

1 BEFORE THE ARIZONA POWER PLANT LS-440

2 AND TRANSMISSION LINE SITING COMMITTEE

3

4 IN THE MATTER OF THE) DOCKET NO.
5 APPLICATION OF UNS ELECTRIC,) L-00000F-25-0209-00252
6 INC. IN CONFORMANCE WITH THE)
7 REQUIREMENTS OF A.R.S.) LS CASE NO. 252
8 § 40-360, ET. SEQ., FOR A)
9 CERTIFICATE OF ENVIRONMENTAL)
10 COMPATIBILITY AUTHORIZING THE)
11 SANTA CRUZ RELIABILITY PROJECT)
12 NORTH, WHICH INCLUDES THE) PREFILING CONFERENCE
13 CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW 138 KV)
14 TRANSMISSION LINE WITHIN)
15 UNINCORPORATED PIMA COUNTY AND)
16 UNINCORPORATED SANTA CRUZ)
17 COUNTY, ARIZONA.)
18)
19)
20)
21)
22)

12 At: Phoenix, Arizona

13 Date: September 16, 2025

14 eFiled: September 29, 2025

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REPORTER'S TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

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(Pages 1 through 16)

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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 11:02 a.m. on September 16, 2025,
5 with all participants appearing via videoconference.

6

7 BEFORE: ADAM STAFFORD, Chairman

8

9 APPEARANCES:

10 For the Applicant:

11 MEGHAN H. GRABEL
12 ELIAS ANCHARSKI
13 Osborn Maledon
14 2929 North Central
15 21st Floor
16 Phoenix, Arizona 85012

15

16 ALSO PRESENT:

17 Megan Hill, Tucson Electric Power
18 Clark Bryner, Tucson Electric Power
19 Brian Parker, Eocene
20 Matt Ritter, Eocene
21 Tod Brewer, assistant to Chairman Stafford

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

3 Now is the time set for the prefiling
4 conference for the UNS Electric Santa Cruz Reliability
5 Phase I project.

6 Let's start with appearances.

7 MS. GRABEL: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
8 Meghan Grabel from Osborn Maledon on behalf of UNS
9 Electric. With me from my firm is Elias Ancharski. And
10 with me from the company is Megan Hill as regulatory
11 counsel, and Clark Bryner, who is the head of the line
12 siting group. And also with us from Eocene, which is our
13 consulting group, is Brian Parker and Matt Ritter.

14 CHMN STAFFORD: Thank you.

15 Has there -- has there been much public
16 interest in the project so far?

17 MS. GRABEL: There has been public
18 engagement. Yes, there has.

19 CHMN STAFFORD: Okay. Let's see. We have
20 four exhibits?

21 MS. GRABEL: Correct.

22 CHMN STAFFORD: Do you want to talk us
23 through those real quick and then we'll get them admitted?

24 MS. GRABEL: Certainly. Exhibit Number 1 is
25 the project map that shows both the preferred route and

1 the proposed alternate route.

2 The second is our proposed notice of hearing
3 sign, so just substance of the signage.

4 The third is the map where we propose to
5 install notice of hearing signs in various locations. I
6 believe there are 12.

7 And then the fourth is our proposed notice
8 of hearing.

9 CHMN STAFFORD: Okay. Those are admitted.

10 I'm seeing -- I am looking at the sign map.
11 I'm seeing eight different locations.

12 MS. GRABEL: Okay, eight. Thank you.

13 CHMN STAFFORD: Are you putting multiple
14 signs at some of those locations or is it just going to be
15 eight?

16 MS. GRABEL: I think it's just eight total.

17 CHMN. STAFFORD: Okay.

18 MS. GRABEL: And these are the areas that
19 are deemed to be high traffic in this area.

20 CHMN STAFFORD: Okay, excellent.

21 We've got the draft notice of hearing. That
22 was Exhibit 4. Now, this is in both Pinal and -- no, both
23 Pima County and Santa Cruz County?

24 MS. GRABEL: Correct.

25 CHMN STAFFORD: All right. So what will be

1 the publications dates?

2 MS. GRABEL: So because we're in two
3 different counties we are going to do a statewide
4 publication in the Arizona Republic. We don't have a date
5 for that yet --

6 CHMN STAFFORD: Okay.

7 MS. GRABEL: -- but we do need four business
8 days for publication. So we'll need the get the notice of
9 hearing to us in that time for us to get that published.

10 We also anticipate publishing in the Arizona
11 Daily Star, also a newspaper of general circulation. And
12 that requires three business days in order to publish.

13 And then as a courtesy we're going to do it
14 in four different -- three different local -- local
15 newspapers. That's the Green Valley News, the Nogales
16 International, and the Arizona Bilingual.

