



Meghan H. Grabel

Direct: 602-640-9399 Office: 602-640-9000 mgrabel@omlaw.com 2929 North Central Avenue Suite 2000 Phoenix, Arizona 85012 omlaw.com

September 26, 2025

CERTIFIED MAIL – RETURN RECEIPT

Arizona State Land Department Attn: Robyn Sahid, Commissioner 1110 W. Washington Street Phoenix, AZ 85007

Re: UNS Electric, Inc. - Santa Cruz Reliability Project North

Application for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility

Docket No. L-00000F-25-0209-00252

Notice of Hearing

To Whom It May Concern:

The attached Notice of Hearing was filed with the Arizona Corporation Commission on September 25, 2025. Pursuant to A.R.S. § 40-360.04, the Arizona State Land Department has been identified as an affected area of jurisdiction. Please let us know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Meghan H. Grabel

MGH:pdp Enclosure

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BEFORE THE ARIZONA POWER PLANT AND TRANSMISSION LINE SITING COMMITTEE

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 SANTA CRUZ RELIABILITY PROJECT NORTH, WHICH INCLUDES THE CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW 138 KV TRANSMISSION LINE WITHIN UNINCORPORATED PIMA COUNTY AND UNINCORPORATED

SANTA CRUZ COUNTY, ARIZONA.

Docket No. L-00000F-25-0209-00252

Case No. 252

NOTICE OF HEARING

NOTICE OF HEARING

A PUBLIC HEARING WILL BE HELD before the Arizona Power Plant and Transmission Line Siting Committee ("Committee") regarding the Application of UNS Electric, Inc. ("UNSE") for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility ("CEC") to authorize construction of a new 138 kilovolt ("kV") transmission line in unincorporated Pima County and unincorporated Santa Cruz County, Arizona called the Santa Cruz Reliability Project North ("Project").

The Project will involve the construction of a new, approximately 9-to-12-mile 138 kV transmission line to connect Tucson Electric Power Company's ("TEP") existing Canoa Ranch Substation in Pima County to UNSE's existing Kantor Substation in Santa Cruz County. A map of the Project is attached as **Exhibit A**.

The hearing will be held at the Desert Diamond Casino Conference Center, 7350 S. Nogales Hwy, Tucson, Arizona 85756. The hearing will begin on Monday, November 3, 2025, at 1:00 p.m., and will continue on Tuesday, November 4, 2025, at 9:00 a.m., and then will continue as necessary through Friday, November 7, 2025, beginning at 9:00 a.m. each day through the completion of the hearing. If any revisions to the hearing schedule are required, they will be noticed on the Project webpage

at: https://www.uesaz.com/santa-cruz-reliability-north/, and on the Arizona Corporation Commission ("Commission") website at: https://www.azcc.gov/arizona-power-plant/hearings-and-meetings.

PUBLIC COMMENT WILL BE TAKEN IN A SPECIAL EVENING SESSION ON MONDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2025, BEGINNING AT 5:30 P.M., VIA TELEPHONE, ZOOM OR IN PERSON AT THE DESERT DIAMOND CASINO CONFERENCE CENTER, 7350 S. NOGALES HWY, TUCSON, ARIZONA 85756. PUBLIC COMMENT MAY BE TAKEN AT THE BEGINNING OF EACH HEARING DAY, OR AT OTHER TIMES DURING THE HEARING, AT THE DISCRETION OF THE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN.

THE PUBLIC CAN WATCH THE HEARING ONLINE OR LISTEN TO THE HEARING VIA TELEPHONE, OR ATTEND IN PERSON. At least 24 hours in advance of the hearing, information regarding online and telephone hearing access, as well as any additional details regarding safety protocols or other revisions to the hearing schedule will be noticed on the Project webpage at https://www.uesaz.com/santa-cruz-reliability-north/.

The Chairman may, at his discretion, recess the hearing to a time and place to be announced during the hearing, or to be determined after the recess. The date, time, and place at which the hearing will be resumed will be posted on the above-noted Project webpage and the Commission website. NOTE: NOTICE OF ANY RESUMED HEARING WILL BE GIVEN; HOWEVER, PUBLISHED NOTICE OF SUCH A RESUMED HEARING IS NOT REQUIRED.

If the Committee decides to conduct a tour, notice that includes a map and itinerary of any such tour will be available at the hearing and posted on the Project and Commission websites. Members of the public may follow the Committee on the tour. During the tour, the Committee may hear testimony at stops on the tour concerning what is visible at stops and the relevance of the location and view to the Project. No other discussion or deliberation concerning the Application will occur during the tour. A court reporter or

recording device will record any testimony taken on the tour for transcription. Public health and safety protocols specific for the tour will be included on the itinerary. If the Committee decides not to take a tour, the hearing will continue as scheduled.

Maps of the Project site and detailed information about Project facilities are contained in the Application, which is available for inspection at the following locations:

- Arizona Corporation Commission Docket Control Center, Phoenix Office,
 1200 West Washington Street, Suite 108, Phoenix, AZ 85007
- Joyner-Green Valley Library, 601 N La Cañada Dr, Green Valley, AZ 85614
- Green Valley Chamber of Commerce, 275 W Continental Rd #123, Green Valley, AZ 85622
- The Project webpage: https://www.uesaz.com/santa-cruz-reliability-north/

The Applicant will make available final copies of the pre-filing conference, prehearing conference, and hearing transcripts at each of the above locations and webpage.

Each county, municipal government, and state agency interested in the Project that desires to be a party to the proceedings shall, not less than ten (10) days before the date set for the hearing, file a Notice of Intent to Become a Party with the Director of Utilities, Arizona Corporation Commission, 1200 West Washington Street, Phoenix AZ 85007.

Any domestic non-profit corporation or association formed in whole or in part to promote conservation or natural beauty; to protect the environment, personal health or other biological values; to preserve historical sites; to promote consumer interests; to represent commercial and industrial groups; or to promote the orderly development of the area in which the Project are located that desires to become a party to the proceedings shall, not less than ten (10) days before the date set for the hearing, file a Notice of Intent to Become a Party with the Director of Utilities, Arizona Corporation Commission, 1200 West Washington Street, Phoenix AZ 85007.

The Committee or the Chairman, at any time deemed appropriate, may make other persons parties to the proceedings. Any person may make a limited appearance at a hearing by filing a statement in writing with the Director of the Utilities Division, Arizona

Corporation Commission, 1200 West Washington Street, Phoenix AZ 85007, and the Chairman of the Committee at 2005 North Central Avenue, Phoenix, AZ 85004, not less than five (5) days before the date set for the hearing. A person making a limited appearance will not be a party or have the right to present testimony or cross-examine witnesses.

This proceeding is governed by Arizona Revised Statutes ("A.R.S.") §§ 40-360 to 40-360.13 and Arizona Administrative Code ("A.A.C.") R14-3-201 to R14-3-220. No substantive communication, not in the public record, may be made to any member of the Committee. The written decision of the Committee will be submitted to the Commission pursuant to A.R.S. § 40-360.07. Any person intending to be a party to the proceeding on the matter before the Commission must be a party to the proceeding before the Committee.

ORDERED this 19th day of September, 2025.

