?

20 MS. GRABEL: I really do think this is
21 going to be a one-day hearing. It reminds me a lot of
22 the one that we just conducted for Savion. We kind of
23 finished at 2:00 and then sat around and waited for
24 public comment until 5:30, so I don't know if there's
25 some way to do the CEC deliberations beforehand, but it's

1 certainly something to consider.

2 CHMN STAFFORD: Yeah, I don't know if
3 they're going to want to deliberate the CEC until after
4 they've had the opportunity for public comment, because
5 that might change the perspective if they have additional
6 questions they need to ask the applicant --

7 MS. GRABEL: Okay.

8 CHMN STAFFORD: -- that's what happened
9 this week with the hearing. We had quite a bit of public
10 comment for 245, the case we just heard. And so they
11 had -- the members had a list of questions to ask, but
12 the next day after that. But we still got it done, so we
13 didn't come back for a third day.

14 All right. You'll have sign-in forms for
15 public comment?

16 MS. GRABEL: Yes, we will.

17 CHMN STAFFORD: Okay. And I guess we're
18 still going to need security, right? I mean, there's the
19 security at the Commission. There's typically one guy
20 there. Do you think you'll need more than that? Have
21 you talked to the Commission about that?

22 MS. GRABEL: We have talked to the
23 Commission about it. They don't think additional
24 security is needed, but they posted additional signs
25 about firearms and things like that at the Commission, in

1 anticipation of this project. So I think they're aware
2 of it.

3 CHMN STAFFORD: Okay. I have -- is there
4 any updates on this individual that's causing this
5 ruckus?

6 MS. GRABEL: I'm not aware of any.

7 Ms. Hill, are you?

8 MS. HILL: Sorry, I had to unmute.

9 The updates that I'm aware of do not
10 indicate that he is intending to travel to the hearing or
11 even necessarily has the means to do so.

12 CHMN STAFFORD: Okay. Well, I have his
13 driver's license picture, so I'll make sure -- I'm going
14 down to the Commission tomorrow, so I'll give it to the
15 security guard and say, look, be on the lookout for this
16 particular person. And so I think -- I think that should
17 cover it, then.

18 MS. GRABEL: Thank you. I did send their
19 assistant general counsel an individual picture as well,
20 so they may have it already.

21 CHMN STAFFORD: Okay. All right. I'll be
22 down there in person tomorrow so I'll make sure I talk to
23 him, on the way in and on the way out, both.

24 All right. Now, you've got a tour planned,
25 since we're not in the community it's going to create

1 additional headaches to do one, but we'll see what the
2 pleasure of the committee is. I think -- I've looked at
3 this, and I don't know if a tour would be particularly
4 useful for this particular project. But we'll see what
5 the committee members have to say.

6 MS. GRABEL: The team went down to the site
7 and took a lot of pictures. And so you'll see in the
8 presentation Mr. Bryner has many -- it's not a very long
9 line to begin with, and we have pictures of the north,
10 south, west, and east in various areas. And they'll see
11 there's nothing there, I mean, except for utility
12 infrastructure.

13 CHMN STAFFORD: All right. Are there any
14 other issues regarding the hearing itself?

15 MS. GRABEL: I don't believe so. One thing
16 we did during the Midtown Reliability Project that we
17 liked a lot is we kind of stipulated to all of the legal
18 requirements so that we didn't have to walk through all
19 of them. Is that something you would be interested or
20 willing to do in this case?

21 CHMN STAFFORD: Yeah, I think so. I mean,
22 you're talking about the -- the publi- --

23 (Cross-talk.)

24 THE REPORTER: I'm sorry?

25 CHMN STAFFORD: What did you not get,

Robin?

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1 THE REPORTER: "You're talking about
2 the" --

3 CHMN STAFFORD: Publications in the
4 newspaper. And the -- you're probably going to need to
5 talk about the signs. The committee has been taking an
6 interest in sign locations recently.

7 MS. GRABEL: Okay. We can do that. But I
8 was thinking the Ten-Year Plans, the notices to the
9 affected jurisdictions, all that. The -- what else?
10 Where we placed the application.

