

1 BEFORE THE ARIZONA POWER PLANT LS-457
2 AND TRANSMISSION LINE SITING COMMITTEE
3 IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF) DOCKET NO.
4 UNS ELECTRIC, INC. IN CONFORMANCE) L-00000F-25-0209-
5 WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF A.R.S. §) 00252
6 40-360, ET. SEQ., FOR A CERTIFICATE)
7 OF ENVIRONMENTAL COMPATIBILITY)
8 AUTHORIZING THE SANTA CRUZ) Case No. 252
9 RELIABILITY PROJECT NORTH, WHICH)
10 INCLUDES THE CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW)
11 138 KV TRANSMISSION LINE WITHIN)
12 UNINCORPORATED PIMA COUNTY AND)
13 UNINCORPORATED SANTA CRUZ COUNTY,)
14 ARIZONA.) EVIDENTIARY
15) HEARING

10

11 At: Tucson, Arizona
12 Date: November 4, 2025
13 Filed: November 10, 2025

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16 REPORTER'S TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS
17 (Pages 153 through 279)

18

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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 Tucson, Arizona, commencing at 9:00 a.m. on
5 November 4, 2025.

6

7

8 BEFORE: ADAM STAFFORD, Chairman

9 MICHAEL COMSTOCK, Arizona Corporation Commission
10 LEONARD C. DRAGO, Department of Environmental
Quality
11 SAL DiCICCIO, Incorporated Cities and Towns
DOUGLAS FANT, General Public
12 ROMAN FONTES, Counties
DAVID FRENCH, Arizona Department of Water Resources
13 R. DAVID KRYDER, Agriculture Interests
MARGARET "TOBY" LITTLE, General Public
14 GABRIELA SAUCEDO MERCER, General Public

15 APPEARANCES:

16 For the Applicant:

17 OSBORN MALEDON, P.A.
By: Meghan H. Grabel
18 By: Elias J. Ancharski
2929 North Central Avenue, 20th Floor
19 Phoenix, Arizona 85012

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

3 Mr. Ancharski, you will be hosting us for
4 the tour?

5 MR. ANCHARSKI: Yes.

6 CHMN STAFFORD: Do you have -- do want to
7 go over the itinerary and then give us our safety
8 briefing?

9 MR. ANCHARSKI: Yes, certainly. So, good
10 morning, Chairman, Committee Members. As you heard,
11 we're going on a field trip today. So we have a little
12 bit of housekeeping that I wanted to go over. So I'll
13 ask Mr. Bryner and Ms. Mariñez to help me.

14 Q. So, Mr. Bryner, can you please turn to Exhibit
15 UNS-8.

16 A. (MR. BRYNER) Okay.

17 Q. And what is this exhibit?

18 A. (MR. BRYNER) This is a tour itinerary and
19 narrative script.

20 Q. Great. And was this exhibit created by you or
21 under your direction and control?

22 A. (MR. BRYNER) Yes.

23 Q. And can you please provide a high-level summary
24 of the tour that we're about to take today and kind of
25 what the committee members will see on the tour?

1 A. (MR. BRYNER) Sure. I'd be happy to.

2 So we're -- we're a little bit north of our
3 project area, so we'll be jumping on Interstate 19 for
4 about 20 minutes, heading south. Our first stop will be
5 at The Springs neighborhood. We talked about that a
6 little bit yesterday. It's located just to the north
7 side of the Canoa Ranch Substation, so there we'll be
8 able to get a vista of the views from that neighborhood,
9 as well as be able to see the context of the Canoa Ranch
10 Substation. We'll then go to the historic Canoa Ranch
11 and the Anza National Historic Trail, where you'll be
12 able to see that in context, in relationship to the
13 proposed routes.

14 We have four -- four different stops after that.
15 We'll do kind of a drive-thru, so you can see a view from
16 some of the residential areas west of I-19. And then our
17 next stop will be over in the Elephant Head community.
18 That's where the gentleman who gave public comment last
19 night lives. And you'll be able to see the relationship
20 of both the preferred and the alternative route relative
21 to those -- that residential area. And our last stop
22 will be at the Kantor Substation on the far end of the
23 project. And then -- then we'll go to lunch.

24 Q. All right. Thank you, Mr. Bryner.

25 //

1 ADRIANA MARIÑEZ,
2 called as a witness on behalf of the Applicant, having
3 been previously affirmed or sworn by the Chairman to
4 speak the whole truth and nothing but the truth, was
5 examined and testified as follows:

6

7 D I R E C T E X A M I N A T I O N

8 BY MR. ANCHARSKI:

9 Q. Now, I'm going to ask Ms. Mariñez to go over
10 those tour protocols and safety tips.

11 A. (MS. MARIÑEZ) Sure.

12 So although it's going to be a beautiful day
13 today, it will be sunny and it will warm up to about 86
14 degrees, so just please be mindful of that, drink plenty
15 of water. We'll have water on the bus and we do have
16 sunscreen and hats for you all and some fans. So please
17 take a look at that table there and take what you need.

18 Q. I'll just note that, you know, we will be out in
19 the field so just watch your step and any critters that
20 might be running around. And then we do have some extra
21 tour scripts and protocols, I believe, they were passed
22 out, so we should have those, but we do have extra. And,
23 as mentioned, we will stop at the Longhorn Grill for
24 lunch after the tour and return.

25 I see that Mr. Bryner might have something else

1 to say.

2 A. (MR. BRYNER) One other thing that I forgot to
3 mention. At our first stop in The Springs neighborhood,
4 we're going to walk down that community path just a
5 couple hundred feet, not real far, but we do have
6 arranged -- one of the neighbors there offered to let us
7 use his golf court. So if you'd like to be shuttled to
8 where we're going to stop and talk, then you can.

9 Q. All right. With that, I think we're ready to
10 begin the tour.

11 CHMN STAFFORD: Well, I'll just remind
12 everyone that the ex parte rule's in effect. There won't
13 be any questions asked of the applicant, except at the
14 designated stops when we're in front of the court
15 reporter. Members are not to deliberate the case on the
16 bus. They do have a script, so as we drive by certain
17 points that are noticed on the map, they will narrate.

18 There's -- everything they're going to say
19 is already in the record in the exhibit. So that's how
20 we address that issue. But, otherwise, you're not to ask
21 any questions except at the designated stops in front of
22 the court reporter. With that, I think we're ready to go
23 off the record and get on the bus.

24 (Recessed from 9:04 a.m. until 9:50 a.m.)

25 (Beginning of route tour.)

1 (TIME NOTED: 9:50 a.m.)

2 (Arrival at Stop No. 1.)

3 CHMN STAFFORD: All right. Let's go on the
4 record.

5 Mr. Ancharski, Mr. Bryner will be your
6 witness at this stop?

7 ANCHARSKI: Yes.

8 CHMN STAFFORD: Take it away, Mr. Bryner.

9 MR. BRYNER: Okay. So, okay, so we
10 are at Stop No. 1 on our tour, in The Springs
11 neighborhood, looking to the south, the far direction
12 from us, that is the Canoa Ranch Substation. So that's a
13 138-kV substation that's owned and operated by Tucson
14 Electric Power that will be the interconnection point for
15 the Santa Cruz Reliability Project North, the line you're
16 seeing between us and the substation is, well, it's a
17 pole line that supports the 138-kV circuit on the south
18 side or far side from us. And the 46-kV on the near side
19 to us as we look towards the east or towards the sun,
20 that's the Santa Rita Mountains, so those were the views
21 that were, as we met with The Springs neighborhood and
22 many other residential neighborhoods in this area, those
23 were the views that were very important that were
24 protected by this line.

25 And so for either of our routes that we're

1 proposing, the new transmission line will be located on
2 the far side of the substation, and even as it continues
3 to the east on the far side of these existing
4 transmission lines, so they would not impede the views
5 further beyond what they're impeded today. I think
6 that's really all I want to share in this location, so we
7 can take questions.

8 CHMN STAFFORD: Is this the trail?

9 MR. BRYNER: This is a community path. And
10 there is also a dog park they were concerned about, and
11 that's located a little bit further to the east.

12 CHMN STAFFORD: And then is there another
13 trail that goes through the conservation park?

14 MR. BRYNER: There is. There is the Juan
15 Batista de Anza National Historic Trail. We are not on
16 that trail now. We will see that on Stop 2. We will be
17 on the trail. And that's located just to the east side
18 of the substation, the big structure that's the drop
19 structure. We have looked at that on some of the visual
20 simulations one, two structures down the trail, it's
21 about there.

22 CHMN STAFFORD: Any questions from members?

23 (No response.)

24 CHMN STAFFORD: All right. Well, I guess
25 that concludes the stop. We're ready to go back on the

1 bus and proceed to Stop 2. Let's go off the record.

2 (TIME NOTED: 9:53 a.m.)

3 (Conclusion of Stop No. 1.)

4 (TIME NOTED: 10:06 a.m.)

5 (Arrival at Stop No. 2.)

6 CHMN STAFFORD: Let's go on the record.

7 Mr. Bryner, we're now at Stop 2.

8 MR. BRYNER: Okay. So Stop 2. This is
9 the -- we're standing on a portion of the Juan Batista de
10 Anza National Historic Trail. If you're curious about if
11 this is the actual trail that Juan Batista went on, it is
12 not, but this has been designated as the national
13 historic trail or a portion of the national historic
14 trail, so we're also -- the buildings that you can see to
15 the southwest of us, I'm pointing in that direction,
16 those are the historic headquarters of the Canoa Ranch.
17 So they were built in the early 1900s.

18 And there was a question that was asked on
19 the bus, is this still an operating ranch? No, it is
20 not. So it's now owned by Pima County. And, as we
21 discussed previously, it's set aside as a conservation
22 area. So our transmission line, the preferred route,
23 would be located a little over a mile distance from here,
24 to the east the Santa Rita Mountains. Again, those are
25 off to the east in the far distance. These poles that

1 you see sort of a few hundred feet from us, that is a
2 46-kV transmission line or sub-transmission line. That
3 is not part of the backup source to the Kantor
4 Substation, though that line does run to the Canoa 46-kV
5 substation. And at that substation, it goes on to the
6 Kantor Substation.

7 In the far distance, about three miles from
8 here, if you're really good with your eyes, you might see
9 some poles out there. Those are the existing 138-kV
10 transmission line that runs from Valencia to the Kantor
11 Substation. So to give you a sense, the preferred route
12 would be located about halfway between us and those
13 poles. The alternative route would be located, in some
14 cases, along that existing pole line and in some cases
15 beyond that existing pole line. They're far out there.
16 Good luck finding them.

17 That's -- that's all the things that I
18 wanted to share, so I'm happy to take questions.

19 CHMN STAFFORD: Thank you, Mr. Bryner.

20 MEMBER KRYDER: Mr. Chairman?

21 CHMN STAFFORD: Any questions from members?

22 Member Kryder?

23 MEMBER KRYDER: You may notice it's not
24 part of our jurisdiction --

25 CHMN STAFFORD: Talk louder or get near the

1 court reporter.