Adam Stafford, Chairman

Arizona Power Plant and Transmission Line Siting Committee

Assistant Attorney General

1	CERTIFICATE OF MAILING
2	Copy e-filed this 25th day of September, 2025,
3	with:
4	Docket Control
5	Arizona Corporation Commission 1200 West Washington Street
6	Phoenix, AZ 85007
7	ORIGINAL of the foregoing and 8 copies were
8	filed this 25th day of September, 2025, with:
9	Docket Control
10	Arizona Corporation Commission
11	1200 West Washington Street Phoenix, AZ 85007
12	Thoenix, AZ 65007
	COPIES of the above emailed this 25th day of September, 2025:
13	Thomas Van Flein, General Counsel
14	Arizona Corporation Commission
15	1200 West Washington Street Phoenix, AZ 85007
16	legaldiv@azcc.gov
17	Counsel for Legal Division Staff
18	Britton Baxter
19	Ranelle Paladino Co-Directors, Utilities Division
20	1200 West Washington Street
21	Phoenix, AZ 85007 UtilitiesDiv@azcc.gov
22	Meghan H. Grabel
23	Elias Ancharski
24	Osborn Maledon
	2929 N. Central Ave, 21st Floor Phoenix, Arizona 85012
25	mgrabel@omlaw.com
26	eancharski@omlaw.com
27	Counsel for Applicant
28	

Exhibit A





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Arizona State Land Department Attn: Robyn Sahid, Commissioner 1110 W. Washington Street Phoenix, AZ 85007 or Instructions	8 00000	U.S. Postal Service ** CERTIFIED MAIL® RECEIPT Domestic Mail Only For delivery information, visit our website at www.usps.com*. OFFICIAL USE Certified Mail Fee

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 Complete items 1, 2, and 3. Print your name and address on the reverse so that we can return the card to you. Attach this card to the back of the mailpiece, or on the front if space permits. 	A. Signature X	
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The Phoenix Plaza 2929 North Central Avenue Suite 2000 Phoenix, Arizona 85012-2793

> Arizona State Land Department Attn: Robyn Sahid, Commissioner 1110 W. Washington Street Phoenix, AZ 85007

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September 26, 2025

CERTIFIED MAIL – RETURN RECEIPT

Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors Attn: Alma Schultz, Clerk Santa Cruz County Complex 2150 N. Congress Drive #119 Nogales, AZ 85621

Re: UNS Electric, Inc. - Santa Cruz Reliability Project North

Application for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility

Docket No. L-00000F-25-0209-00252

Notice of Hearing

To Whom It May Concern:

The attached Notice of Hearing was filed with the Arizona Corporation Commission on September 25, 2025. Pursuant to A.R.S. § 40-360.04, Santa Cruz County has been identified as an affected area of jurisdiction. Please let us know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Meghan H. Grabel

MGH:pdp Enclosure



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	ATTORNEYS AT LAW

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29 North Central Avenue
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Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors Attn: Alma Schultz, Clerk Santa Cruz County Complex 2150 N. Congress Drive #119 Nogales, AZ 85621

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0	Attn: Alma Schultz, Clerk
1-	Santa Cruz County Complex
	2150 N. Congress Drive #119



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September 26, 2025

CERTIFIED MAIL – RETURN RECEIPT

Pima County Board of Supervisors Attn: Melissa Manriquez, Clerk 130 W Congress St, 1st Floor Tucson, AZ 85701

Re: UNS Electric, Inc. - Santa Cruz Reliability Project North

Application for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility

Docket No. L-00000F-25-0209-00252

Notice of Hearing

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Sincerely,

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MGH:pdp Enclosure



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PS Long Instructions	Pima County Board of Supervisors Attn: Melissa Manriquez, Clerk Tucson, AZ 85701 Pima County Board of Supervisors Tucson, AZ 85701	\$ Extra Services & Fees (check box, add fee as appropriate) Extra Receipt (hardcopy) \$ Return Receipt (electronic) Certified Mail Restricted Delivery Adult Signature Required Postage Postage	OFFICIAL USE	U.S. Postal Service TM CERTIFIED MAIL® RECEIPT Domestic Mail Only For delivery information, visit our website at www.usps.com®.

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The Phoenix Plaza 2929 North Central Avenue Suite 2000 Phoenix, Arizona 85012-2793

> Pima County Board of Supervisors Attn: Melissa Manriquez, Clerk 130 W Congress St, 1st Floor Tucson, AZ 85701



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	Tucson, AZ 85701	
	PS	Instructions



NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Santa Cruz Reliability Project North

UNS Electric, Inc. invites the public to an upcoming hearing before the Arizona Power Plant & Transmission Line Siting Committee

Date

Time

Location

November 3, 2025 November 4-7, 2025 1PM - 5PM

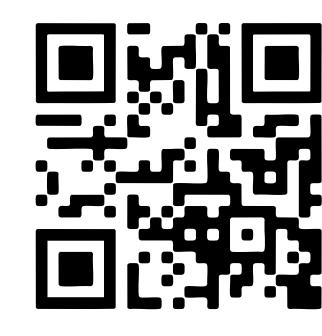
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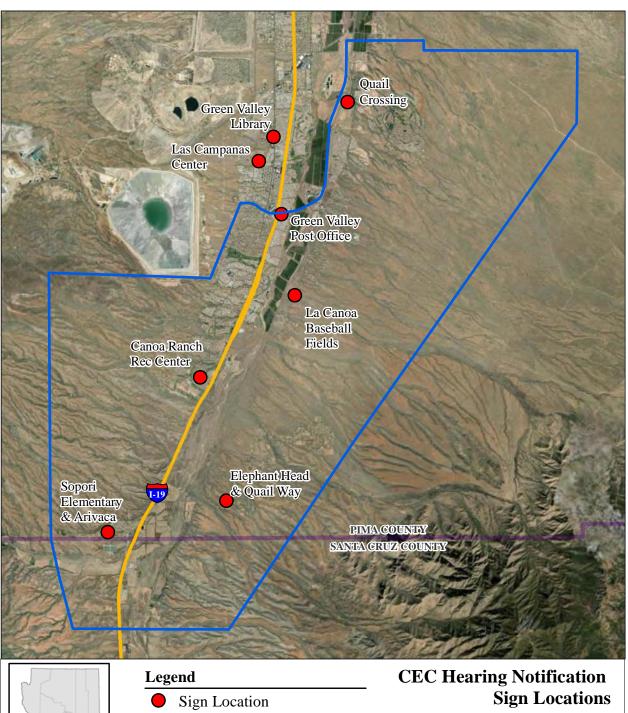
esert Diamond Casino Conference Center 7350 S Nogales Hwy Tucson, AZ 85756

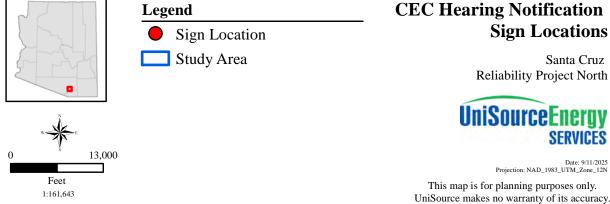
Public Comments will be accepted during the hearing on November 3, 2025, beginning at 5:30 p.m. Comments will be taken in-person at Desert Diamond Casino or virtually.

