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Rio Rico-Harshaw Transmission Line Project



Help Us Design Our Local Energy Grid

Use your phone, tablet or laptop to participate in a convenient, interactive survey that will help UniSource developing a new transmission line route. Read inside to learn how you can participate in the planning process.



Virtual Public Open House Meeting

May 13, 2021 | 6-8 p.m.

TO JOIN VIA ZOOM:

Visit uesaz.com/rio-rico-to-harshaw
for the meeting link and passcode

TO LISTEN VIA TELEPHONE:

Call 1-669-900-6833 or 1-253-215-8782
Webinar ID: 983 7231 9478
Passcode: 68836350

Energy Grid Update Rio Rico-Harshaw Transmission Line Project Newsletter #2 – April 2021



UniSource Seeks Public Input on Potential Transmission Line Route Links

UNS Electric, Inc. (UNSE), a subsidiary of UniSource Energy Services, has identified potential route segments, or "links," for a planned transmission line in Santa Cruz County. The line will serve a mine exploration project while improving service for residential customers in the area.

The Rio Rico-Harshaw 138 Kilovolt (kV) Transmission Line Project will involve the construction of an approximately 20-30 mile, single-circuit transmission line that will interconnect UNSE's existing 138 kV transmission system to the planned Harshaw Substation through a planned 138 kV switchyard in Rio Rico.

The line will serve the Hermosa Project, a mine exploration project owned by Arizona Minerals Inc. (AMI), a subsidiary of South32. Hermosa Project is currently in the pre-feasibility phase. The line also will improve reliability for electric customers in the San Rafael Valley, Washington Camp and Lochiel areas. UNSE's existing 13.2 kV distribution line is not adequate to support the community's future energy needs, including the Hermosa Project's anticipated requirements.

In September 2020, UNSE held a virtual public open house meeting and gathered public input about the project. Based on comments from residents and additional study, UNSE expanded the project study area. Some recipients of this newsletter are located in the larger, revised study area and were added to the project outreach contact list.

UNSE has identified 58 potential route links that could be combined in various ways to form the final Rio Rico-Harshaw transmission line route. These route links are located on private land and in the Coronado National Forest (CNF).

Within the CNF and in accordance with U.S. Forest Service (USFS) policy, UNSE identified a preferred route that generally follows existing utility and road

corridors, including the El Paso Natural Gas Pipeline alignment and UNSE's existing 13.2 kV distribution line along Flux Canyon Road. Use of this route would minimize environmental impacts.

REQUIRED APPROVALS and TIMELINE

UNSE has submitted a Special Use Permit application to the CNF for permission to build along its preferred route through the forest. The CNF will conduct a comprehensive analysis of the effects of the new line on the environment to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act and other applicable federal statutes. Where needed, appropriate mitigation measures will be identified and implemented.

In addition to the Special Use Permit, UNSE must secure Arizona Corporation Commission (ACC) approval of a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility (CEC) before it can build the transmission line. UNSE plans to file a CEC application next year with the Arizona Power Plant and Transmission Line Siting Committee, which will review the application in a public process that provides opportunities for neighbors and other stakeholders to comment. If the Line Siting Committee grants a CEC, it will be sent to the ACC for final review and approval.

UNSE plans to place the Rio Rico-Harshaw Transmission Line into service in late 2024.

VIRTUAL PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE

UNSE invites members of the public to ask questions, submit comments and learn more about the project at our virtual open house meeting on May 13, 2021. Residents and other stakeholders are encouraged to use the identifying numbers in the enclosed map to share thoughts or concerns about specific links. For more details, including ways to participate, please view the cover of this newsletter.

ONLINE, INTERACTIVE SURVEY

UNSE invites you to participate in our easy-to-use, interactive survey. Using interactive maps and other tools, you can rank the importance of project factors and comment on specific links.

Using your mobile phone, tablet or computer, please visit the project webpage at uesaz.com/rio-rico-to-harshaw and click on the interactive survey link. The survey will accept public comments for 30 days following the virtual open house.

OTHER WAYS TO COMMENT

UNSE encourages residents, property owners and other stakeholders to share their input about the transmission line route by:

- Mailing the comment form or a letter with comments to:
Unisource Energy Services
ATTN: Rio Rico-Harshaw
P.O. Box 711
Tucson, AZ 85702
- Sending comments to RR2Harshaw@uesaz.com
- Visiting uesaz.com/rio-rico-to-harshaw/ and filling out an online comment form.
- Calling 1-833-783-0396 and leaving a voicemail message.

To request a printed copy of the previous newsletter, please use the contact information above.

UNS Electric, Inc. (UNSE), una subsidiaria de UniSource Energy Services, ha identificado posibles segmentos de ruta, o "enlaces", para una línea de transmisión planificada en el condado de Santa Cruz. La línea servirá para un proyecto de exploración minera mientras mejora el servicio para los clientes residenciales en el área. UNSE organizará una reunión pública virtual el 13 de mayo de 2021 de 6 a 8 p.m. Para conectarse a través de Zoom, visite uesaz.com/rio-rico-to-harshaw para obtener el enlace y la contraseña de la reunión. Para escuchar vía telefónica, llame a 1-669-900-6833 e ingrese el ID del seminario web 983 7231 9478 y contraseña 68836350. También puede visitar la página web del proyecto y participar en una encuesta interactiva. Si tiene preguntas o comentarios, no dude en contactarnos al 520-918-8399. Gracias por su interés en este proyecto.

Rio Rico-Harshaw Transmission Line Project