11 CHMN STAFFORD: Okay.

12 MS. GRABEL: Kind of mundane things.

13 CHMN STAFFORD: Hmm, I don't know. I mean,
14 I think it will probably take you five minutes to do all
15 that, and just so the committee hears it's been done, I
16 think --

17 MS. GRABEL: We can do it.

18 CHMN STAFFORD: -- because otherwise it
19 kind of defeats the purpose if I just stipulated to that
20 and the committee members had questions about it. And
21 then you have to say what you normally would have said in
22 that five-minute span.

23 MS. GRABEL: Fair enough.

24 CHMN STAFFORD: Okay. We've got the
25 witness summaries were filed. You'll offer the exhibits.

1 I guess you're doing hard copies for the members?

2 MS. GRABEL: Yes. And we also will have
3 tablets.

4 CHMN STAFFORD: Oh, okay. That's helpful.
5 If you have tablets for the members, then all I'll need
6 is the hard copy for me and a hard copy for the court
7 reporter. And then you'll need to get them
8 electronically to Tod, so he can email them to whoever --
9 whatever members will be attending virtually. And at
10 this point I'm not -- I'm not sure who. I think -- I
11 think Member Little may be attending virtually, but I'm
12 not sure. But, yeah, just have that -- get it to Tod so
13 he can send it out to them.

14 You've made the financial arrangements with
15 the Commission?

16 MS. GRABEL: We have.

17 CHMN STAFFORD: All right. We've got
18 Staff's letter. I guess there's going to have to be a
19 WAPA System Impact Study is what I recall?

20 MS. GRABEL: The WAPA conducts its own
21 System Impact Study, that's correct.

22 CHMN STAFFORD: All right. Be prepared to
23 testify about that, because it says so in the Staff
24 letter, so --

25 MS. GRABEL: Okay.

1 CHMN STAFFORD: And, you know, there are
2 certain members that will obviously have questions about
3 that, so --

4 Now, for the financial arrangements with
5 the Commission, they have to pay extra for the security
6 guard to stay for public comment. Have they talked to
7 you about that?

8 MS. GRABEL: Yes, they have.

9 CHMN STAFFORD: Okay. There's no related
10 litigation. We've got your proposed CEC. And you've
11 got -- you've got two routes. I guess you've got two
12 Exhibit As, and one -- what's it called, the preferred
13 and the alternate, right?

14 MS. GRABEL: (No audible response.)

15 CHMN STAFFORD: Is that correct?

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

17 CHMN STAFFORD: All right.

18 MS. GRABEL: I must have fumbled it.

19 CHMN STAFFORD: All right. And, then, so
20 the -- there's no federal nexus for this -- oh, I guess
21 there is WAPA, huh, because they're bordering the
22 substation you're interconnecting to?

23 MS. GRABEL: They are. But that doesn't
24 require us to go through any kind of federal process.

25 CHMN STAFFORD: Okay. They don't do an

1 Environmental Assessment for that? Because I think we
2 had -- one of the cases we had, there was some kind of
3 process they had to go through because WAPA was an owner
4 of the sub- -- or the switchyard where they were
5 connecting.

6 MS. GRABEL: Mr. Bryner, would you
7 please --

8 MR. BRYNER: Yeah, so we're expecting that
9 we'll have to do some level of NEPA, likely, categorical
10 exclusion, but we won't know that until WAPA has
11 completed their System Impact Study, which you'll hear me
12 talk about on Monday, where that's at.

13 CHMN STAFFORD: Okay. Tablets.

14 Now, for the line itself, that's a
15 permitted use in Mohave County, right? So you don't need
16 a -- you don't need a permit for the line?

17 MR. BRYNER: No.

18 CHMN STAFFORD: And I guess the cities,
19 it's just a courtesy notification, correct? They
20 don't -- there's no permitting for any of the cities that
21 you're notifying, correct?

22 MS. GRABEL: Correct.

23 CHMN STAFFORD: This is connecting the
24 Black Mountain Expansion. Are there any permits pending
25 for the plant?

1 MS. GRABEL: We think there are, yes. And,
2 so, Megan, do you want to address that?

3 CHMN STAFFORD: Pardon?

4 MS. HILL: An application for an air permit
5 is currently pending with the ADEQ. I believe that's the
6 only thing that's currently pending.