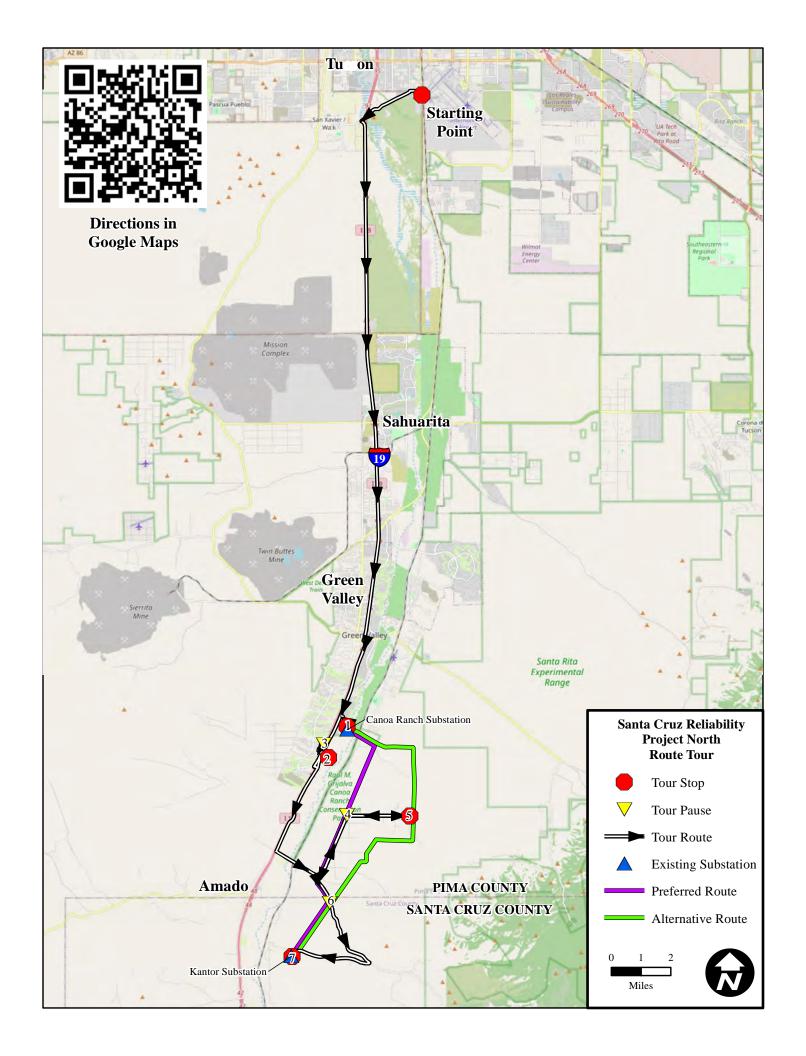


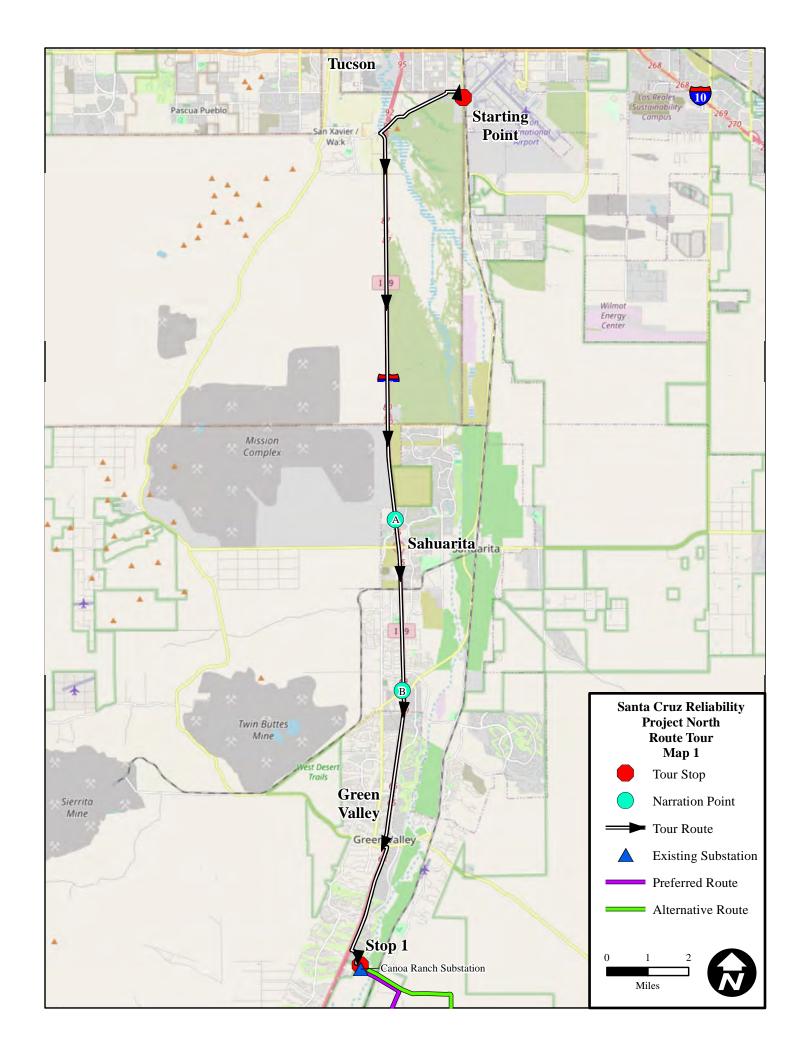
For information on commenting virtually, please visit: uesaz.com/santa-cruz-reliability-north or call (520) 917-6635.











Map 1: Start (Desert Diamond Casino - Tucson) to Stop 1 (The Springs)

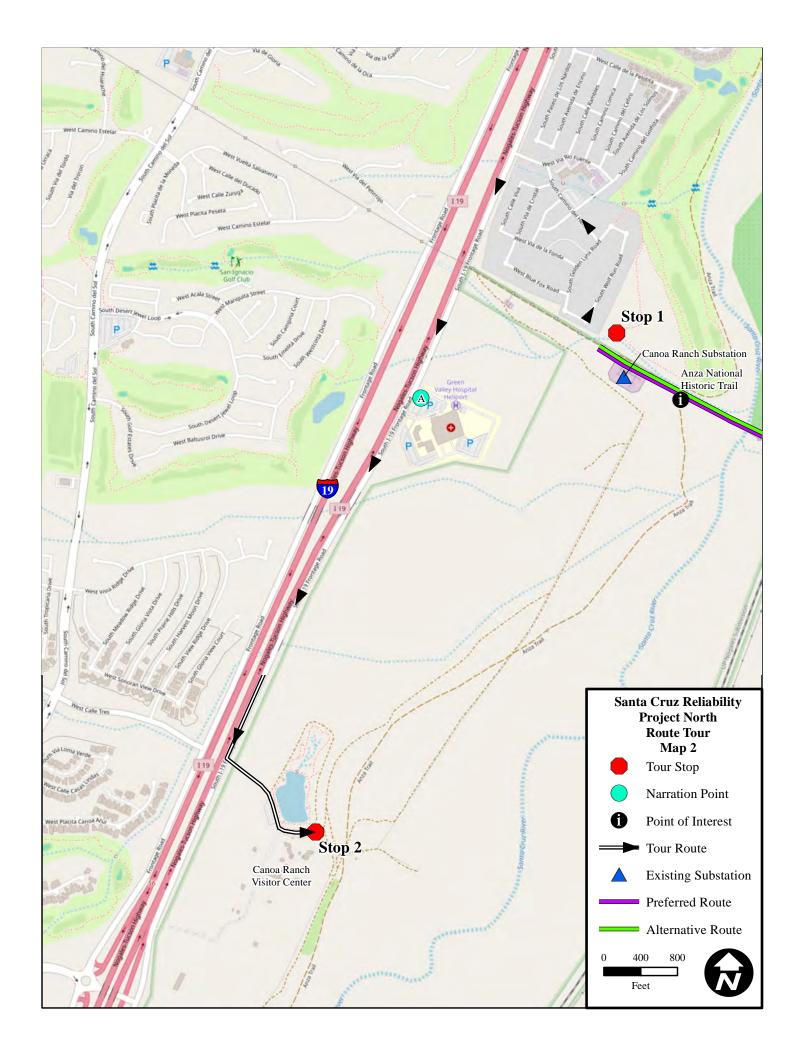
- ~ 20-minute drive time
 - Exit Desert Diamond Casino and turn left onto Crowhang St.
 - Turn left (west) onto E Los Reales St.
 - Turn left onto W San Xavier Rd and continue for 2 miles.
 - Take Interstate 19 (I-19) South for about 17 miles.
 - Take Exit 63 for Continental Rd.
 - Turn left onto W Continental Rd.
 - Turn right onto I-19 Frontage Rd. and continue for about 2.7 miles.
 - Turn left onto W Via Rio Fuerte.
 - Turn right onto S Camion del Heroe.
 - Turn right onto S Golden Lynx Rd.
 - Turn left onto W Ground Squirrel Rd.
 - You have reached Tour Stop 1 The Springs.

Map 1 Tour Narration

- A. We're just entering the Town of Sahuarita. We're approximately 13 miles north of the Canoa Ranch Substation and the proposed route alternatives.
- B. As we continue south along Interstate 19 towards our first stop, we're leaving the Town of Sahuarita and entering Green Valley. Green Valley is an unincorporated community in Pima County.

Please note the mine tailings to your right (or west). This is part of the Sierrita Mine operated by Freeport McMoRan.