17 CHMN STAFFORD: Okay.

18 MS. GRABEL: And publication takes place on
19 those dates on September 30th.

20 CHMN STAFFORD: Okay. And what's the
21 anticipated file date?

22 MS. GRABEL: What is our anticipated filing
23 date? I don't have that off the top of my head.

24 Eli, do you have that?

25 MR. ANCHARSKI: Yeah, September -- yeah,

1 September 19th. This Friday.

2 CHMN. STAFFORD: Okay. So if we get the
3 notice of hearings to you -- you need them by -- that
4 Tuesday, will that work?

5 MS. GRABEL: That would be ideal. That's
6 great.

7 For the Arizona Bilingual we would need the
8 notice on September 19th, which is the day we file, if
9 we're going to make the October edition. We can publish
10 later. That's just a courtesy one anyway, but we wanted
11 to provide that for you.

12 CHMN STAFFORD: Okay.

13 MR. ANCHARSKI: Now, I guess I do want to
14 highlight that that is -- is a monthly publication. So
15 if -- if that -- if we don't get that 19th date for the
16 October edition, the November edition is likely to come
17 out after the hearing, so it probably -- probably doesn't
18 make much sense there. So I mean, that is, you know, I
19 guess, somewhat dependent on when, you know, we do get the
20 notice. Unfortunately that deadline for the
21 October edition is the -- is the 19th.

22 CHMN STAFFORD: Okay. So you need it the
23 19th then. All right.

24 So we have -- we've got the Word version of
25 it already; right?

1 MS. GRABEL: Yes.

2 CHMN STAFFORD: Okay. We should be able to
3 make that happen for you.

4 And then so the affected jurisdictions,
5 we've got Pima, Santa Cruz. What else?

6 MS. GRABEL: The Arizona State Land
7 Department.

8 CHMN STAFFORD: And that's it?

9 MS. GRABEL: That's it.

10 CHMN STAFFORD: All right. Okay. So it
11 looks like we're going to do the hearing in Tucson at the
12 Desert Diamond Casino Conference Center.

13 MS. GRABEL: Correct.

14 CHMN STAFFORD: All right. And looking at
15 doing it from Monday, November 3rd through potentially
16 Friday, November 7th?

17 MS. GRABEL: Correct.

18 CHMN STAFFORD: All right. Do you think
19 it'll take through the Friday or should we be done by
20 Tuesday or Wednesday, you think?

21 MS. GRABEL: Hopefully we'll be done by
22 Tuesday or Wednesday. If we do do a tour it's probably
23 going to take up a good half of the day on Tuesday
24 morning, so likely Wednesday.

25 CHMN STAFFORD: Okay. And then you have

1 lodging for the out-of-town committee members?

2 MS. GRABEL: Yes, that's correct. At the
3 Desert Diamond Casino.

4 CHMN STAFFORD: Okay. And then can you get
5 us the virtual link to attend remotely by the time of the
6 prehearing conference. That way we can have members that
7 are going to be doing that, they will have that already.
8 Because typically they frantically email Tod the day of
9 the hearing to get it.

10 MS. GRABEL: We can talk to Peaks about
11 that.

12 CHMN. STAFFORD: Okay.

13 (Reporter clarification.)

14 MS. GRABEL: We will talk to Peaks about
15 that, Peaks Audio. P-E-A-K-S.

16 CHMN STAFFORD: All right. Okay. So just
17 have a plan for a tour at the time of the prehearing
18 conference. So you think that would take up the -- the
19 whole morning of that Tuesday?

20 MS. GRABEL: Yes. Mr. Bryner calculated
21 this morning it would be about three hours for the tour,
22 and then we would stop for lunch and then head back to the
23 hearing.

24 CHMN STAFFORD: Okay. And Tod, what is the
25 date we have for the prehearing conference for this?

1 MR. BREWER: We have this scheduled for
2 October 28th at 3:00 o'clock, Mr. Chairman.

3 CHMN STAFFORD: All right.

4 Okay. There's no litigation regarding this
5 or any kind of disputes; correct?

6 All right. I'm seeing nods in the
7 affirmative.

8 So you don't have a precise -- Oh, yeah,
9 that's September 19th is the anticipated file date. I'll
10 do the procedural order.

11 Get me the draft CEC by the time of the
12 prehearing conference. That will be in the procedural
13 order.

14 Now, the public comment, we'll do that,
15 standard practice, at 5:30 that Monday, November 3rd.

16 Do you anticipate a lot of public comment
17 for this?

18 MS. GRABEL: Potentially. There are a lot
19 of public that -- members of the public that were very
20 interested in this project, and so it's possible we could
21 have public comment.

22 We were comfortable that the routes that we
23 selected are -- are palatable for the communities, but --
24 And there is no intervention so far, so --

25 CHMN STAFFORD: Be hard since you haven't

1 filed yet, so --

2 MS. GRABEL: That's true. We don't
3 anticipate any intervention so far.

4 CHMN STAFFORD: Okay. All right. What
5 about any public officials; are they going to want to give
6 any public comment, do you know?