2 MEMBER KRYDER: -- at the top of the one
3 mountain is the Mt. Hopkins Observatory.

4 MR. BRYNER: That's a Smithsonian
5 observatory.

6 MEMBER LITTLE: Mr. Chair?

7 CHMN STAFFORD: Member Little?

8 MEMBER LITTLE: I'm wondering where on our
9 map two is the line -- the existing 138 line?

10 MR. BRYNER: So if you're looking at your
11 map two, the existing 138-kV line, it's actually way off
12 the map, so it's not -- that's the railroad you're seeing
13 on the eastern -- on the right side of your map, if you
14 go to your overview map, the existing transmission line,
15 just to point it out to you guys, if you see where Stop 5
16 is at on the existing or on the overview map, the
17 existing transmission line runs more or less a lot by
18 Stop 5. It's distant from here.

19 MEMBER LITTLE: Thank you.

20 MR. BRYNER: Mr. Ancharski just asked a
21 question about there's some additional poles. I pointed
22 out the 46-kV poles that are closest to us. There's
23 other poles that are beyond those, but still in our -- in
24 our viewshed here, those are distribution poles.

25 So there are a number of wells throughout

1 the Canoa Ranch that are still operational and those
2 actually serve water to the Freeport-McMoRan Sierrita
3 mine. So those each have power plant going to them.

4 CHMN STAFFORD: And those wells, the power
5 flowing to them is from which utility?

6 MR. BRYNER: We're within TEP service
7 territory, so that is served by TEP.

8 CHMN STAFFORD: Any other questions from
9 members?

10 (No response.)

11 MR. BRYNER: I do have -- Chairman
12 Stafford, I have some brochures if anyone wants some
13 light reading material about Canoa Ranch. I know
14 sometimes you guys are curious, so you can read them.

15 CHMN STAFFORD: All right. Thank you.
16 With that -- oh, Member Kryder, do you have a question?

17 MEMBER KRYDER: No.

18 CHMN STAFFORD: With that, let's go off the
19 record and get back on the bus and head on to Stop 3.

20 (TIME NOTED: 10:13 a.m.)

21 (Conclusion of Stop No. 2.)

22 (TIME NOTED: 11:05 a.m.)

23 (Arrival at Stop No. 5.)

24 CHMN STAFFORD: Let's go back on the
25 record.

1 We are now at Stop 5. 3 and 4 were
2 actually just pauses, we didn't actually stop. So this
3 is the first time we've stopped since Stop 2. So all
4 right. And so, Mr. Bryner, tell us what we're looking at
5 from Stop 5.

6 MR. BRYNER: Okay. So here's Stop 5. We
7 are along the route of the alternative -- along the
8 alignment of the alternative route, so we're at the
9 eastern edge of the Elephant Head community. So the
10 route would run north/south. So the Santa Rita Mountains
11 to the east. To the west we're looking toward the mine
12 tailing, so north/south is this alignment. It's a half
13 section line. This is State Trust Lands that we're
14 standing on. The private lands begin just to the west.

15 So looking over to the east, if you see the
16 prominent rock formation to the right of the Santa Rita
17 Mountains, that is Elephant Head. So that's, when you
18 hear about the geologic formation we discussed, that is
19 what it is. From certain angles it does look like an
20 elephant head with a trunk coming out with some ears.
21 Not from here.

22 Oh, there's also -- sorry, I forgot to
23 mention, you see the sign up here, it says, "Elephant
24 Head Bike Trail," there is a trailhead right here too.
25 It's not just for bikes, but the trail to Elephant Head

1 starts here. So this is the trailhead for that. So it's
2 also an opportunity for folks out here to recreate and
3 enjoy the mountains and the desert landscape.

4 CHMN STAFFORD: Member Kryder, you had a
5 question?

6 MEMBER KRYDER: Yes. It refers back to
7 Pause 4, where we were -- my question is, the preferred
8 route ran down that line, correct?

9 CHMN STAFFORD: Canoa Road?

10 MEMBER KRYDER: Yes. And my question was,
11 is the line on the conservation ranch part or is it on
12 the east side of the conservation line?

13 MR. BRYNER: Thank you.

14 So, yes, at Pause 4 we were on the
15 alignment of the preferred route. The corridor we're
16 requesting is 500 feet wide, extending down the center
17 line of Canoa Ranch Road. So it would allow us to go on
18 the east side or west side. We would like to be,
19 ideally, within the road easement on the west side, but
20 that's dependent on final survey, and if there's
21 sufficient room.

22 MEMBER KRYDER: And as a follow-up to that,
23 I know there was some discussion you all were having with
24 the County with regard to getting onto the conservation
25 area, how is -- can you bring us up to date on what that

1 is?

2 MR. BRYNER: Sure. So we discussed that a
3 little bit yesterday, but basically the area we are
4 working with Pima County on, to remove some of the lands
5 from their current restrictive coordinates on that
6 conservation easement. We're focusing on the northern
7 edge of the Canoa Ranch eastern -- not the eastern edge
8 where the preferred route would be located near Pause 4,
9 if we needed to secure an easement from Pima County
10 there, we would have to remove additional lands from that
11 conservation easement, which is something we would prefer
12 not to do.

13 Where are things currently with removing
14 that restriction? So we don't have a final agreement
15 signed, but we have a verbal agreement with the County
16 staff on the plans that will be exchanged and placed in
17 the conservation test -- so the lands that would be
18 placed into conservation in lieu of those lands and
19 securing that easement.

20 So we feel very good that it will go
21 through, but it does have to go through the Pima County
22 Board of Supervisors, the Arizona Land and Water Trust,
23 and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to do that.

24 MEMBER KRYDER: Thank you so much.

25 CHMN STAFFORD: Mr. Bryner, I seem to

1 recall testimony that you were unsure how far back from
2 the road the actual Canoa Ranch Conservation Park was.
3 You were still trying to figure out if there was
4 sufficient room that was not part of that preserve to be
5 used for the transmission line on the west side of the
6 road, correct?

7 MR. BRYNER: That's correct. So the
8 right-of-way easement for Canoa Road, this is subject to
9 check, but I'm remembering 80 feet wide is the roadway
10 easement as we were driving along Canoa Road. If you
11 have looked at the barbed wire fence, there's signs along
12 that fence there that said, "Boundary of the Canoa Ranch
13 Conservation Area," so sometimes fences are placed on the
14 edges of property lines, sometimes they're not.

15 If that is the property line, then we
16 believe we have sufficient space. If that is not the
17 exact property line and it's closer to the roadway, then
18 we would likely need to place it on the east side of
19 Canoa Road.

20 CHMN STAFFORD: And there's an existing
21 46-kV line there?

22 MR. BRYNER: There's an existing 13.8
23 distribution line, if that was the case, we would need to
24 build -- put that in an underbuild position or put that
25 underground.

1 CHMN STAFFORD: Okay. Thank you.

2 Member Little, you had a question?

3 MEMBER LITTLE: My questions refer to the
4 Canoa Road between narration point C and D. I notice
5 there was a section of underground distribution. Do you
6 know why that was undergrounded there?

7 CHMN STAFFORD: What map are you referring
8 to, Member Little?

9 MEMBER LITTLE: Map four.

10 CHMN STAFFORD: Map four, okay.

11 MEMBER LITTLE: Between narration point C
12 and D. I was looking to the east side of the road, the
13 houses that are close to the road. And I notice that
14 there is a section of distribution that was underground.
15 And I guess my question was I'm just wondering whether
16 there were residents who requested or insisted that it be
17 undergrounded.

18 MR. BRYNER: I wish I had an answer, but I
19 don't.

20 MEMBER LITTLE: Another question. There
21 are some houses that are very close to the road on the
22 east side of Canoa Road. Did you hear from any of those
23 residents in particular? I know that the views are
24 predominantly to the east and not to the west, but some
25 of the houses are close enough that those -- the

1 transmission line, the preferred route would be very
2 close to their homes.

3 MR. BRYNER: So of the public comments
4 we've received, I'm not aware of any of them that came
5 from those residents on Canoa Road directly on the east
6 side.

7 MEMBER LITTLE: Does UNS have a policy of
8 actually getting in touch with people whose properties
9 would be affected directly?

10 MR. BRYNER: So, certainly, when we're
11 requiring the right-of-way we would. But during the
12 siting process we send them out a mailer, we send them
13 emails. We do everything in our power to let them know
14 about it, but we don't go door to door, knock on their
15 doors, and give them a specific phone call, no.

16 MEMBER LITTLE: Thank you.

17 CHMN STAFFORD: Any other questions from
18 members?

19 Member Fant, please take the microphone.
20 There you go.

21 MEMBER FANT: Since we're near the
22 trailhead -- and thank you, sir -- have you had any input
23 from any trail associations or any offroad vehicle
24 associations?

25 MR. BRYNER: So we did hear from the Juan

1 Batista de Anza Historic Trail, they're managed by the
2 National Park Service. So they did participate in our
3 agency briefings that we had throughout the siting
4 process, and they provided written comment. Their
5 primary concern, similar to the residents, was views from
6 the trail and affecting that experience for users.

7 CHMN STAFFORD: Any other questions from
8 members?

9 (No response.)

10 CHMN STAFFORD: All right. Our next stop
11 is 7?

12 MR. BRYNER: I left my thing in there.
13 It's the last stop. We have a pause and then a stop. I
14 think we have Pause 6 and Stop 7.

15 CHMN STAFFORD: Pause 6 and Stop 7. Okay.
16 All right. Very good. With that, let's go off the
17 record and get back on the bus.

18 (TIME NOTED: 11:12 a.m.)

19 (Conclusion of Stop No. 5.)

20 (TIME NOTED: 11:18 a.m.)

21 (Arrival at Stop No. 7.)

22 CHMN STAFFORD: Back on the record.
23 We're here at Stop 7, Mr. Bryner.

24 MR. BRYNER: Okay. So looking to the
25 south, that is the Kantor Substation that you see, where

1 you see the galvanized steel. Again, we're looking at
2 the 138-kV Valencia to Kantor line running into the
3 substation on the east side or if you're looking towards
4 it on your left. And on the west side or your right-hand
5 side is the 46-kV line. During the last pause, Pause 6,
6 I mentioned that we would replace the wood poles that
7 were very similar -- I think we've confirmed with our
8 engineers that we're able to use those existing poles, so
9 from that point along Mt. Hopkins Road down to the
10 substation, we'll be able to make use of those existing
11 poles as they are today. We would have to replace the
12 conductor.

13 CHMN STAFFORD: And then you would just
14 underbuild the 46?

15 MR. BRYNER: No, the 46 will be able to be
16 retired as part of this project. Once we have two 138-kV
17 coming to Kantor, we have a full backup at that point, no
18 need to have a partial backup.