To your left, or east, please note the large mountain range known as the Santa Rita Mountains. Protecting residential views of these mountains was a primary concern we heard throughout our public engagement and siting process.

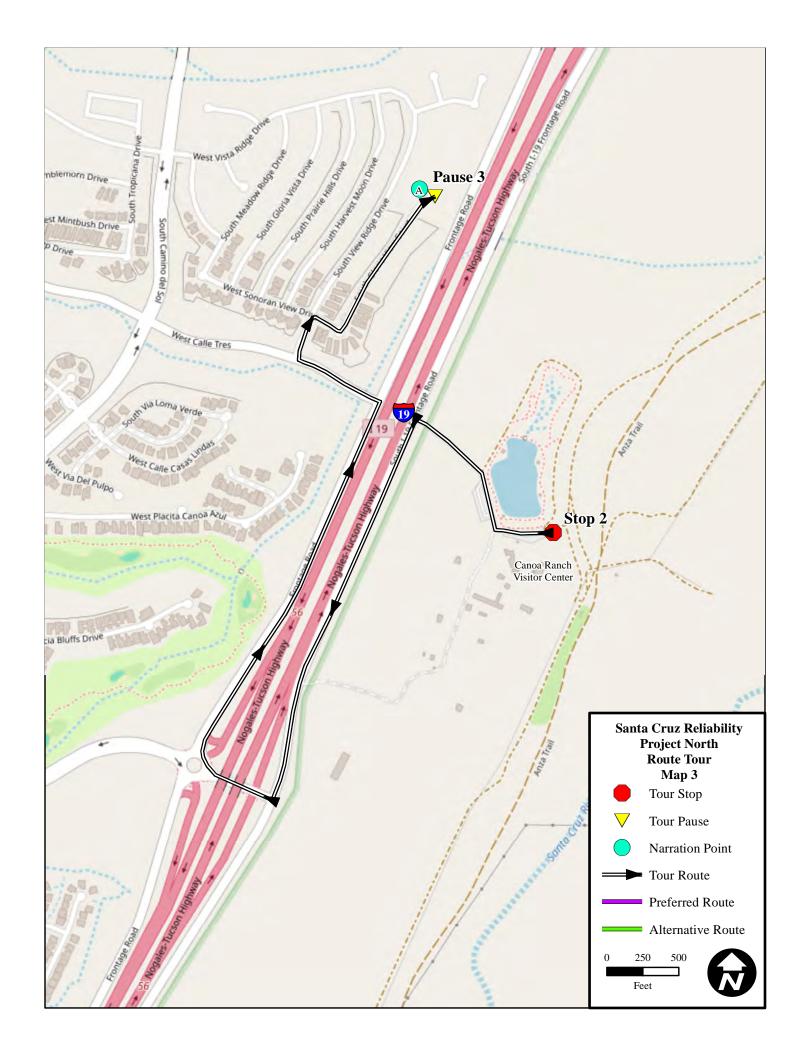


Map 2: Stop 1 (The Springs) to Stop 2 (Historic Canoa Ranch)

- ~ 5-minute drive time
 - Head east on W Ground Squirrel Rd.
 - Turn right on S Golden Lynx Rd.
 - Turn left on S Camino del Heroe.
 - Turn left on W Via Rio Fuerte.
 - Turn left (south) onto I-19 Frontage Rd. and continue for approximately 1.4 miles.
 - Turn left (west) at the sign toward the Historic Canoa Ranch.
 - You have reached Tour Stop 2 Historic Canoa Ranch.

Map 2 Tour Narration

A. As we continue the tour, we're traveling south along the Interstate 19 frontage road. To your left, or east, please note the large building. This is the former Santa Cruz Valley Regional Hospital. It was permanently closed in 2022 and is currently vacant. Also, to your left is the Pima County Canoa Ranch Conservation Park.



Map 3: Stop 2 (Historic Canoa Ranch) to Pause 3 (San Ignacio Vistas)

- ~ 4-minute drive time
 - Exit Canoa Ranch back to the I-19 Frontage Rd. (west).
 - Turn left onto I-19 Frontage Rd. (south) and continue for approximately 0.5 miles.
 - Turn right onto E Canoa Ranch Dr. to the west side of I-19.
 - Follow the traffic circle to the 1st exit and head north on I-19 Frontage Rd.
 - Turn left onto W Calle Tres.
 - Turn right onto S View Ridge Dr.
 - Turn right onto W Sonoran View Dr.
 - Turn left onto S Gloria View Ct. and continue for 0.2 miles until it dead ends.
 - You have reached Tour Pause 3 San Ignacio Vistas.

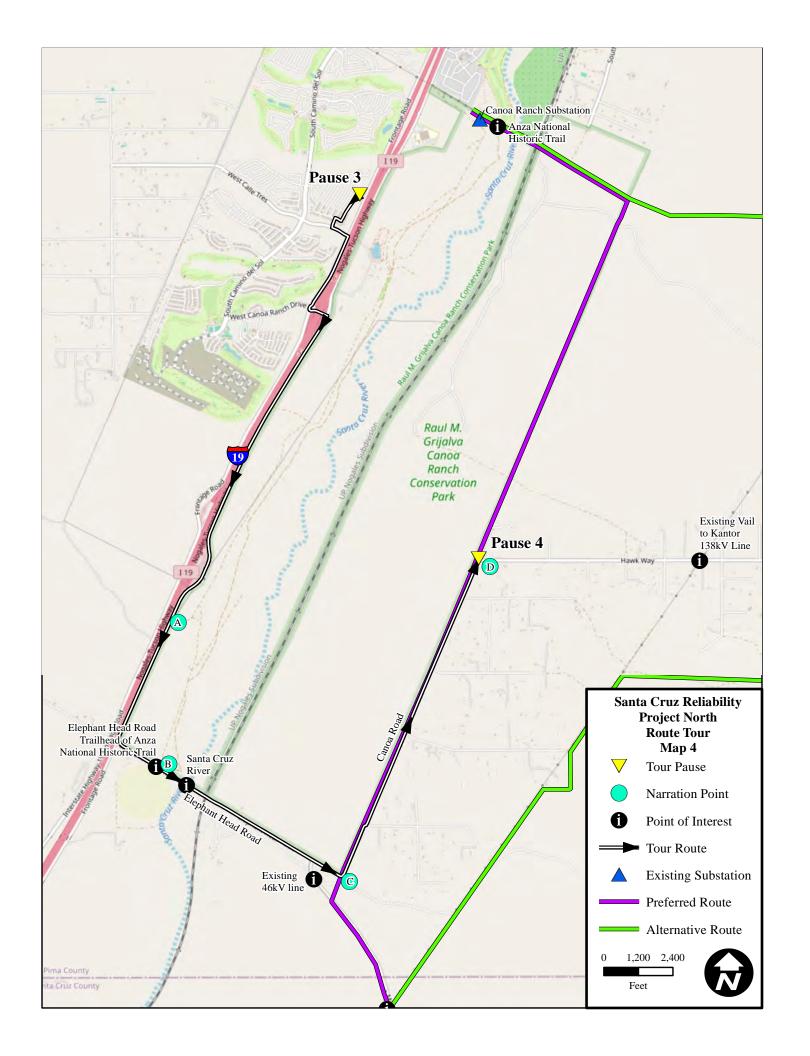
Map 3 Tour Narration

A. We're not going to stop here, but we will have the bus pause for a moment. To your right, or east, is a view towards the Santa Rita Mountains. Throughout the siting process, we heard that views were important to the members of the community.

The Canoa Ranch Substation is located to the northeast approximately 1 mile, just north of the closed hospital. Several of the poles supporting the existing 138kV line serving that substation are visible from this viewpoint.

The Preferred Route would be located on the far east side of the Canoa Ranch Conservation Park, about 1.7 miles from this location. The visual simulation that was created for Key Observation Point 3 is representative of this view. With distance and the desert backdrop, the proposed weathering steel poles would blend in, much like the existing poles, that you may or may not see, in between where we are and the Santa Rita Mountains.

