

Rio Rico to Harshaw 138kV Transmission Line Project Virtual Open House #1 Q&A Transcripts

#	Question/Comment	Response
1	What is estimated per mile cost of this project	We don't have an estimated per mile cost of this project yet because we do not yet have a route for the project. The links that were presented previously can be combined and can ultimately provide a route from the switchyard to the substation, but until we have a route presented we will not be able to have a per mile cost estimated.
2	The routing of the line seems to impact National Park lands adjacent to River Road, yet we we're not included in the Agency outreach. We would like to be included in all discussions with affected agencies.	If you would provide your email. I will email tomorrow so we can coordinate to get additional contact information and have a conversation about the National Park Land.
4	If the Hermosa Project does not ultimately move forward then what, if anything, will happen with this transmission plan?	If the Hermosa Project does not move forward, this transmission project will not move forward.
5	(Call in) What happens to our previous question, can we ever expect a response to the questions we raised in the first zoom meeting? Can you talk a little bit about some sort of estimate of risks along with benefits in terms of fire expires, and who is responsible will it be South32 to bare the cost if a forest fire is sparked? I assume the additional height will pose a threat to bird migration.	Risk and fire concerns of this project will actually improve safety in the corridor. Currently, on a portion of the existing distribution line, the wires are actually pretty low to the ground. The new transmission line will be higher than the existing distribution in the area and will help prevent fires. we also have a vegetation management plan in which we go and clear the right of way for those safety concerns. The transmission line also has a static line which attracts lightening to the structure and leads it to the ground which provides additional safety. The height is not actually that high with consideration to bird migration. We will be looking at flight paths as part of the NEPA analysis, and all of our structures do have bird guarding on them. We certainly be looking at it in more detail. At this time I don't enough information yet to give a significant answer but it will be part of the study. With regards to the question about responsibility in the event of a fire, UNSE provided the following statement after the meeting had ended: UniSource is committed to providing safe, reliable electric service. We design, build, maintain and operate our facilities in accordance with industry standards and regulatory requirements designed to deliver a steady, stable supply of power to customers. UniSource builds all transmission line structures to meet or exceed the recommended design tolerances put in place by the NESC (National Electric Safety Code), taking into consideration line tension, wind speed, gravity, and temperature. Liability in any situation would be determined based on specific facts and circumstances, and applicable law. Under rules approved by the Arizona Corporation Commission, UniSource is not liable for damage claims involving multiple circumstances beyond our control including equipment damaged by vehicles or criminal mischief, trees or other vegetation disturbing power lines and other equipment, severe weather, and other circumstances beyond our control, including "Acts of God."
6	If the Hermosa project does not go forward and no transmission line happens, it is still possible to upgrade customer service by improvements to distribution line, correct?	That is correct. UNSE has a maintenance plan in place for the existing distribution line and an inspection plan as well to ensure that the distribution line remains in services.
7	Have you explored the option of putting the transmission lines underground	An underground option for the transmission line is very costly and can be up to 11 to 15 times the cost of overhead construction. For this project ,we have not considered undergrounding; However, it will be discussed in the line siting application. There are a lot of negative impacts of undergrounding beside costs including constructability, maintenance and given the terrain in the area we would have significantly more impacts to the environmental resources in the area. It will certainly be part of the NEPA Analyses.
8	who is paying for this project? Ratepayers? Is South32 paying for any portion of the project?	South32 is paying for the project as a whole, the transmission line and the substation as well. There will be no cost to ratepayers for this project.
9	have there been any tribal consultation for the project? Wouldn't the Forest consultation only be for the line on their property? The reason I ask is that I am the Park Superintendent for Tumacacori National Historic Park and our southern most unit is the Guevavi Mission and it looks like one of the links goes right down S. River Rd which is adjacent to that property an it is a site that O'odham probably hold sacred as well and I would assume that piece of property outside the forest that I would think you would want to consult with them .	They were included in the newsletter outreach however we are assuming the consultation will be initiated by the Forest Service so that has not happened yet. I don't want to use the word consult because I don't want it to assume that it's a section 106 consultation that as a public entity we can't do. But we absolutely will be scoping them in so far as we will be providing them newsletters and all of the information on private land and ask them for their input, but to the extent of a section 106 consultation, that will be the Forest Service that would do that. We can ask them to include private land in the consultation but I don't know how that will play out. Since it is Parks Service property then maybe we can somehow consult with them through the parks service.
10	of the 57 links identified, will the final routes be some combination of those 57 links or will there be other potential routes?	During this stage of the project it is possible that the public or a stakeholder will may identify some new links. Currently, it is our intent to use some combination of the 57, however if we missed something and we missed a good link that we didn't include then we certainly look at that if its suggested to us and it could be added and combined into one of the potential routes.

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11	<p>I am concerned because at the lake road it looks like you will be crossing Highway 82 to the north side because there is a pipeline there. If you cross at that north side, its a very busy intersection. My concern is crossing the intersection at lake Patagonia Road. The alternative to stay on the other side of the highway is preferable at least until you get past the Lake Road and past those dwellings. I also want to reiterate what was said earlier about bird migration, there are a lot bird migrations at the lake, and we have more than 300 species of birds in the very unique ecosystem. We have lots of nesting birds in existing telephone poles so please be very aware of all the bird traffic.</p>	<p>There is an alternative identified on the other side of the road that is on the forest land. On forest land link F2 you can provide your comments. Please also provide your comment on either the MetroQuest survey or the comment card.</p>
12	<p>To get a sense for how much power will be used by the Hermosa mine project, can you provide the equivalent number of homes that would use that amount t of power?</p>	<p>We don't know how much power the mine will be using but we do have a rough estimate, to give ballpark idea, 10,000 homes takes approximately 50MW of energy. So if the mine were to be pulling 50MW then that would be equivalent to powering approximately 10,000 homes.</p>
13	<p>One last question - would it be possible for the Hermosa mine project to install and utilize solar panels to meet their electricity requirements?</p>	