19 CHMN STAFFORD: Member Little?

20 MEMBER LITTLE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

21 I'm curious, engineering brain, why is the
22 insulators -- or are the insulators on the 138 and 46 the
23 same size? Confused me.

24 MR. BRYNER: So the way that -- so this
25 line, the way that -- I'm going to speak from TEP and

1 UNSE's perspective on 46-kV lines. So we engineer our
2 46-kV lines to accommodate to a 138-kV standard. So the
3 reason for that is for simplicity's sake. It means we
4 have to stock one set of insulators, one type of poles,
5 one type of hardware, all those things. So while it may
6 cost an incremental amount more, maybe over-engineered on
7 the 46-kV side, the savings is greater in the long run
8 because we have those economies of scale.

9 MEMBER LITTLE: So the insulators can also
10 remain, all you have to do is reconductor?

11 MR. BRYNER: Absolutely.

12 You see the Public Notice sign there? So
13 that is for Case 176, the Nogales tap to Kantor to
14 rebuild is the line on the east side here. So at the
15 time -- so that's so we can rebuild that line. So this,
16 again, is the portion -- this is a single-circuit
17 configuration. If you look further south, past the
18 Kantor Substation, you'll notice the poles with all the
19 insulators, all three insulators on one side, those are
20 double-circuit capable poles. North of here they're only
21 single-circuit capable. So that's why the solution for
22 phase 1 could not involve double-circuiting the existing
23 line, because we can't take that line out of service to
24 rebuild it. We need to have a separate path.

25 CHMN STAFFORD: Any other questions from

1 members?

2 Member Fant?

3 MEMBER FANT: Thank you, sir.

4 What are the growth rates in this area?

5 What are the growth rates here in this area?

6 MR. BRYNER: In Santa Cruz County?

7 MEMBER FANT: Santa Cruz and deep south
8 Pima County.

9 MR. BRYNER: So Pima County is served by
10 TEP. Santa Cruz County is served by UNSE. So for UNS
11 Electric, the residential growth rates are not great.
12 But there is certainly growth in electrical load. The
13 warehouse industry is growing a lot. We did have a case
14 a couple of years ago for a new mine down here, so -- so
15 electrical needs are growing. And similar in Pima
16 County, they're growing, but more residential growth also
17 in Pima County.

18 MEMBER FANT: Thank you.

19 CHMN STAFFORD: Any other questions from
20 members?

21 (No response.)

22 CHMN STAFFORD: Well, that concludes the
23 tour. So I guess we will recess and go to lunch. I
24 think our plan is to be back in the hearing room by 1:30.

25 MR. BRYNER: I think that will be very

1 doable.

2 CHMN STAFFORD: All right. Excellent. So
3 let's take our lunch recess now and we plan on
4 reconvening back in the hearing room at 1:30. Off the
5 record.

6 (TIME NOTED: 11:23 a.m.)

7 (Conclusion of Stop No. 7.)

8 (Tour concluded at 11:23 a.m.)

9 (The hearing resumed at 2:07 p.m.)

10 CHMN STAFFORD: All right. Let's go back
11 on the record. We have completed our tour.

12 Mr. Ancharski, please proceed.

13 BY MR. ANCHARSKI:

14 Q. All right. Good afternoon, everyone, we're
15 going to start back up with the overview of the
16 alternative route. As you recall at the end of the day
17 yesterday we flipped to the virtual tour just in advance
18 of the physical tour today. So we're going to go back
19 over -- Mr. Bryner's going to start, we are on panel 2,
20 so Mr. Chris Ortiz y Pino will also be joining Mr. Bryner
21 on this panel, so with that, Clark, I'll let you take it
22 away.

23 A. (MR. BRYNER) Thank you.

24 So, again, some of this is going to be more
25 familiar to you now that we've seen it in the field,

1 nonetheless I still want to cover some of these details
2 and make sure you know what's going on with respect to
3 this route in the same way that you learned about the
4 preferred route.

5 So for the alternative route, again, I'll begin
6 my description by beginning at the Canoa Ranch
7 Substation. So as we saw today in the field, the
8 alternative route follows the exact same path as the
9 preferred route coming out of the Canoa -- Canoa Ranch
10 Substation. So any of the impacts to the adjacent
11 neighborhood, The Springs, and other neighborhoods, the
12 viewsheds, any resources would be identical in this area
13 for either the preferred or alternative route. And where
14 they deviate is really at the eastern edge of the Canoa
15 Ranch Conservation Park, where the preferred route goes
16 south and the alternative route heads to the east.

17 It heads to the east across, primarily, State
18 Trust Lands, but as you can see in the image on slide 40,
19 it does cross a portion of private lands. The route --
20 the alternative route then cuts to the south, again, this
21 is a half section line to the south on State Trust Lands
22 and crosses underneath the existing 138-kV Vail to Kantor
23 transmission line. And then crosses along the edge of
24 the Elephant Head community. Key Observation Point 5 is
25 from that eastern edge of the Elephant Head community and

1 in fact it's where we stopped on our -- our route tour
2 today, I believe it was actually Stop 5 on the route
3 tour. This was the Elephant Head trailhead.

4 So looking at the actual simulation on slide 42,
5 you can see the existing condition. So this is more or
6 less where we stood during our stop. You can see the
7 Elephant Head formation in the background, the rest of
8 the Santa Rita range behind it. So, again, this is the
9 edge of the residential neighborhood, also a recreation
10 opportunity for those using that trail.

11 And there is really nothing interrupting the
12 natural views, apart from -- from the road, the dirt
13 roadway. Looking at the bottom of slide 42, this is a
14 simulation of what the alternative route would look like
15 if it were built in this area. So here you can see the
16 structures in the foreground and extending towards the
17 south between us and those Santa Rita Mountains.

18 So that would result in a moderate visual impact
19 to residents in the area, as well as to recreation users
20 of the trail from this viewpoint. Oh, and just as a way
21 of reference, that closest structure, the one on the
22 left-hand side, is 255 feet from where this photo was
23 taken.

24 So just a little bit further south from that
25 location, and we didn't go there on the tour, but this is

1 within the residential area of Elephant Head is our Key
2 Observation Point 6. So this photo is taken to the
3 southeast and, again, represents a view from that
4 residential area. This key observation point is actually
5 broken into two separate frames, so that we can see a
6 wider angle of view.

7 The top photo on slide 44 represents the
8 existing condition today. And this is near the end of
9 Monarch Way within -- within that community. So in this
10 photo, you can see the rural nature of the residential
11 area and you can see the northern edge of the Santa Rita
12 Mountains, extending on the right-hand side of the photo.
13 Looking at the bottom graphic that illustrates the
14 simulated condition from this same location if the
15 alternative route were constructed. There is a structure
16 almost by the gate right there on the right-hand side of
17 the photo.

18 I do also want to point out before I go to the
19 next slide, this wall on the extreme right side of the
20 photo, because you're going to see that same wall in this
21 next simulation. Okay. So I've just advanced over to
22 slide 45. So, again, this is that same key observation
23 point but now we're just continuing to pan around, so to
24 point out that wall we saw in slide 44.

25 So, again, the top -- the top photo is the

1 existing condition, the Elephant Head formation. Again,
2 you can see the rural nature of the residential area. In
3 the bottom photo is the simulated condition. And in the
4 background, you can see structures extending across the
5 horizon.

6 So in this case, the new transmission line would
7 be apparent from any views towards the Santa Rita
8 Mountains or towards Elephant Head, and would result in a
9 moderate visual impact to the residents in this area.
10 And also for frame of reference, that closest structure
11 from this view is 850 feet. So looking again at slide
12 43, the alternative route, then so just south of where we
13 were at, the alternative route cuts to the west and back
14 to the same alignment as the existing 138 Vail to Kantor
15 transmission line. And more or less follows that same
16 line all the way into the Kantor Substation across State
17 Trust Lands, but we discussed those slight deviations, I
18 think when we were going through the virtual tour
19 yesterday, there are those couple of jogs around the
20 residential area. And that's because there's not space
21 for us to acquire additional right-of-way through the
22 neighborhood itself and continue to parallel the existing
23 transmission line.

24 CHMN STAFFORD: Member Little?

25 MEMBER LITTLE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

1 In the application when you're discussing -- I'm jumping
2 back to the other end of this line, which is the same as
3 the -- exiting the Canoa Ranch Substation, so it's the
4 same for both the preferred and the alternate route, the
5 sentence "There are approximately nine residences on the
6 northern end of the route in the southeast corner of The
7 Springs community within 1,000 feet of the alternative
8 route," and also the other one, the preferred one, "with
9 potential views of less than one minute to multiple-hour
10 duration depending on the exact placement. The poles in
11 this area would be between the residences and views to
12 the Santa Rita Mountains."

13 We looked at the simulations yesterday for
14 those, and I'm just wondering where -- on the tour today,
15 I didn't really see any -- much of any impact of the
16 proposed route or where the lines would be for both the
17 proposed and the alternative for those residences. Can
18 you maybe point out on the map that's up here now, slide
19 43, where those residences are and maybe give me
20 some -- I didn't see a line going in front of any
21 residences, I guess is what I'm saying between them and
22 the mountains. Did I miss something?

23 CHMN STAFFORD: Member Kryder?

24 MEMBER KRYDER: Yes, Member Little, can you
25 speak into your microphone a little better? Thank you

1 very much.

2 MR. BRYNER: I was able to hear you, Member
3 Little, so I'm okay to answer that. So just to clarify
4 and make sure I'm talking about the same thing. So from
5 within The Springs neighborhood where we made our first
6 stop, just on the north side of the Canoa Ranch
7 Substation, that's where you're referencing in the
8 application, the description with the nine homes within
9 1,000 feet?

10 MEMBER LITTLE: Yes.

11 MR. BRYNER: Okay. So what we were talking
12 about there, so obviously the Santa Rita Mountains are to
13 the southeast of there, and so there is an existing line
14 that we were looking at that was between those homes
15 today and the views towards the Santa Rita Mountains, in
16 that area. So it's that same view that is impeded today
17 by the existing line that would be impeded in the future.

18 We have that as a low impact because
19 there's existing, you know, forms, lines, and colors that
20 are similar within that view compared to what we would be
21 introducing. And so it doesn't add any additional impact
22 to those existing homes. And, as you saw today, it would
23 actually be located further away and because the way the
24 vegetation grows and other things, they may not be very
25 apparent at all, even if not visible.

1 MEMBER LITTLE: Okay. So I didn't miss
2 anything, because it seemed to me that, you know, the way
3 it was written in the application made it sound like
4 there's going to be a transmission line here and there's
5 the mountains. And I did not see that at all, what I saw
6 was a pretty well-disguised area and what's being built
7 is further from the homes than what's already there.