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

8 Mr. Bryner, would you anticipate any?

9 MR. BRYNER: It's possible we may have some
10 folks from Santa Cruz County or Nogales that would want to
11 provide some public comment, but I don't know yet. But
12 they are very supportive of the project.

13 CHMN STAFFORD: Okay. And permit status,
14 it's all on -- is it all on private and State land? Is
15 that what we are -- the line's going across?

16 MS. GRABEL: It's a combination of private,
17 County, and State land.

18 CHMN STAFFORD: Okay. And so I'm assuming
19 that transmission line is a permitted use.

20 MS. GRABEL: Yes. But we will need
21 right-of-way permits. I think there's a railroad crossing
22 permit we'll need from a railroad and a floodplain use
23 permit from the Pima County Flood Control District.

24 CHMN STAFFORD: Have you applied for -- I
25 guess you wouldn't worry about the railroad one until you

1 have a route, but what about the Pima County Flood Control
2 District?

3 MS. GRABEL: Mr. Bryner, have we applied for
4 that yet?

5 MR. BRYNER: No. It would also be dependent
6 on the route and final engineering.

7 CHMN STAFFORD: Okay. So you may not need
8 it then?

9 MR. BRYNER: We'll need it because it's
10 crossing the Santa Cruz River and we will cross the Santa
11 Cruz River.

12 CHMN STAFFORD: Okay. And then -- So is
13 that Pima County Flood Control District, does that count
14 as an affected jurisdiction, as a subdivision of the
15 County?

16 MS. GRABEL: I'll have to look at that.
17 It's not a subdivision of the State.

18 CHMN STAFFORD: Let's see. Let me
19 double-check.

20 Yeah, I don't think it qualifies as an
21 affected jurisdiction, but they will have notice that this
22 is going on; right? Even if you haven't applied for the
23 permit yet they will have -- they are aware of the -- of
24 the project; right?

25 MS. GRABEL: Yes. And the County is well

1 aware they are an affected jurisdiction.

2 CHMN STAFFORD: All right. So it's up to
3 the County to let the -- their subdivisions know.

4 All right. And so you -- I think you
5 already mentioned Peaks Audio. They will be doing the
6 technology for the hearing; correct?

7 MS. GRABEL: Correct.

8 CHMN STAFFORD: All right. I'm assuming
9 we'll do the -- all the exhibits on laptops for the
10 members as well?

11 MS. GRABEL: We'll have that on notebooks.

12 CHMN STAFFORD: Yeah, so we'll have -- I
13 will need a hard copy for -- at least one for me and one
14 for the court reporter.

15 And the filing fee for this project it's,
16 what, a thousand dollars?

17 MS. GRABEL: Thousand dollars.

18 CHMN STAFFORD: All right. So under the
19 statute the Commission's obligated to pay the costs of
20 reporting and transcribing any application hearing as well
21 as the actual and necessary expenses incurred by the
22 committee members in connection with their participation
23 in the committee meetings from the filing fee.

24 Costs and fees exceeding the amount of the
25 applicant's fee may, with the applicant's consent, be

1 incurred by the committee and charged to the applicant.

2 Does the applicant consent to pay the
3 Commission those costs in excess of the filing fees?

4 MS. GRABEL: We do.

5 CHMN STAFFORD: All right. So we'll do the
6 three days for the transcripts, conclusion.

7 And then any other -- anything other things
8 we need to cover for this?

9 MS. GRABEL: If you'd like to know our
10 social media plan we do intend to advertise on both
11 Facebook and Instagram. Do it one week after we file and
12 one week prior to the hearing.

13 CHMN STAFFORD: All right. And then you're
14 going to have the application and transcripts both at the
15 Joyner-Green Valley Library and the Green Valley Chamber
16 of Commerce?

17 MS. GRABEL: That's correct. As well as at
18 the Arizona Corporation Control -- Commission Docket
19 Control in Phoenix and the project website.

20 CHMN STAFFORD: Excellent.

21 Is there anything else we need to cover,
22 Mr. Brewer?

23 MR. BREWER: No, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

24 CHMN STAFFORD: All right. Jill, do you
25 have everything you need?

1 THE COURT REPORTER: Yes, I do.

2 CHMN STAFFORD: Excellent.

3 Thank you very much. I'll look forward to
4 the filing and I will see you in Tucson.

5 We are adjourned.

6 MS. GRABEL: Thanks, Mr. Chairman.

7 (Whereupon, at 11:15 a.m. the proceedings
8 ended.)

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1 STATE OF ARIZONA)
2) ss.
3 COUNTY OF YAVAPAI)

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14 7-206(J)(1)(g)(1) and (2).

15 Dated at Prescott, Arizona, this 16th day of
16 September, 2025.

17 

18 JILL MARNELL
19 Certified Reporter #50021
20 Registered Professional Reporter

21 * * * * *

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