The Alternative Route would be located adjacent to the existing Vail to Kantor 138kV line that runs north to south about 3 miles from this point. This existing line also blends into the desert background and does not disrupt views of the Santa Rita Mountains from this viewpoint.

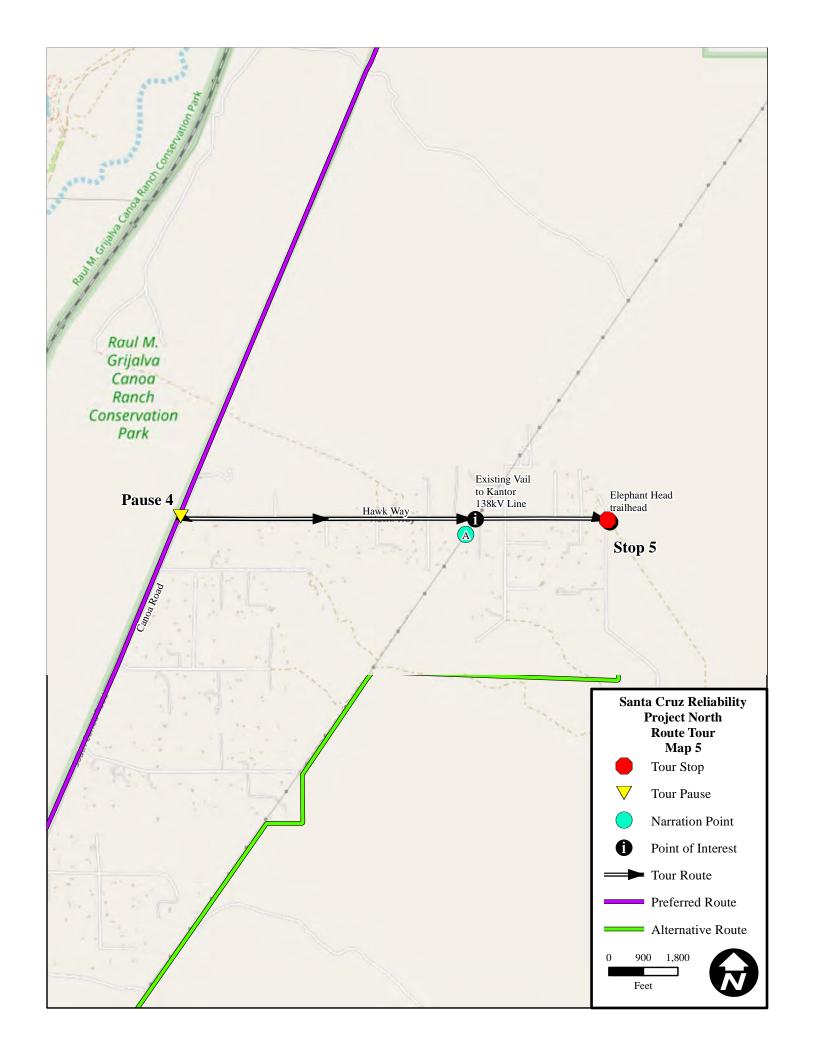


Map 4: Pause 3 (San Ignacio Vistas) to Pause 4 (Canoa Road)

- ~ 13-minute drive
 - Turn around at dead-end and go south on S Gloria View Ct. for 0.2 miles.
 - Turn right onto W Sonoran View Ct.
 - Turn left onto S View Ridge Dr.
 - Turn left onto W Calle Tres and continue to I-19 Frontage Rd.
 - Turn right onto I-19 Frontage Rd. and continue to the S Canoa Rd. traffic circle.
 - Take the 4th traffic circle exit (east) onto E Canoa Rd. and continue to I-19 Frontage Rd. on the east side of I-19.
 - Turn right (south) onto I-19 Frontage Rd. and continue for 3.2 miles.
 - Turn left onto Elephant Head Rd.
 - Turn left onto S Canoa Rd and continue for approximately 1.9 miles to Hawk Way.
 - You have reached Tour Pause 4 Canoa Road.

Map 4 Tour Narration

- A. To your left, or east, is the Canoa Substation, not to be confused with the Canoa Ranch Substation that this project ties into. This is a 46kV substation and is the source for the 46kV line that connects to the Kantor Substation that currently serves as a partial backup for the Santa Cruz County electrical system today.
- B. To your left, on the north side of the road, you can see a gravel parking area. This is the Elephant Head Road trailhead for the Anza Trail. Just past the trailhead we'll be crossing the Santa Cruz River. The overhead line on the north side of the road, to your left, is the 46kV line to Kantor Substation, with distribution underbuild. I mentioned before that this line is partial backup to the Santa Cruz County electrical system. In the event the current 138kV line is out of service, this line can provide service to the Tubac area through the Kantor Substation, however it does not provide any backup service to the remainder of Santa Cruz County. Once the first phase of the Santa Cruz Reliability Project is in-service, this line can be removed, since the second 138kV line will provide full backup to not just the Tubac area, but to all UNS Electric customers in the County.
- C. We're now turning north onto Canoa Road. This is the alignment of the **Preferred Route**. To your right, or east, you'll notice scattered residences that are part of the Elephant Head community with views of the Santa Rita Mountains. To your left, or west, is the Canoa Ranch Conservation Park with views of mining operations west of Interstate 19.
- D. We are now at the northern extent of the Elephant Head community. The **Preferred Route** continues north from here skirting the eastern edge of the Canoa Ranch Conservation Park through State Trust land along the unbuilt Canoa Road county road easement. As we've driven along Canoa Road, we passed approximately 12 homes. Important views from these homes are to the east toward the Santa Rita Mountains. The **Preferred Route** would not impede views of the Santa Rita Mountains from these existing homes.

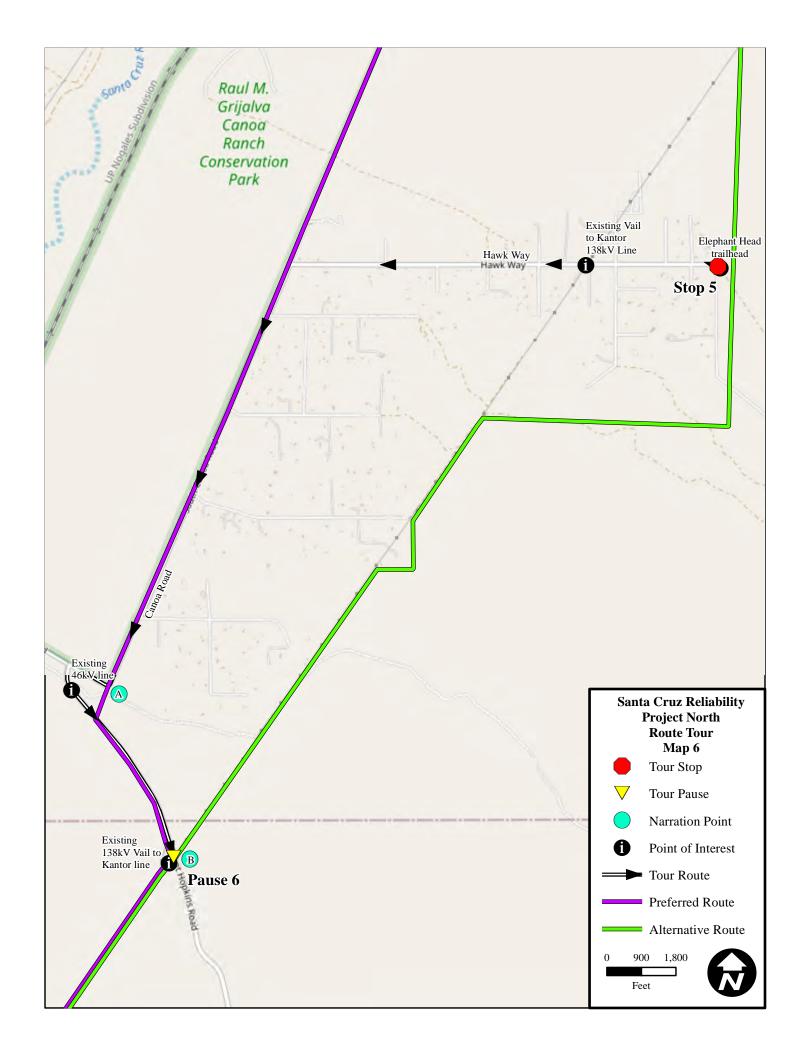


Map 5: Pause 4 (Canoa Road) to Stop 5 (Elephant Head Trailhead)

- ~ 4-minute drive
 - Turn right from S Canoa Rd. onto Hawk Way (east).
 - Continue for approximately 2.1 miles on Hawk Way to the intersection at S Monarch way.
 - You have reached Tour Stop 5 Elephant Head Trailhead.