8 MR. BRYNER: Your understanding is correct.

9 MEMBER LITTLE: Thank you.

10 MR. BRYNER: Mr. Ortiz y Pino is going to
11 chat about our planned land use.

12 MR. ORTIZ y PINO: Thank you, Mr. Bryner.

13 So very similar to the preferred route, the
14 alternative route diverges to the southwest and covers
15 the resource conservation land use designation and into
16 the low intensity rural land use designation in Pima
17 County. Again, Pima Prospers allows for utility
18 infrastructure in all zones and does not apply the
19 guidelines to the transmission structure construction.

20 As the preferred -- as the alternative
21 route crosses through -- into Santa Cruz County, again,
22 in the northwest character area of Santa Cruz County, by
23 following the existing utility corridor it maintains in
24 compliance with that general plan. Again, similarly to
25 the preferred route, in Pima County the alternative route

1 crosses through the rural homestead zone in 10 here,
2 which is an allowed use within that rural homestead zone
3 crossing into Santa Cruz County. Again, there is no
4 zoning designations on Arizona State Trust Lands, all the
5 way to the Kantor Substation, and thus, is in compliance.

6 And, again, similarly to the preferred
7 route, the alternative route crosses through several
8 designations of the Sonoran Desert conservation land
9 system categories, however, there are no rezonings or
10 other determinations necessary to permit this. And so it
11 does not trigger the conservation land system policies.

12 At this point it's also worth pointing out
13 that the Sonoran Desert Conservation Plan is only
14 applicable to Pima County and Santa Cruz County does not
15 have a similar plan in place.

16 MEMBER LITTLE: Mr. Chairman?

17 CHMN STAFFORD: Yes, Member Little.

18 MEMBER LITTLE: What is a "biological core
19 management area," what does that mean?

20 MR. ORTIZ y PINO: So the biological core
21 management area is an area that is being managed for its
22 biological resources. So it's something that Pima County
23 has placed higher conservation values to in terms of
24 conservation and protection of those resources.

25 MEMBER LITTLE: Thank you.

1 CHMN STAFFORD: So what does that entail
2 for the applicant to do to build in those areas as
3 opposed to an area that wasn't designated as a biological
4 core management area?

5 MR. ORTIZ y PINO: So because there's no
6 rezonings or other decisions that need to be made by the
7 Board of Supervisors, it doesn't trigger the
8 applicability of it at all.

9 CHMN STAFFORD: Okay. So it's a
10 distinction without a difference, then?

11 MR. ORTIZ y PINO: So if we were private
12 developers developing a subdivision in this area and
13 needed rezoning from a rural homestead zone to a more
14 intense use, we would then have to -- we would then be
15 triggering some of those policy or conservation policies
16 and would require mitigation lands or money in lieu of
17 conservation lands.

18 CHMN STAFFORD: Okay. But since it's a
19 permitted use as a utility for a transmission line,
20 that's -- none of that is required?

21 MR. ORTIZ y PINO: That's correct.

22 CHMN STAFFORD: Okay. Thank you.

23 MR. BRYNER: Okay. So back to biological
24 resources. So the resource is, as well as the impacts
25 for the alternative route, would be very similar to those

1 of the preferred route. The alternative route again
2 passes through a largely undeveloped area, primarily
3 through desert scrub, as you saw today. But it does get
4 into a little more woodland vegetative communities up
5 towards the Elephant Head area.

6 Again, there's no designated critical
7 habitat within the vicinity of the alternative route, but
8 the same three special status species do still have the
9 potential to occur. Those are the yellow-billed cuckoo,
10 the cactus ferruginous pygmy owl, as well as the Pima
11 Pineapple Cactus.

12 And looking at that higher landscape level
13 ecosystem, the alternative route is located within the
14 same wildlife corridors as the preferred route and in the
15 vicinity of the same important bird areas of the
16 preferred route. And, similarly, the alternative route
17 would not impact wildlife movement or either of the
18 important bird areas. And, again, similar to the
19 preferred route, the alternative route would not impact
20 riparian areas.

21 So many of the same recreation
22 opportunities in the vicinity of the alternative route
23 are the same as those of the preferred route. So that
24 includes the Canoa Ranch Conservation Park, the Juan
25 Batista de Anza National Historic Trail, with the one

1 additional recreation opportunity that is in the vicinity
2 of the alternative route, being the Elephant Head
3 trail -- trailhead and trail near the eastern edge of the
4 Elephant Head community.

5 However, any impact to recreation resources
6 as a result of the alternative route would be temporary
7 and limited to just those short periods of time during
8 construction. The alternative route, same as the
9 preferred, is not located within the vicinity of any
10 specifically designated scenic areas, however, several of
11 the recreation opportunities offer those open views of
12 nature, as well as the Santa Rita Mountains and those
13 would be affected in some areas by the alternative
14 transmission route.

15 In addition to the two key observation
16 points that we looked at from within The Springs
17 neighborhood near the Canoa Ranch Substation, we -- so
18 those ones were assessed as a low visual impact for the
19 alternative route, as well as the preferred route. We
20 did look at those two additional key observation points
21 with respect to the alternative route, Key Observation
22 Points 5 and 6. That represented views of residential
23 areas from within the Elephant Head community, as well as
24 recreation users of the Elephant Head trailhead.

25 Those visual impacts were classified as

1 moderate, because the current views from these homes and
2 the trailhead are generally of natural landscape towards
3 the Santa Rita Mountains, and the alternative route would
4 place structures in between the observers and the
5 mountains, interrupting those views. And, as I've
6 mentioned a number of times, preserving the views towards
7 the Santa Rita Mountains from the residential areas was
8 the most common concern that was raised by the community.

9 Now, within the 500-foot-wide siting
10 corridor requested for the alternative route, 37 percent
11 of it has been surveyed previously for cultural
12 resources. Those previous surveys identified nine known
13 cultural resource sites. Of those, one is listed on the
14 National Register of Historic Places and that's the same
15 one as with respect to the preferred route being the
16 Canoa Ranch Historic District and landscape. Seven of
17 those were eligible for listing on the National Register
18 of Historic Places, and there was one site that's
19 eligibility was unknown. So we, again, we treated that
20 as being eligible for purposes of our analysis.

21 Now, also, as I mentioned yesterday during
22 my testimony, in our discussions, consultation with SHPO,
23 they expressed a preference for this alternative route
24 over the preferred route, from a cultural resources
25 perspective, because it would place the line further from

1 known cultural resources that are included as part of the
2 Canoa Ranch historic landscaping district. I'll bypass
3 the virtual tour of the alternative route, unless you
4 want to see it again?

5 CHMN STAFFORD: No, thank you.

6 MR. BRYNER: Okay. We won't take that
7 personally. So, in summary, slide 55 is a side-by-side
8 summary comparison of the preferred and alternative
9 routes, with respect to the factors that I just
10 described. So this comparison is also included on your
11 placemats. It uses green smiley faces to illustrate the
12 factors that are not a concern or would have little
13 impact. It has a yellow meh face to illustrate a
14 moderate concern or impact. And a red frownie face to
15 indicate a larger impact or concern. So from a land use
16 perspective --

17 MEMBER KRYDER: Mr. Chairman?

18 CHMN STAFFORD: Yes, Member Kryder.

19 MEMBER KRYDER: This is a question, really,
20 for you, I think, to answer. In the final application
21 are we considering granting one or the other, that is,
22 the preferred or the alternative or are we planning to
23 consider both and, at their choice, depending on later
24 engineering issues?

25 CHMN STAFFORD: Well, I think we can

1 approach that a couple different ways. My understanding
2 of the ask is that the applicant is seeking one or the
3 other, not both. I mean, we've approved these projects
4 where we grant them a certificate to build in either/or
5 location, just not both, or we -- we've had applications
6 where they come to us with alternatives where we say
7 we've selected one and you can build that one alone.

8 So I think I'll ask the applicant again,
9 was their ask for one or the other or did they want to
10 have both approved to be able to build one or the other
11 later? I'm more inclined just to pick a route, approve
12 that route, and then let them go and build that.

13 MEMBER KRYDER: Thank you very much. That
14 would help clarify in my mind that we will look either at
15 the preferred or at the alternative as one or the other
16 not either/or.

17 CHMN STAFFORD: Mr. Ancharski?

18 MR. ANCHARSKI: Yes, Mr. Chairman and
19 Mr. Kryder. Mr. Chairman's understanding was correct.
20 We are looking for one or another. I'm seeing yeses from
21 Mr. Bryner. It would be one or the other. Although I
22 don't necessarily think we'd be opposed to a condition
23 that, you know, would allow, in the alternative, to
24 construct the second one, but I do believe the primary
25 request was one or the other.

1 CHMN STAFFORD: Thank you.

2 MR. BRYNER: Okay. Let me continue --

3 MEMBER KRYDER: Thank you very much.

4 MR. BRYNER: So I'll continue along with
5 this route comparison summary. So from a land use
6 perspective both of them received the yellow meh faces.
7 Now, as you heard from Mr. Ortiz y Pino, from a planned
8 land use perspective, both are compliant with all
9 existing plans. The reason we gave them this is because
10 they both go through the Canoa Ranch conservation area
11 that does require us to work with the County to remove a
12 piece of that from those restricted covenants. And so
13 it's just -- it's a land use that we need to work
14 through.

15 CHMN STAFFORD: But that's for either --
16 either one?

17 MR. BRYNER: Correct. And so that's why
18 they're both rated the same. It's not really a
19 distinguishing factor.

20 CHMN STAFFORD: And then for the cultural
21 resources portion, it seems that you said that SHPO
22 preferred the alternate route because of the proximity of
23 the line. And I'm assuming that's running along the
24 Canoa Ranch County Conservation Park, that's where the
25 cultural resources they were concerned about were?

1 MR. BRYNER: Yeah, so if you were to look
2 at a map of the cultural resources, a lot of those site
3 boundaries end at the edge of the conservation park,
4 because that's where the surveys ended. Now, in
5 actuality, do those sites actually end there? Probably
6 not. We don't know that yet because we haven't completed
7 additional surveys. Once we complete additional surveys,
8 we'll find out just where the edges are and also in a
9 lot of those -- for a lot of those sites, it's not like
10 the entire area is covered with artifacts or cultural
11 resources. In most cases, you're able to within that
12 site boundary even work around it with placement of our
13 structures.

14 CHMN STAFFORD: All right. And then plus
15 also at that -- along that edge of the conservation park
16 is you're also able to site the line on the east side of
17 that road as well?

18 MR. BRYNER: That's the flexibility we're
19 requesting, yes.

20 CHMN STAFFORD: So then, just assuming that
21 the cultural resources go all the way up to the edge, the
22 border of the -- you know, to the -- let's say beyond the
23 border of the County reservation [sic] park to -- into
24 the road easement, all the way up to where the road
25 exists, I'm assuming there's not -- if there were

1 cultural resources where the road is now then that's --
2 they've been either lost or mitigated or recorded or
3 something because the road's there. And then -- then the
4 other -- it's doubtful that the other side has the same
5 cultural resources because part -- a big chunk of that is
6 private land that's been developed, right?