7 CHMN STAFFORD: That's the only thing is
8 the air permit from ADEQ for the plant?

9 MS. HILL: I believe that is the only thing
10 that is currently pending, yes.

11 CHMN STAFFORD: Are there any other permits
12 we need to get besides that that aren't pending that
13 haven't started yet or are already complete?

14 MS. HILL: Not for the line, no.

15 CHMN STAFFORD: No, for the plant I'm
16 talking about.

17 MS. HILL: So the plant is subject to an
18 all-source RFP, which has not yet been issued. This is
19 part of the preparatory phase of that. And so
20 additional -- any additional permitting for it would
21 be -- come, likely, after that, this is the winning
22 resource.

23 And so while I can't -- I don't have any
24 specific details, the only one that I'm aware of at this
25 point is CDEQ [sic]. We do not believe -- we don't have

1 any federal permits that -- that I have been notified
2 that we are going to have to apply for if this is the
3 winning resource.

4 CHMN STAFFORD: Okay. Are there any other
5 issues we need to cover?

6 (No response.)

7 CHMN STAFFORD: You've got, what,
8 Mr. Bryner is your only witness; is that correct?

9 MS. GRABEL: One-man show.

10 CHMN STAFFORD: All right. It's all on
11 Mr. Bryner's capable shoulders, I guess, huh?

12 MR. BRYNER: I apologize.

13 CHMN STAFFORD: And the attire will be
14 business casual for the hearing.

15 Is there anything else we need, Tod?

16 MR. BREWER: No, Mr. Chairman, I don't
17 believe so.

18 CHMN STAFFORD: Oh, for the public comment,
19 so there's -- they can come in by WebEx, they can show up
20 in person. Is there a phone line that they can call in
21 at the Commission?

22 MS. GRABEL: I believe that there is.
23 There's typically one for open meetings, but we can
24 verify that with Mike Valladao, but I believe that there
25 typically is.

1 CHMN STAFFORD: And then you put that
2 notification up on the website, correct?

3 MS. GRABEL: That's correct.

4 CHMN STAFFORD: Tod, do we need to do
5 anything for the Commission to put that up on their
6 website for the phone line? I'm trying to remember if
7 they -- if they always put their phone line on or not.

8 MR. BRYNER: If I may, Chairman, we did get
9 a phone line from the Commission, and we posted it to the
10 project web page. So both the WebEx option, as well as
11 the phone number, and then the view-only option.

12 CHMN STAFFORD: Okay. You've got that
13 already?

14 MR. BRYNER: Correct. Yes.

15 CHMN STAFFORD: Okay. Excellent.

16 All right. Anything else, Ms. Grabel?
17 Ms. Hill?

18 MS. GRABEL: I don't think so.

19 CHMN STAFFORD: All right. Excellent. All
20 right. So we're all set. And I will see you on Monday.

21 Does that -- do you have everything you
22 need, Robin?

23 THE REPORTER: I do.

24 CHMN STAFFORD: All right. Thank you very
25 much.

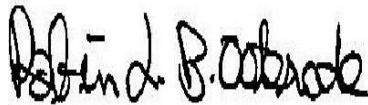
1 Let's go off the record.
2 (The hearing concluded at 2:48 p.m.)
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1 STATE OF ARIZONA)
2 COUNTY OF MARICOPA)
3

4 BE IT KNOWN that the foregoing proceedings were
5 taken before me; that the foregoing pages are a full,
6 true, and accurate record of the proceedings all done to
the best of my skill and ability; that the proceedings
were taken down by me in shorthand and thereafter reduced
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7 I CERTIFY that I am in no way related to any of
8 the parties hereto nor am I in any way interested in the
outcome hereof.

9 I CERTIFY that I have complied with the ethical
10 obligations set forth in ACJA 7-206(F)(3) and ACJA 7-206
11 (J)(1)(g)(1) and (2). Dated at Phoenix, Arizona, this
20th day of March, 2025.

12
13 

14 _____
15 ROBIN L. B. OSTERODE, RPR
16 CA CSR No. 7750
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17 * * * * *

18 I CERTIFY that Glennie Reporting Services, LLC,
19 has complied with the ethical obligations set forth in
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