Map 5 Tour Narration

A. We're crossing under the existing Vail to Kantor 138kV transmission line. This is a portion of the radial 138 kV line that serves Santa Cruz County today. Neither the Preferred nor Alternative Route follows this existing line through this area. This is because there is not sufficient room within the existing right-of-way to accommodate a second line, nor is there space to acquire additional right-of-way without the need to purchase and remove homes.

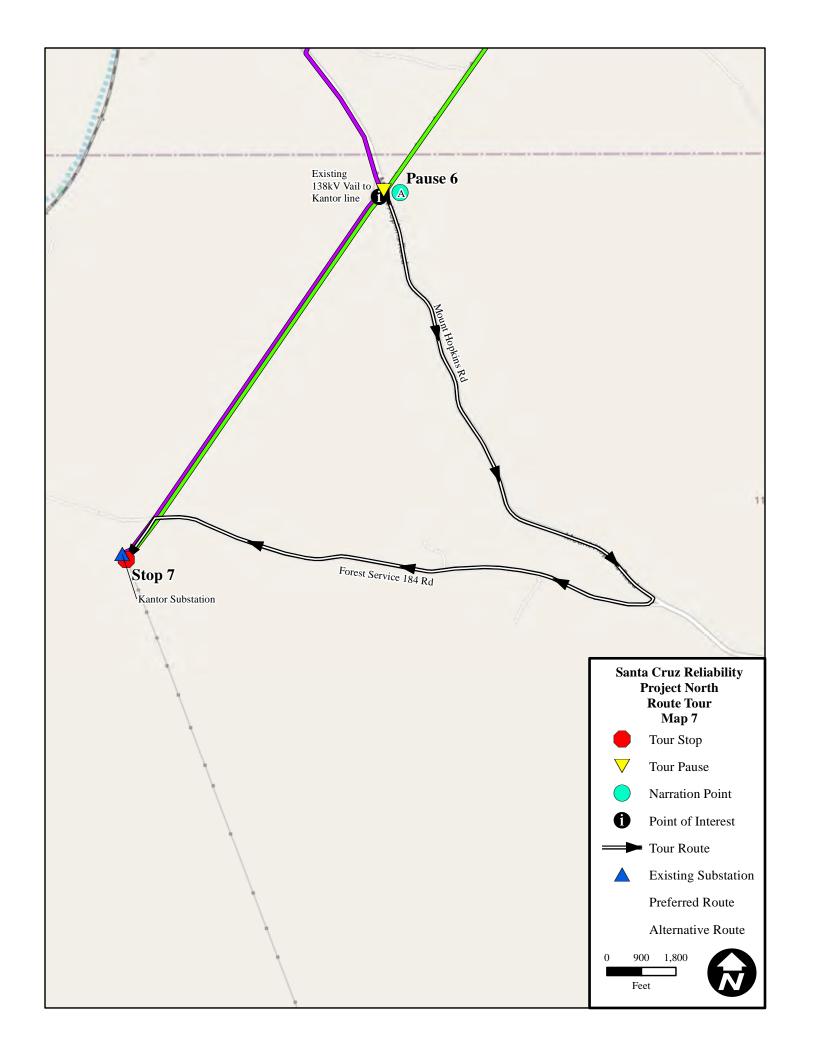


Map 6: Stop 5 (Elephant Head Trailhead) to Pause 6 (46kV/138kV Lines)

- ~ 9-minute drive
 - Turn around and head west on Hawk Way to S Canoa Rd.
 - Turn left on S Canoa Rd.
 - Turn right on Elephant Head Rd.
 - Turn left on S Mt. Hopkins Rd. and continue for approximately 2.6 miles.
 - You have reached Tour Pause 6 46kV/138kV Lines.

Map 6 Tour Narration

- A. As we turn to the right onto Elephant Head Rd, the **Preferred Route** continues straight in a southeasterly direction to the intersection with the existing 46kV line along Mt. Hopkins Road. We'll soon be turning onto Mt. Hopkins Road and travelling parallel to that existing 46kV line. As I mentioned earlier, this 46kV line is the partial backup to Santa Cruz County today. If the Preferred Route were approved, the new 138kV line would replace this 46kV line in the same alignment. The new poles would be roughly the same in height, width, and color as the existing line.
- B. Note the two lines that converge here. The existing line on the east side, or to the left, is the 138kV Vail to Kantor line, and the line on the west, or to the right, is the 46kV backup line. The **Alternative Route** would come into this point from the north, running parallel to the existing 138kV line. From this point south, both the **Preferred** and **Alternative** routes would run in the same alignment as the existing 46kV line, replacing it with poles that resemble the existing line.



Map 7: Pause 6 (46kV/138kV Lines) to Stop 7 (Kantor Substation)

- ~ 9-minute drive
 - From S Mt. Hopkins Rd. turn right towards Forest Service 184 Rd.
 - Take a slight right onto Forest Service 184 Rd. and continue for approximately 2.5 miles to the existing Kantor Substation.
 - You have reached Tour Stop 7 Kantor Substation.

Map 7 Tour Narration

A. Up until this point our tour has been in Pima County. We just crossed the county line and are now in Santa Cruz County. Both the Preferred and Alternative routes would continue to parallel the existing line to our route, or west, until they reach the Kantor Substation. We're now travelling toward the Kantor Substation, which will be our final stop and the end of the tour.

BEFORE THE ARIZONA POWER PLANT AND TRANSMISSION LINE SITING COMMITTEE

3 IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF UNS ELECTRIC, INC. IN 4 CONFORMANCE WITH THE 5 REQUIREMENTS OF A.R.S. § 40-360, ET. SEQ., FOR A CERTIFICATE OF 6 ENVIRONMENTAL COMPATIBILITY 7 AUTHORIZING THE SANTA CRUZ RELIABILITY PROJECT NORTH, WHICH 8 INCLUDES THE CONSTRUCTION OF A 9 **NEW 138 KV TRANSMISSION LINE** WITHIN UNINCORPORATED PIMA 10 COUNTY AND UNINCORPORATED SANTA CRUZ COUNTY, ARIZONA. 11

Docket No. L-00000F-25-0209-00252

Case No. 252

CERTIFICATE OF ENVIRONMENTAL COMPATIBILITY

A. INTRODUCTION

Pursuant to notice given as provided by law, the Arizona Power Plant and Transmission Line Siting Committee ("Committee") held public hearings in Tucson, Arizona, on November 3, 2025 through November X, 2025, in conformance with the requirements of the Arizona Revised Statutes ("A.R.S.") § 40-360 *et seq.* for the purpose of receiving evidence and deliberating on the September 19, 2025 Application of UNS Electric, Inc. ("Applicant" or "UNSE") for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility ("Certificate") in the above-captioned case.