7 MR. BRYNER: Correct.

8 CHMN STAFFORD: Okay. So it seems that
9 despite the concerns of SHPO about their preference for
10 the alternative route to avoid that, it seems to me that
11 along that portion of the route it's -- any impact on
12 cultural resources could be adequately mitigated.

13 MR. BRYNER: Correct. And I think
14 for -- from a direct impact to cultural resource sites, I
15 think we're fairly confident we'll be able to mitigate
16 that through avoidance, because we can shift our poles
17 north or south, kind of along that, and within that
18 500-foot corridor to avoid. One of their primary
19 concerns is not the direct impact, but the visual impact
20 to the landscape as a whole. But we shared with them the
21 visual -- the visual simulation from Key Observation
22 Point 4, I believe it is, from the historic Canoa Ranch,
23 looking over that area. And when they saw that their
24 concerns were lessened. Nonetheless, they didn't want to
25 make a determination, and I think it would be premature

1 of any of us to make a determination on those impacts
2 barring further consultation with them, with tribes, and
3 understanding what that landscape is.

4 And then if there is mitigation that would
5 be required, as a company we would follow that
6 mitigation. Whether that was performing an oral history
7 of the area, whether it was data recovery, that's sort of
8 the last-ditch thing, it's the most expensive, the most
9 intrusive, if that were required. There might be other
10 mitigation that could be possible. You know, there were
11 some existing structures on the Canoa Ranch, there might
12 be possibilities to remove some of those structures from
13 that landscape, different creative solutions that I think
14 could be discussed during consultation to mitigate those
15 concerns.

16 CHMN STAFFORD: All right. Now, refresh my
17 memory. From one of those stops along the tour, we
18 looked out and you can see the existing line, but we're
19 kind of looking down on it and the structures blended in
20 pretty well. Which stop was that?

21 MR. BRYNER: I think it was our Pause
22 Number 3.

23 CHMN STAFFORD: Pause Number 3. Right. I
24 think that was it. Because we're up near the side of the
25 highway, or the 19, looking east, south, looking over the

1 entire reservation park and the lines -- the existing
2 lines off in the distance, and it would seem
3 pretty -- with the weathered poles and the -- because
4 they're against the setting of the landscape and they
5 didn't stand out, they were -- since you were looking
6 down on it, it was just the ground wasn't -- the sky
7 was -- highlighted their existence.

8 MR. BRYNER: That's correct. And even from
9 the Canoa Ranch, so our Stop 2 that we made on the field
10 visit, while it's not as apparent as that Pause 3,
11 looking down, just the alluvial fan coming off of the
12 Santa Rita Mountains rises gently to the east, and so it
13 provides a backdrop for all of those poles. So, again,
14 that weathering steel pole really blends in well when it
15 has a natural backdrop behind it.

16 CHMN STAFFORD: And that's -- that seemed
17 to kind of, for SHPO, lessen their concerns, are those
18 the views that you're talking about that they saw?

19 MR. BRYNER: That's correct.

20 CHMN STAFFORD: Okay. That makes sense.

21 BY MR. ANCHARSKI:

22 Q. Mr. Bryner, while we're still on the cultural
23 resources, on this chart here there is an asterisk next
24 to both the smiley faces and at the bottom it shows after
25 mitigation. You talked a little bit about this with the

1 Chairman, but can you just please explain the smiley face
2 and what that asterisk is meant to emphasize?

3 A. (MR. BRYNER) Sure.

4 So, again, from a cultural resources standpoint
5 we've explained pretty clearly through our discussions
6 that there are concerns from a cultural resources
7 standpoint. But, as a company, through, you know,
8 placement of our poles, through use of the weathering
9 steel that blends in with this background, we feel that
10 those impacts can be mitigated. Again, this is -- this
11 is our opinion, in consultation with SHPO and the tribes,
12 they may be of a different opinion.

13 Q. And, Mr. Bryner, one of the CEC conditions that
14 is fairly standard at this point, but we've also proposed
15 in UNS-15 is consul- -- continued consultation with SHPO;
16 is that correct?

17 A. (MR. BRYNER) That's correct.

18 Q. Thank you. Please proceed.

19 I believe you were at proximity to homes,
20 although I think you may have touched on a few.

21 CHMN STAFFORD: Yeah, I jumped ahead a
22 little bit there.

23 MR. BRYNER: And that's totally fine.
24 Maybe I'll just kind of jump around to distinguishing
25 factors because many of them are similar for the

1 preferred and the alternative route. So when you look at
2 the residential visual impact, we discussed kind of why
3 the alternative route gets the frownie face it's because
4 it places structures in between homes and the mountain
5 views that are not there today.

6 For the -- for the preferred route, while,
7 as we discussed, from the Canoa Ranch and The Springs
8 neighborhood while it does technically put some
9 structures between homes and those mountains, there's
10 structures there today.

11 So less of a concern. And then from a
12 constructability standpoint, the reason why that
13 alternative route got that lower score or the meh face is
14 because it will require that we build the new line under
15 the existing 138-kV line while it's energized. So we can
16 do that but it's just more challenging, so that's the
17 factor that distinguished that. From a line length
18 perspective, obviously, the alternative route is longer,
19 so it gets a sad face. And from a line cost standpoint,
20 because it's longer, it costs more. And so it gets a
21 lower score.

22 You may also be wondering why a sad face
23 versus meh face on that. When we did this, we were
24 actually comparing it against five route alternatives
25 that we were considering. And so from an overall

1 perspective amongst those five routes, which we'll talk
2 about here in a few minutes, the alternative route was
3 actually the longest of all of them.

4 CHMN STAFFORD: Then on the cost, how come
5 it isn't a sad face and a meh face instead of a smiley
6 face and a meh face?

7 MR. BRYNER: So, yeah, again, it could have
8 gone either way. Relatively speaking, the alternative
9 route is less preferable than the preferred.

10 CHMN STAFFORD: Member Fant?

11 MEMBER FANT: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

12 All other conditions being equal,
13 geographically, so to speak, does the cost of the
14 transmission line increase on a linear basis the longer
15 it gets or are there efficiencies if the transmission
16 line's shorter or longer?

17 MR. BRYNER: Well, certainly you have fixed
18 costs with any construction project, you know, to get
19 crews, get equipment, everything out there that are going
20 to be -- whether it's one structure or whether it's a
21 hundred structures. So those are going to be fixed.
22 But, in general, you can say the longer it is, it's going
23 to cost more, just because you have more materials, more
24 labor, all those things. But there are efficiencies
25 where your costs per structure might come down.

1 MEMBER FANT: So more or less linear?

2 MR. BRYNER: Yes.

3 MEMBER FANT: Okay. Thank you.

4 BY MR. ANCHARSKI:

5 Q. Mr. Bryner, is it also true that another
6 characteristic that could change the cost is land
7 ownership, the need to acquire land or use existing
8 right-of-ways, that could also be a factor?

9 A. (MR. BRYNER) Thank you for the prompt. And yes,
10 that is a major factor as well. Different -- we have
11 franchise agreements with Pima County, so we can be
12 located within their right-of-way. Arizona State Trust
13 Land, they're going to have different rates for securing
14 leases. Private land, we're going to secure private land
15 easements, which will generally market value. There's
16 all those factors that go into it as well, in addition to
17 your construction costs.

18 So but, in general, really, we selected the
19 preferred route over the alternative primarily because it
20 was the shortest, the least cost, and overall, it had the
21 highest environmental compatibility.

22 BY MR. ANCHARSKI:

23 Q. All right. With that we're ready to start our
24 third panel. So I'm going to ask Ms. Adriana Mariñez to
25 join Mr. Bryner to lead this panel. We don't need to

1 swear Ms. Mariñez in. She was sworn in yesterday
2 afternoon, but I will go through a few questions and then
3 I'll let her explain her background and expertise.

4 So, Ms. Mariñez, will you please state your name
5 and business address for the record?

6 A. (MS. MARIÑEZ) Adriana Mariñez, 88 East Broadway,
7 Tucson, Arizona.

8 Q. And by whom are you employed and in what
9 capacity?

10 A. (MS. MARIÑEZ) Tucson Electric Power and
11 UniSource Energy Services as the senior siting outreach
12 and engagement project manager.

13 Q. And what's your role in this matter?

14 A. (MS. MARIÑEZ) I assisted Mr. Bryner with the
15 public outreach and engagement.

16 Q. Please turn to Exhibit UNS-5, which is the
17 testimony summary of Adriana Mariñez.

18 Was Exhibit UNS-5 prepared by you or under your
19 direction and control?

20 A. (MS. MARIÑEZ) Yes.

21 Q. Are the contents true and correct, to the best
22 of your knowledge?

23 A. (MS. MARIÑEZ) Yes.

24 Q. And do you have any changes you would like to
25 make to UNS-5?

1 A. (MS. MARIÑEZ) No.

2 Q. All right. I'm just going to ask you to provide
3 some additional details on your background and expertise.

4 A. (MS. MARIÑEZ) So I have a bachelor of arts in
5 political science from the University of Arizona and a
6 master's of administration in public management from
7 Northern Arizona University. I have 10 years of
8 experience in the electric utility industry and two and a
9 half years have been in this role. And my background is
10 mostly in public policy and government and community
11 relations. Prior to working for the company, I worked
12 for the City of Tucson City Manager's Office, and I
13 worked for a local public involvement firm.

14 Q. All right. Thank you.

15 And I'm going to ask Mr. Bryner to jump back in.

16 A. (MR. BRYNER) Okay. So as a company, you've seen
17 this -- this or a similar slide to this certainly before
18 in other cases we've brought before you, but we follow a
19 comprehensive siting process, that's integrated with
20 robust public and stakeholder outreach and engagement
21 that allows us to learn about community values specific
22 to that project, and it allows us to let those values
23 shape the siting of the project. And, ultimately, the
24 transmission line route or routes that we propose in our
25 CEC application.

1 That approach, which is shown on slide 58 in a
2 basic format, is what we followed to develop the two
3 route alternatives that are under consideration in this
4 hearing. So Ms. Mariñez and I will walk you through each
5 phase of this process, including what we did, and what we
6 learned through outreach and engagement efforts at each
7 stage.

8 So the first phase of the siting process we call
9 our pre-analysis phase. During this phase we conducted
10 field visits, performed high-level desktop analysis so
11 that we could characterize the area and then we looked at
12 the project end points. In this case, the Canoa Ranch
13 and Kantor Substations, along with high-level
14 opportunities for a transmission line, and we defined the
15 boundaries of the siting study area.