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

Adam Stafford	Chairman, Designee for Arizona Attorney General Kris Mayes
Nicole Hill	Designee for Director, Governor's Energy Office
Michael Comstock	Designee of the Chairman, Arizona Corporation Commission ("Commission")
Leonard Drago	Designee for Director, Arizona Department of

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1		Environmental Quality ("ADEQ")
2	David French	Designee for Director, Arizona Department of Water
3		Resources ("ADWR")
,	Roman Fontes	Appointed Member, representing counties
4	Sal DiCiccio	Appointed Member, representing cities and towns
5	David Kryder	Appointed Member, representing agricultural interests
6	Roman Fontes Sal DiCiccio David Kryder Margaret "Toby" Little Gabby Saucedo Mercer	Appointed Member, representing the general public
7	Gabby Saucedo Mercer	Appointed Member, representing the general public
8	Douglas Fant	Appointed Member, representing the general public
9	The Applicant was	remarked by Machan II. Crobal and Elica Ancharatic of

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

At the conclusion of the hearing, the Committee, after considering the (i) Application, (ii) evidence, testimony, and exhibits presented by the Applicant, and (iii) comments of the public, and being advised of the legal requirements of A.R.S. §§ 40-360 through 40-360.13, upon motion duly made and seconded, voted X to X to grant Applicant, its successors and assigns, this Certificate for the construction of the Santa Cruz Reliability Project North ("Project") as described below.

B. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Project will involve the construction of a new, approximately 9-to-12-mile 138 kV transmission line to connect Tucson Electric Power Company's ("TEP") existing Canoa Ranch Substation in Pima County to UNSE's existing Kantor Substation in Santa Cruz County. A map of the final approved Project, including the Project corridor, is included as **Exhibit A**. The proposed width of the corridor for the Project is 500 feet wide to allow for routing flexibility. In areas outside of existing rights-of-way ("ROW"), the final ROW for the for Project will be no greater than 100 feet wide.

Route and Corridor

Preferred Route

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The Preferred Route originates on the north end of the Project at TEP's existing Canoa Ranch substation located along the alignment of Duval Mine Waterline Road, just east of I-19, in Pima County, Arizona. The Canoa Ranch substation is situated at the northern boundary of the Raul M. Grijalva Canoa Ranch Conservation Park (Canoa Ranch Conservation Park). From the substation, the Preferred Route traverses Pima County conservation lands eastward, following the alignment of Duval Mine Waterline Road and West Camino de Rondo for approximately 1.1 miles until it reaches the northeastern edge of the Conservation Park boundary. It then turns south and runs parallel to the Conservation Park's eastern boundary for approximately 4.85 miles, following along portions of South Canoa Drive. Where West Elephant Head Road intersects South Canoa Drive, the Preferred Route continues south cross country for approximately 0.2 miles, then turns southeast parallel to South Mount Hopkins Road, in the same corridor as an existing TEP 46-kV line, for approximately 0.8 miles until it intersects with the existing UNSE Vail to Kantor 138-kV transmission line. From this junction, the Preferred Route turns southwest and parallels the existing 138-kv transmission line corridor, in the same alignment as an existing TEP 46-kV line, for approximately 2.25 miles, ultimately terminating at UNSE's existing Kantor Substation, situated just south of Amado Montosa Road and approximately 1.75 miles east of I-19, in Santa Cruz County, Arizona.

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Alternative Route

The Alternative Route originates on the north end of the Project at TEP's existing Canoa Ranch Substation located along the alignment of Duval Mine Waterline Road, just east of I-19, in Pima County, Arizona. The Canoa Ranch Substation is situated at the northern boundary of the Canoa Ranch Conservation Park. From the substation, the Alternative Route extends eastward, following the alignment of Duval

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Mine Waterline Road and West Camino de Rondo for approximately 1.1 miles. However, the Alternative Route deviates from the Preferred Route at the northeastern corner of the Canoa Ranch Conservation Park where it continues in a southeasterly direction for an additional 0.3 miles, crossing over a small corner of Arizona State Land Department ("ASLD") land, then turns east for approximately 0.9 miles along the section line between sections 2 and 11, and 1 and 12 of Township 19 South, Range 13 East and continues in a generally easterly direction for approximately 1.2 miles until reaching the ½ section line of Section 12. At this point, the Alternative Route turns south for approximately 3 miles through ASLD land and crosses the existing UNSE Vail to Kantor 138-kV transmission line along the eastern boundary of the rural Elephant Head residential community. The line then turns directly west, along the section line between Sections 24 and 25, and 23 and 26 of Township 19 South, Range 13 East in the alignment of West Eagle Way before it again intersects with the existing 138-kV transmission line. From here, the Alternative Route turns southwest and parallels the existing transmission line corridor for approximately 0.65 miles at which point it deviates to the south to circumnavigate a small outcrop of residences at the end of West Dove Way for approximately 0.25 miles. The route then turns to the west for approximately 0.2 miles, again joining a common corridor with the existing 138-kV transmission line, and follows it for approximately 4 miles until reaching its terminus

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The Committee approves the Preferred Route, subject to the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law contained herein. Maps of the final approved route, including corridor width, are attached as **Exhibit A**.

CONDITIONS

This Certificate is granted upon the following conditions:

at the Kantor Substation in Santa Cruz County, Arizona.

1. This authorization to construct the Project on the Preferred Route shall expire ten (10) years from the date this Certificate is approved by the Commission, with

or without modification. Construction of the Project shall be completed, and the Project shall be in service, upon the expiration of this ten-year timeframe. However, prior to the expiration of the time period, the Applicant may request that the Commission extend the time limitation. [CEC 247]

- 2. In the event that the Project requires an extension of the term(s) of this Certificate prior to completion of construction, the Applicant shall file such time extension request at least one hundred and eighty (180) days prior to the expiration of the Certificate. The Applicant shall use reasonable means to promptly notify Pima County, Santa Cruz County, ASLD, and all landowners and residents within a one (1) mile radius of the centerline of the Project, all persons who made public comment at this proceeding who provided a mailing or email address, and all parties to this proceeding. The notification provided will include the request and the date, time, and place of the hearing or open meetings during which the Commission will consider the request for extension. Notification shall be no more than three (3) business days after the Applicant is made aware of the hearing date or the open meeting date. [CEC 247]
- 3. During the development, construction, operation, maintenance, and reclamation of the Project, the Applicant shall comply with all existing applicable air and water pollution control standards and regulations, and with all existing applicable statutes, ordinances, master plans, and regulations of any governmental entity having jurisdiction including, but not limited to, the United States of America, the State of Arizona, Pima County, Santa Cruz County, and their agencies and subdivisions, including but not limited to the following:
 - (a) All applicable land use regulations;
 - (b) All applicable zoning stipulations and conditions including, but not limited to, landscaping and dust control requirements;
 - (c) All applicable water use, discharge and/or disposal requirements of ADWR and ADEQ;

- (d) All applicable noise control standards; and
- (e) All applicable regulations governing storage and handling of hazardous chemicals and petroleum products.
- 4. The Applicant shall obtain all approvals and permits necessary to construct, operate, and maintain the Project required by any governmental entity having jurisdiction including, but not limited to, the United States of America, the State of Arizona, Pima County, Santa Cruz County, and their agencies and subdivisions.
- 5. The Applicant shall comply with the Arizona Game and Fish Department ("AGFD") guidelines and recommendations for handling protected animal species, should any be encountered during construction and operation of the Project, and shall consult with AGFD or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, as appropriate, on other issues concerning wildlife. The Applicant shall, to the extent feasible, follow AGFD's recommendations found in the Letter from AGFD dated, May 9, 2025, marked as Exhibit H-2a. The Applicant commits to follow the mitigation measures on pages 122-125 and 205 of the Application, as applicable and feasible. [CEC 247]
- 6. The Applicant shall design the Project's facilities to incorporate reasonable measures to minimize electrocution of and impacts to avian species in accordance with the Applicant's avian protection program. Such measures will be accomplished through incorporation of Avian Power Line Interaction Committee guidelines set forth in the current versions of Suggested Practices for Avian Protection on Power Lines and Reducing Avian Collisions with Power Lines manuals. [CEC 247]
- 7. The issuance of a Certificate by the Commission is a state action pursuant to A.R.S. §§ 41-861 through 41-864, also known as the State Historic Preservation Act ("State Act"). The Applicant shall consult with the Arizona State Historic Preservation Office ("SHPO") regarding the Project and its impacts on historic properties. Construction shall not commence until SHPO has had an opportunity to review and comment in accordance with the State Act. The Applicant shall, in cooperation with the

landowner, complete a Class III cultural inventory of the portions of the final ROWs that have not been previously surveyed to modern standards. If any historic property will be substantially altered or demolished as a result of the construction or operation of the Project, the Applicant shall take timely steps to make appropriate documentary recordation in accordance with the standards established by SHPO. [CEC 247]