16 The siting study area, which is illustrated with
17 a black line and highlighted in the map on slide 59
18 represents the area within which a route for the proposed
19 transmission line would be considered. Then within the
20 siting study area the internal project team identified
21 opportunities. These represented areas where it would
22 make the most sense to construct the new transmission
23 line that included things like co-location with other
24 major utility lines locating it along major roads within
25 developed areas, allowing essentially any road within

1 undeveloped areas along railroads and along large
2 property boundaries. So those opportunities that we
3 identified are illustrated in the green lines on the map
4 on slide 60.

5 At the same time, we also looked at constraints
6 to constructing a transmission line. So a constraint
7 doesn't necessarily mean we can't build there, it just
8 means there's some type of a challenge that will make it
9 more complicated.

10 So the constraints that we identified are
11 illustrated with red lines and red hatching on the map on
12 slide 61. So those constraints included things like
13 residential areas, the Pima County sensitive lands. They
14 also included railroads and interstate highways, which
15 also were noted as opportunities on the prior map, and
16 that's just because when you work within the railroad
17 rights-of-way or interstate highway rights-of-way, you
18 have some other restrictions that you need to work within
19 to make sure that those primary uses are left intact.

20 So these opportunities and constraints were then
21 shared with our stakeholders and the public for their
22 review and an opportunity for them to add additional
23 opportunities and constraints.

24 Q. Ms. Mariñez -- I'm sorry, Mr. Chairman, were you
25 going to --

1 CHMN STAFFORD: No, no, please question
2 your witness.

3 MR. ANCHARSKI: Thank you.

4 Q. Ms. Mariñez, before we move on to this slide or
5 go through this slide, would you please turn to Exhibit
6 UNS-9, which is the summary of public outreach conducted
7 with respect to this project for all phases of outreach
8 and engagement.

9 Have you seen this document before?

10 A. (MS. MARIÑEZ) Yes.

11 Q. And was this prepared by you or under your
12 direction and control?

13 A. (MS. MARIÑEZ) Yes.

14 Q. And was this document provided in response to
15 the Chairman's procedural order, specifically paragraph
16 16?

17 A. (MS. MARIÑEZ) Yes.

18 Q. And does this summary accurately convey the
19 public outreach performed by UNSE that you're about to
20 walk through in this matter?

21 A. (MS. MARIÑEZ) It does.

22 Q. And does Exhibit UNS-9 contain the updates found
23 in the notice of errata, which has been marked as UNS-21
24 that was discussed at the beginning of the hearing?

25 A. (MS. MARIÑEZ) Yes.

1 Q. All right. Please continue.

2 A. (MS. MARIÑEZ) For our first round of outreach
3 and engagement, we solicited feedback on the study area
4 and opportunities and constraints. We sent mailers to
5 4,500 recipients. This included property owners,
6 residents, businesses, agencies, tribal communities, and
7 other interested parties.

8 We also placed flyers and street signage in
9 high-traffic areas and because of close proximity to the
10 Mexican border, we also placed Spanish radio ads.

11 As is customary, we placed ads in local
12 newspapers and used geo-targeted Facebook and Instagram
13 ads. We also had English and Spanish websites with
14 project maps, updates, materials, an online comment form,
15 among other resources.

16 Early in the project, we identified 60 agency
17 partners that included local, state, and federal
18 agencies, other utilities, and the business community.
19 And we held our first agency briefing in April of 2024,
20 and we had 11 participants. We also held -- for each
21 round of outreach we held two public meetings, one in the
22 morning in Green Valley and one in the evening in Amado.

23 And we did this because we had partnered early
24 on with the Green Valley Council. The Green Valley
25 Council is a local civic advocacy group, and we wanted to

1 know how best to reach the community. Because it is a
2 retirement community, they recommended that we have a
3 morning meeting and that it be presentation style. So we
4 did just that for the Green Valley community. Although
5 our meetings were open to anyone within the study area.
6 For our first morning meeting in Green Valley, we had 20
7 participants and we had 18 participants at our evening
8 meeting.

9 Also early on in the project, we identified
10 elected officials with jurisdiction within the project
11 study area, and we notified them of the project through
12 regular email updates and we offered individual
13 briefings.

14 We did meet early on with Nathalia Untiveros,
15 with Governor Hobbs's Southern Arizona office,
16 Representative Stephanie Stahl Hamilton of the Arizona
17 House of Representatives and Supervisor Bruce Bracker of
18 the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors.

19 MEMBER KRYDER: Mr. Chairman?

20 CHMN STAFFORD: Yes, Member Kryder.

21 MEMBER KRYDER: Ms. Mariñez, I read with a
22 great deal of interest reading through the process and,
23 as you know, I was at both of those meetings since I'm a
24 resident out in Green Valley. And it's a great deal of
25 interest how my neighbors responded to you all. And then

1 looking at the various models that were built -- I'm
2 trying to keep in the microphone here -- where you looked
3 at all of the different factors, existing plans,
4 biological resources, noise and communication, scenic and
5 cultural resources, total environment, construction and
6 maintenance, and outreach.

7 And I saw, then, how these were weighted so
8 that you would come up with what did we start off with --
9 or what did you start off with, 100 and so many different
10 options, and finally narrowed it down so that we ended up
11 with the two total routes that we've got before us today.

12 My question gets down to the criteria 7,
13 that's the one, the outreach, which had a 10 percent
14 weight in the total analysis. How is that -- did you
15 count the number of complaints or did you count the
16 number of smiley faces or how do you come up with we're
17 going to give this one a 7 out of 10 percent, and this
18 one a 2 out of 10 percent? Just help me put together
19 what looks, from the outside, like a very subjective
20 thing being put in a very objective template.

21 MS. MARIÑEZ: Member Kryder, I'm going to
22 ask Mr. Bryner to cover that.

23 MEMBER KRYDER: Speak into the microphone a
24 little closer. There you go.

25 MS. MARIÑEZ: I'm going to ask Mr. Bryner

1 to cover that.

2 MEMBER KRYDER: Oh. Okay. Great.

3 MR. BRYNER: Member Kryder, first of all, I
4 want to thank you for giving my testimony for me. But,
5 no, so that's a great question about the -- how we did
6 that. So when we were looking at the public feedback, it
7 wasn't specific to those segments that we were looking
8 at, it was specific to those other models that you
9 mentioned, the land use, the visual impacts, things like
10 that. And so looking at comments that were specific to
11 those factors or those concerns, and so if the public
12 had -- so for one, for instance, viewsheds towards the
13 mountains from residential areas, number one concern. So
14 when we looked at providing public weight to those, then
15 those received an added measure and the 10 percent
16 weight, it depended on the model you were looking at, so
17 the model that was based on -- on public preference, it
18 looked at visual impacts and it weighted those, I'd have
19 to look for sure, but somewhere like 50 percent. So 50
20 percent of the model weight was based on viewshed
21 impacts. So that -- that's how we took into
22 consideration that public feedback.

23 MEMBER KRYDER: Thank you very much. I
24 guess I was putting it into my own experience. I think
25 that's how really all of us function. We take our own

1 experience and try put it together with the templates
2 that y'all are giving us. Many years ago I was a
3 classroom teacher and, as we know as parents and those
4 who have been teachers, you always have that
5 parent-teacher conference thing. And if you happen to be
6 the teacher, and you happen to have Johnny or Mary or
7 whoever it might be and their parents come in and you've
8 got one who is just super irate with you, and has some
9 legitimate complaints, as compared to another parent who
10 also has legitimate complaints, but is not so boisterous
11 about it.

12 The tendency, quite frankly, on the teacher
13 was to give more weight to the loud mouth than it was to
14 the gentleman or the gentle person. And I say that,
15 having done that, and looking at your models, as I read
16 through them, being concerned about how to sort out the
17 problem from the volume that the person has turned up on
18 it. And if you do that well, I take my hat off to you,
19 and it's -- can you give me just a little bit more on how
20 do you sort out the bad boy from the loud mouth?

21 MR. BRYNER: So thank you, Member Kryder,
22 for pointing out the most challenging part about public
23 engagement. So, yeah, obviously, you have your loud
24 voices that if you're in a room, you might have one or
25 two people of a certain opinion that drown out everyone

1 else. We really try to do our best to say it doesn't
2 matter what the volume is, they are a concern and their
3 concern is as important as the concern of that person who
4 simply wrote their comment down on a piece of paper and
5 handed it to us. But it's -- it's challenging to not
6 give added weight to those loud voices who take, you
7 know, say, 90 percent of your time to address their
8 concerns.

9 But, again, it's not a vote in our minds,
10 you know, a lot of times you'll get form letters and
11 things like that sent in to you, and they all say the
12 exact same thing. That's great, we're not tallying those
13 up. It's really an overall sentiment that we collect
14 from the community in trying to gauge where's the
15 community at, what are their concerns. And trying to
16 bring the volume down from those loud ones so that it's
17 on equal footing as with the others. Again, it's an
18 imperfect science. We do our best, but I won't say that
19 we've got it figured out.

20 MEMBER KRYDER: Thank you very much. And,
21 actually, to my colleagues on the committee and to the
22 others here, I saw the members of you and your team
23 really do a great job in both of the public meetings that
24 I was there. There were some people who were pretty edgy
25 and you seemed to -- you all seemed to have handled them

1 very well. And I thank you for it.

2 MR. BRYNER: Thank you. We appreciate
3 that.

4 BY MR. ANCHARSKI:

5 Q. And, Mr. Bryner and, I guess, Ms. Mariñez, as
6 well, the process we're about to walk through is really
7 an attempt to clarify kind of the problem that Mr. Kryder
8 just pointed out; is that correct?

9 A. (MS. MARIÑEZ) Yes.

10 Q. And I will also point out or I guess ask
11 Ms. Mariñez and Mr. Bryner the suitability analysis that
12 Member Kryder was referring to is on an upcoming slide,
13 and you'll go through that in further detail; is that
14 also correct?

15 A. (MS. MARIÑEZ) Yes.

16 A. (MR. BRYNER) But if Member Kryder wants to do it
17 for us, we'll gladly oblige.

18 Q. It sounds like he did his reading, so he'll get
19 a gold star for the day.

20 All right. Please continue.

21 A. (MS. MARIÑEZ) So at our first public meeting in
22 Green Valley, we heard from residents from the Canoa
23 Canyon Estates neighborhood. And Canoa Canyon Estates is
24 located directly west of Canoa Ranch Substation and west
25 of I-19. And the reason they wanted to meet on-site was

1 that -- or they asked for a meeting on-site and we did
2 oblige after that morning meeting was that they wanted us
3 to see Duval Waterline Road for ourselves.