- 8. If any archaeological, paleontological, or historical site or a significant cultural object is discovered on state, county, or municipal land during the construction or operation of the Project, the Applicant or its authorized representative shall promptly report the discovery to the Director of the Arizona State Museum ("ASM"), and in consultation with the Director, shall immediately take all reasonable steps to secure and maintain the preservation of the discovery as required by A.R.S. § 41-844. [CEC 247]
- 9. 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. [CEC 247]
- 10. The Applicant shall comply with the notice and salvage requirements of the Arizona Native Plant Law (A.R.S §§ 3-901 *et seq.*) and shall, to the extent feasible, minimize the destruction of native plants during the construction and operation of the Project. [CEC 247]
- 11. The Applicant shall make every reasonable effort to promptly investigate, identify, and correct, on a case-specific basis, all complaints of interference with radio or television signals from operation of the Project addressed in this Certificate and where such interference is caused by the Project take reasonable measures to mitigate such interference. The Applicant shall maintain written records for a period of five (5) years of all complaints of radio or television interference attributable to operations, together with the corrective action taken in response to each complaint. All complaints

explained. Upon request, the written records shall be provided to the Staff of the Commission. The Applicant shall respond to complaints and implement appropriate mitigation measures. In addition, the Project shall be evaluated on a regular basis so that damaged insulators or other line materials that could cause interference are repaired or replaced in a timely manner. [CEC 247]

12. Within one hundred twenty (120) days of the Commission's decision approving this Certificate, the Applicant shall post signs in or pear public POWs, to the

shall be recorded and shall include notation on the corrective action taken. Complaints

not leading to a specific action or for which there was no resolution shall be noted and

- 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. [CEC 247]

13. Upon approval of this Certificate by the Commission, the Applicant shall provide Pima County, Santa Cruz County, ASLD, and known builders and developers who are building upon or developing land within one (1) mile of the centerline of the Project with a written description, including the approximate height and width measurements of all structure types, of the Project. The written description shall identify the location of the Project and contain a pictorial depiction of the facilities being constructed. The Applicant shall also encourage the developers and builders to include this information in their disclosure statements. Upon approval of this Certificate

by the Commission, the Applicant may commence construction of the Project. [CEC 247]

- 14. The Applicant shall use non-specular conductor and non-reflective surfaces for the transmission line structures on the Project. [CEC 247]
- 15. The Applicant shall be responsible for arranging that all field personnel involved in the Project receive training as to proper ingress, egress, and on-site working protocol for environmentally sensitive areas and activities. Contractors employing such field personnel shall maintain records documenting that the personnel have received such training. [CEC 247]
- 16. The Applicant shall follow the most current Western Electricity Coordinating Council ("WECC") and North American Electric Reliability Corporation ("NERC") planning standards, as approved by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission ("FERC"), National Electrical Safety Code ("NESC") standards, and Federal Aviation Administration ("FAA") regulations.
- 17. The Applicant shall provide Commission Staff with a copy of all completed final relevant studies that show the reliability impact of the Project within thirty (30) days of completion of such studies. [CEC 247]
- 18.17. The Applicant shall participate in good faith in state and regional transmission study forums to coordinate transmission expansion plans related to the Project and to resolve transmission constraints in a timely manner. [CEC 247]
- 19.18. When Project facilities are located parallel to and within one hundred (100) feet of any existing natural gas or hazardous pipeline, the Applicant shall:
 - A. Ensure grounding and cathodic protection studies are performed to show that the Project's location parallel to and within one hundred (100) feet of such pipeline results in no material adverse impacts to the pipeline or to public safety when both the pipeline and the Project are in operation. The Applicant shall take appropriate steps to ensure that any material

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adverse impacts are mitigated. The Applicant shall provide to Staff of the Commission, and file with Docket Control, a copy of the studies performed and additional mitigation, if any, that was implemented as part of its annual compliance-certification letter; and

B. Ensure that studies are performed simulating an outage of the Project that may be caused by the collocation of the Project parallel to and within one hundred (100) feet of the existing natural gas or hazardous liquid pipeline. The studies should either: (i) show that such simulated outage does not result in customer outages, or (ii) include operating plans to minimize any resulting customer outages. The Applicant shall provide a copy of the study results to Staff of the Commission and file them with Docket Control as part of the Applicant's annual compliance certification letter.

[CEC 247]

20.19. The designation of the corridor in this Certificate, as shown in **Exhibit A**, does not authorize ROWs greater than 100 feet wide for the Project nor does it grant the Applicant exclusive rights within the corridor outside of the final designated transmission ROWs. The maximum height of the structures shall not exceed 115 feet. [CEC 247]

21.20. The Applicant shall submit a compliance certification letter annually, identifying progress made with respect to and current status of each condition contained in this Certificate. The letter shall be submitted to Commission's Docket Control commencing on June 1, 2027. Attached to each certification letter shall be documentation explaining how compliance with each condition was achieved. Copies of each letter, along with the corresponding documentation, shall be submitted to the Arizona Attorney General's Office. With respect to the Project, the requirement for the compliance letter shall expire on the date the Project is placed into operation. Notification of such filing with Docket Control shall be made to Pima County, Santa

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Cruz County, ASLD, all parties to this Docket, and all parties who made a limited appearance in this Docket. [CEC 247]

22.21. The Applicant shall provide a copy of this Certificate to Pima County, Santa Cruz County, and ASLD. [CEC 247]

23.22. Any transfer or assignment of this Certificate shall require the assignee or successor to assume, in writing, all responsibilities of the Applicant listed in this Certificate and its conditions as required by A.R.S. § 40-360.08(A) and R14-3-213(F) of the Arizona Administrative Code. [CEC 247]

24.23. In the event the Applicant, its assignee, or successor, seeks to modify the Certificate terms at the Commission, it shall provide copies of such request to Pima County, Santa Cruz County, ASLD, all parties to this Docket, and all parties who made a limited appearance in this Docket. [CEC 247]

25.24. The Certificate Conditions shall be binding on the Applicant, its successors, assignee(s) and transferees, and any affiliates, agents, or lessees of the Applicant who have a contractual relationship with the Applicant concerning the construction, operation, maintenance or reclamation of the Project. The Applicant shall provide in any agreement(s) or lease(s) pertaining to the Project that the contracting parties and/or lessee(s) shall be responsible for compliance with the Conditions set forth herein, and the Applicant's responsibilities with respect to compliance with such Conditions shall not cease or be abated by reason of the fact that the Applicant is not in control of or responsible for operation and maintenance of the Project facilities. [CEC 247]

FINDINGS OF FACT AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

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

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

1	2. When constructed in compliance with the conditions imposed in this		
2	Certificate, the Project aids the State, preserving a safe and reliable electric transmissio		
3	system.		
4	3. During the course of the hearing, the Committee considered evidence or		
5	the environmental compatibility of the Project as required by A.R.S. § 40-360 et seq.		
6	4. The Project and the conditions placed on the Project in this Certificate		
7	effectively minimize the impact of the Project on the environment and ecology of the		
8	State.		
9	5. The conditions placed on the Project of this Certificate resolve matters		
10	concerning balancing the need for the Project with its impact on the environment and		
11	ecology of the state arising during the course of the proceedings, and, as such, serve a		
12	finding and conclusions on such matters.		
13	6. The Project is in the public interest because the Project's contribution to		
14	meeting the need for an adequate, economical, and reliable supply of electric power		
15	outweighs the minimized impact of the Project on the environment and ecology of the		
16	State. [CEC 247]		
17	DATED this day of November, 2025.		
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20	THE ARIZONA POWER PLANT AND TRANSMISSION LINE SITING COMMITTE		
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22			
23	By:Adam Stafford, Chairman		
24	Adam Starioid, Chairman		
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EXHIBIT A