4 We had identified Duval Waterline Road as an
5 opportunity. And along Duval Waterline Road is an
6 existing transmission line or there is an existing
7 transmission line along that road. It's double-circuited
8 and that line serves the mine, the Sierrita mine, which
9 is just west of that neighborhood. And the line is very
10 close to homes already. And there's very little to no
11 room for an additional line. And they wanted us to see
12 that, so we did. And that opportunity was later removed
13 from consideration.

14 We also, as a result of our first agency
15 briefing, we heard from Pima County that they wanted to
16 share the restrictive covenants that were tied to the
17 conservation park, and so that really kicked off our
18 collaboration with Pima County to look into modifying
19 those restrictive covenants. We received 35 comments
20 during this round of outreach. And important factors
21 included mountain views, as we've discussed, property
22 values, cost, plant and wildlife, and recreation. So as
23 a result of all of this outreach and engagement, we -- we
24 knew that the restrictive covenants would be challenging
25 to modify, that they would take time, and that that was

1 worth exploring and we also didn't want to put all of our
2 eggs in one basket, so we wanted to look at other -- and
3 we knew we wanted to look at other interconnection
4 options as well. And so that's what we did. At this
5 point we really hit pause and we restarted our phase 1
6 siting and outreach process.

7 A. (MR. BRYNER) Yeah, so as Ms. Mariñez stated, so
8 we worked with the County for about a year before we did
9 this, and we did other research on other places that we
10 might be able to interconnect the project, apart from the
11 Canoa Ranch Substation. And so as a result of this, we
12 wanted to expand the study area and add some additional
13 interconnection options for the project. And since this
14 project is -- or since our process is a planning process,
15 it's intended to be iterative, which means that, hey, if
16 we learn something along the way that changes an earlier
17 premise that we were operating under that we can return
18 to an earlier step in the process and repeat it. And so
19 that's exactly what we did. Since we were in the first
20 phase of the process here, we moved along a little bit,
21 we returned back to the very beginning.

22 So this is not Groundhog Day, but again, we
23 conducted field visits, we conducted a high-level desktop
24 analysis so that we could characterize this new study
25 area. We added the interconnection options, various

1 interconnection options. Let me point those out. So we
2 added an interconnection option near the town of
3 Sahuarita.

4 We also added in the possibility of
5 interconnecting at our existing Green Valley Substation,
6 and we added in a potential interconnection option with a
7 new switchyard west of Interstate 19. And the area that
8 Ms. Mariñez was discussing where those residents were
9 concerned about the existing line was right in this area,
10 so it was west of that area on land owned by
11 Freeport-McMoRan.

12 So as a result of the siting -- or as a result
13 of this, we expanded the siting study area substantially
14 to the area that's outlined in black and highlighted in
15 slide 65. And then, again, the internal project team
16 identified opportunities within this expanded siting
17 study area where it might make sense to construct a new
18 transmission line. And so those opportunities are
19 identified in green on the map on slide 66.

20 And, again, we identified constraints to
21 constructing a transmission line so those, again, are
22 shown in the red lines and red hatching in the map on
23 slide 67.

24 A. (MS. MARIÑEZ) So our objective for this phase 1
25 reboot was to solicit feedback on the newly expanded

1 study area and newly identified opportunities and
2 constraints and preliminary segments. And we notified
3 the public through similar methods listed here on slide
4 68. Only this time our mailing list was much larger. We
5 now had 17,000 recipients instead of the 4,500 since we
6 were dealing with a much larger study area. And this
7 time around, since we had started to collect email
8 addresses, we also sent email updates to those who had
9 opted in for -- for updates. And everything listed here,
10 by the way, on slide 68 with the asterisks was done by --
11 in both English and Spanish.

12 In early 2025, we also met with the four
13 southern tribes, the four southern tribes is made up of
14 the Tohono O'odham Nation, Salt River Pima Maricopa
15 Indian Community, Gila River Indian Community, and
16 Ak-Chin Indian Community. And that meeting was done as a
17 recommendation that we received from the SHPO. We also
18 held our agency briefing, which was attended by 19
19 participants, and then we had our morning meeting in
20 Green Valley attended by 47 and our evening meeting in
21 Amado attended by 17.

22 At this stage, we also sent an informal
23 consultation letter to tribal communities with ancestral
24 affiliation within the study area. And we were able to
25 brief the Ft. McDowell Yavapai Nation on March 19th of

1 2025. We had also continued our notifications to the
2 elected officials and their staff, and we were able to
3 brief Mayor Jorge Maldonado from the City of Nogales and
4 Beth Borozan with Supervisor Steve Christy's office with
5 Pima County.

6 We also offered -- we regularly offered meetings
7 with neighborhoods within the study area, and at this
8 time we had met with The Springs at their regular
9 meeting. And at the time we were exploring the option,
10 and I think you've probably heard this or seen it in the
11 comments but we were exploring the option of potentially
12 using the southern boundary of that neighborhood as a
13 potential corridor for the transmission line so that we
14 could avoid putting the line along that -- along the
15 conservation park.

16 And we heard from the community, and they were
17 very much opposed to the idea. They very much value
18 their nature walking path, which you got to see this
19 morning at the tour, and their dog park. And so we did
20 listen to those concerns, and I think some of you heard
21 Bruce Grieshaber -- I believe that's right. Bruce is the
22 president to The Springs, and he relayed this morning
23 that he and the neighborhood, they're very happy with the
24 result.

25 It is now part of our proposal to go on the

1 south of the substation and then east, heading east with
2 either the preferred or alternative route and minimize
3 impacts to the views to the Santa Ritas. The comments we
4 received at this point, we received many more comments
5 because this was a larger study area, but they very much
6 mirrored the comments that we had heard during the first
7 phase of outreach.

8 So as a result, we continued our collaboration
9 with Pima County and we continued to assess the viability
10 of the other interconnection options that Mr. Bryner had
11 mentioned, including the substation in Sahuarita, and the
12 Green Valley Substation in Green Valley.

13 A. (MR. BRYNER) Okay. So during the -- that round
14 of public and stakeholder outreach that we conducted that
15 Ms. Mariñez just went over, in addition to sharing the
16 opportunities and constraints that I showed on previous
17 slides, we also showed a draft version of our preliminary
18 segments, which are shown in orange on slide 70. So
19 those were shown to the public and stakeholders. And
20 they were able to comment on additional opportunities
21 that might become segments for consideration in our
22 siting process.

23 So the way we develop these preliminary segments
24 is they come directly from opportunities. So we see
25 there's an opportunity, there's a place that it might

1 make sense to put a transmission line, and then one of
2 our engineers looks at that and says, "Can I build a
3 transmission line here?," if they say, yes, it can be
4 done reasonably then it becomes a preliminary segment,
5 that will then be subject to further scrutiny and
6 analysis at later steps in our process. If they say no,
7 then it's eliminated.

8 So these segments, again, they're simply
9 sections of a line that could be a pieced together or
10 combined to form a full route between point A and point
11 B. So the result of our -- the first phase of our siting
12 process was the identification of 177 preliminary
13 segments.

14 Phase 2 of the siting process consisted of
15 gathering data so both spacial data as well as written
16 data through reports and things like that that we would
17 use for a basis for further analysis of those preliminary
18 segments. And now to tag onto what Member Kryder already
19 shared about phase 3 on our suitability assessment, we
20 created eight different criteria models using geographic
21 information systems, or GIS, to represent spatial
22 evaluation criteria. So that existed or that included
23 existing plans, biological resources, noise and
24 communication, cultural and historic resources, visual
25 resources, total environment, existing and future

1 residential properties and construction and maintenance.

2 So the maps on slide 72, shown on the screen are
3 pretty small, but details of this analysis can be found
4 in Appendix B of the siting study, which is part of
5 Exhibit B to our CEC application.

6 Q. Mr. Bryner, for the record, is that page 78 of
7 the application? Subject to check.

8 A. (MR. BRYNER) Yeah, I have in my notes 77,
9 thereabouts.

10 Q. The cover page is 77, yes.

11 A. (MR. BRYNER) Okay. So each of those criteria
12 models, so remember there were eight criteria models that
13 were created, they were combined and weighted
14 differently, as Member Kryder indicated, to create four
15 separate composite suitability models. So each of these
16 models represents a different perspective to evaluate
17 those factors that were most important to you.

18 So we created one model that was balanced, in
19 other words, every criteria model was equally weighted.
20 We created one model that was slanted towards
21 constructability. One that gave extra weight to
22 environmental factors. And a fourth model that weighed
23 the criteria that had been expressed by the public and
24 stakeholders to be of primary importance.

25 So the 177 preliminary segments that we

1 identified during phase 1 were then evaluated through
2 each of these models. As a result, 106 of those segments
3 with lower suitability were removed from further
4 consideration in the siting study. These eliminated
5 segments are shown in the red dash lines on slide 74, and
6 that resulted in 71 segments that were carried forward
7 for detailed evaluation. And those segments are shown in
8 orange on the map.

9 It's also important to note that we eliminated
10 two of the potential interconnection options. So we
11 eliminated the one that was furthest north within the
12 town of Sahuarita, as well as the existing Green Valley
13 Substation. Both of those interconnection points would
14 have added substantial cost to the project and would have
15 resulted in greater community and environmental impact,
16 and just simply due to their length.

17 In addition, we'd made substantial progress in
18 our discussions with Pima County and we felt like we were
19 on a path forward to finding a way to use the Canoa Ranch
20 Substation.

21 A. (MS. MARIÑEZ) So our objective for this phase 3
22 of our siting study, outreach and engagement, was to
23 solicit feedback on the suitability assessment and
24 refined segments. And we used similar notification
25 methods to what we had used in previous rounds. And we

1 had our agency meeting, which was attended by 22
2 participants, and then we had our morning Green Valley
3 meeting attended by 64, and our evening Amado meeting
4 attended by 6.

5 We continued our collaboration with Pima County,
6 and we also began collaborating with other large property
7 owners in the area. And the public comments were similar
8 to what we had heard before, only this time there was a
9 strong desire for a west side option. One of the large
10 property owners that we had spoken to was
11 Freeport-McMoRan, or FMI, and that is when we were able
12 to offer this FMI interconnection option, which
13 Mr. Bryner's just described. We were also able to
14 eliminate the alternative substation locations, which he
15 also just covered.

16 CHMN STAFFORD: FMI.

17 MR. BRYNER: Freeport-McMoRan, Inc.

18 CHMN STAFFORD: Okay.

19 MR. BRYNER: Okay. So Phase 4 was a
20 detailed analysis that we conducted by subject matter
21 experts who reviewed each of the 71 route segments that
22 were still under consideration, with respect to
23 evaluation criteria that we had developed through our
24 public outreach and engagement process to reflect
25 community values. So subject matter experts included a

1 land use planner, a wildlife biologist, a landscape
2 architect, an archaeologist, an environmental planner, a
3 communications engineer, a system operator, transmission
4 and distribution engineers, a civil engineer, and a
5 right-of-way agent.

6 The compatibility analysis resulted in the
7 identification of five route alternatives and the
8 elimination of 26 route segments from further
9 consideration. The eliminated segments again are
10 illustrated in the map on slide 78, with a red dashed
11 line. And the five alternative routes are illustrated
12 with solid lines of differing colors.

13 So each of these routes were verified in
14 the field to confirm their viability and then we shared
15 them with stakeholders and the public. Two of these
16 routes, routes 4 and 5, originated at that potential new
17 switchyard location, west of Interstate 19. And the
18 other three routes designated as routes 1, 2, and 3 here,
19 originated at the existing Canoa Ranch Substation.

20 MS. MARIÑEZ: Our objective for this final
21 round of outreach was to solicit feedback on the route
22 alternatives and we notified the public, as listed here
23 on slide 79. We had 25 participants at our agency
24 briefing, and we had 130 participants at our Green Valley
25 morning meeting, and 15 participants at our evening Amado

1 meeting. We also offered a virtual option this time,
2 because so many residents in Green Valley are seasonal,
3 we wanted to have a virtual option for them, and we had
4 15 participants at that meeting.

5 We continued our collaboration with Pima
6 County, and we heard from the public. We received 171
7 comments during this final round of outreach, and we
8 heard widespread opposition to an I-19 route, or route 3,
9 and the west side options, which were routes 4 and 5.

10 At this point we had made significant
11 progress with the County to modify the restrictive
12 covenants, and we were comfortable with eliminating those
13 routes 3, 4, and 5. And we were able to select our
14 preferred route for your consideration.

15 MR. BRYNER: Okay. So, as Ms. Mariñez
16 shared, we received substantial opposition from the
17 public regarding route 3, which was located adjacent --
18 immediately adjacent to Interstate 19 due to visual
19 concerns. You saw some of those from that Pause 3 on our
20 tour. That route would have been located immediately in
21 front of where we were at right there. And we also
22 received substantial opposition to route 4, due to
23 proximity to homes. In addition, routes 4 and 5 were
24 originating at that potential new switchyard, which would
25 have added significantly to the overall cost of the

1 project.

2 So as a result, due to higher costs, lower
3 environmental compatibility, and public opposition,
4 routes 3, 4, and 5 were eliminated from consideration.
5 And the two remaining routes, what had then been known as
6 route 1 became our alternative route and route 2 became
7 our preferred route, which we carried forward in our CEC
8 application.

9 And, as was mentioned, route 2 was
10 identified as the preferred route, because generally
11 speaking, it was the shortest, it was the lowest cost.
12 And through our evaluation, we found that it had the
13 highest level of overall environmental compatibility.

14 CHMN STAFFORD: Member Little.

15 MEMBER LITTLE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

16 I just would like to, as an old electric
17 utility planner, old in several ways, I am very impressed
18 with the process that you used. We've seen it before. I
19 read every single one of those comments. And it was very
20 clear that you guys paid attention to what people were
21 saying and combined that with what you knew you had to do
22 in order to come up with routes that are the best. And
23 my compliments. Thank you.

24 MR. BRYNER: Thank you, Member Little.

25 I forgot I was supposed to talk. Actually,

1 I think it's Ms. Mariñez.

2 MS. MARIÑEZ: So we received a handful of
3 letters of support for the project from the City of
4 Nogales -- actually, from the mayor of the City of
5 Nogales, the Nogales Santa Cruz County Chamber of
6 Commerce, the chair of the Santa Cruz County Board of
7 Supervisors, and the Chamber of Southern Arizona.

8 BY MR. ANCHARSKI:

9 Q. And, Ms. Mariñez, are the letters of support you
10 just referenced found in Exhibits UNS-16 through 19?

11 A. (MS. MARIÑEZ) Yes.

12 Q. Has UNSE received any additional letters of
13 support since we filed the application?

14 A. (MS. MARIÑEZ) Yes, we have.

15 Q. All right. Please turn to Exhibit UNS-22.
16 Are you there?

17 A. (MS. MARIÑEZ) Yes. Could you repeat the
18 question?

19 Q. Yes, I asked you to turn to Exhibit 22, but
20 please explain what this exhibit is.

21 A. (MS. MARIÑEZ) It's a letter of support from the
22 Southern Arizona Leadership Council.

23 Q. All right. And Mr. Chris Ortiz y Pino is also
24 passing out some additional exhibits, but I'll ask you to
25 turn to Exhibit 29 now, which is going to be one of the

1 new exhibits.

2 All right. And what is this exhibit?

3 A. (MS. MARIÑEZ) It's a letter of support from the
4 Greater Nogales Santa Cruz County Port Authority.

5 Q. All right. And please turn to Exhibit 30,
6 UNS-30.

7 All right. And what is this exhibit?

8 A. (MS. MARIÑEZ) This is a letter of support from
9 the Fresh Produce Association of the Americas.

10 Q. All right. Thank you.

11 Mr. Chairman, I believe our next set of slides
12 is going to start getting into the legal requirements and
13 some additional notice that we performed. So if we want
14 to take a break, it might be an okay time and then we'll
15 jump back into that.

16 CHMN STAFFORD: It's like you're reading my
17 mind.

18 MR. ANCHARSKI: Excellent.

19 CHMN STAFFORD: So let's take a probably a
20 15-minute recess, and come back with the public notice
21 requirements.

22 (Recessed from 3:20 p.m. until 3:44 p.m.)

23 CHMN STAFFORD: Let's go back on the
24 record.

25 Mr. Ancharski, I believe we were about to

1 cover the notice requirements.

2 MR. ANCHARSKI: Yes, that's correct. So
3 I'll ask to turn to slide 84.

4 Q. So now we're going to walk through the legal
5 notice pertaining to notice pertaining to notice and
6 related items, starting on slide 84 with the Ten-Year
7 Plans.

8 So, Mr. Bryner, would you please turn to UNS-11,
9 which has subparts A and B?

10 A. (MR. BRYNER) Okay.

11 Q. Are these excerpts from UNSE's Ten-Year Plans
12 from 2024 and 2025 listing this project?

13 A. (MR. BRYNER) Yes, they are.

14 Q. And did UNSE file these Ten-Year Plans as
15 required by ARS 40-360.02(a)?

16 A. (MR. BRYNER) Yes, we did.

17 Q. All right. Please to turn to Exhibit UNS-12A.
18 Exhibit 12A is the Notice of Hearing in this
19 matter, dated September 25th, correct?

20 A. (MR. BRYNER) Correct.

21 Q. All right. And turning to slide 85, as well as
22 Exhibit UNS-12B.

23 A. (MR. BRYNER) Okay.

24 Q. Exhibit 12B is the proof of publication of the
25 Notice of Hearing in the Arizona Republic statewide

1 edition, correct?

2 A. (MR. BRYNER) Yes.

3 Q. And UNSE directed the publication of the Notice
4 of Hearing in the Arizona Republic?

5 A. (MR. BRYNER) Yes.

6 Q. And the Arizona Republic is a newspaper of
7 general circulation in the project area?

8 A. (MR. BRYNER) Yes, it is.

9 Q. And did UNSE publish notice twice in the Arizona
10 Republic on September 25th and September 26th?

11 A. (MR. BRYNER) Yes, we did.

12 Q. And was that within the 10-day period after
13 September 19th, the filing date of the application?

14 A. (MR. BRYNER) Yes, it was.

15 Q. So turning to slide 86, as well as Exhibit
16 UNS-12C.

17 CHMN STAFFORD: And those publication dates
18 were also more than 30 days and less than 60 days before
19 this date of hearing, correct?

20 MR. BRYNER: That's correct.

21 BY MR. ANCHARSKI:

22 Q. And turning to Exhibit 12C, is that the proof of
23 publication of the notice of hearing in the Arizona Daily
24 Star?

25 A. (MR. BRYNER) Yes.

1 Q. And UNSE directed the publication of the notice
2 in the Arizona Daily Star, correct?

3 A. (MR. BRYNER) Yes.

4 Q. And is the Arizona Daily Star a newspaper of
5 general circulation in the project area?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. And did UNSE publish notice twice in the Arizona
8 Daily Star, once on September 25th and once on
9 September 26th?

10 A. (MR. BRYNER) Yes, we did.

11 Q. And was that within 10 days after the
12 September 19th, 2025, application filing?

13 A. (MR. BRYNER) Yes, it was.

14 Q. All right. Please turn to slide 87. And also
15 Exhibit UNS-12D.

16 A. (MR. BRYNER) Okay.

17 Q. Is this proof of publication for the Green
18 Valley News showing that it was published on
19 September 28th, 2025?

20 A. (MR. BRYNER) Yes, it is.

21 Q. And was notice published in the Green Valley
22 News as a courtesy in this matter?

23 A. (MR. BRYNER) Yes.

24 Q. Please turn to Exhibit 12E and slide 88.

25 All right. Is this the proof of publication for

1 the Nogales International showing that it was published
2 on October 3rd, 2025?

3 A. (MR. BRYNER) Yes.

4 Q. And was notice published in the Nogales
5 International as a courtesy as well?

6 A. (MR. BRYNER) Yes, it was.

7 Q. All right. Please turn to Exhibit 12F as well
8 as slide 89.

9 A. (MR. BRYNER) Okay.

10 MR. ANCHARSKI: Can we hit slide 89,
11 please? Thank you.

12 Q. Is the proof -- is this the proof of publication
13 for the Arizona Bilingual October edition?

14 A. (MR. BRYNER) Yes.

15 Q. And was notice published in the Arizona
16 Bilingual as a courtesy?

17 A. (MR. BRYNER) Yes.

18 Q. And why did UNSE publish in five different
19 newspapers?

20 A. (MR. BRYNER) We published in these five
21 newspapers, primarily, well, one we needed to meet the
22 statutory requirement. But we published it in the Green
23 Valley News, Nogales International, and the Arizona
24 Bilingual because we wanted to be consistent with the
25 ways that we had provided advertisement notification of

1 our public meetings throughout our siting process.

2 Also, the project is located within two
3 counties, Pima and Santa Cruz counties, and there's also,
4 as we've discussed, there's a notable population that
5 speaks Spanish and we wanted to be able to reach them in
6 that language as well.

7 Q. All right. Please turn to slide 90.

8 Does this show that UNSE mailed copies of the
9 CEC application to the locations required by the
10 Chairman's September 25th Procedural Order for public
11 viewing?

12 A. (MR. BRYNER) Yes.

13 Q. And is this document found in Exhibit UNS-12G?

14 A. (MR. BRYNER) Yes, it is.

15 Q. All right. Please turn to slide 91.

16 And what does this slide depict?

17 A. (MR. BRYNER) Slide 91 depicts where we put signs
18 notifying the public of this hearing, as well as some of
19 those signs being installed and a representation of what
20 that sign contained?

21 Q. And were the signs posted in the general
22 vicinity of where they were identified on this map?

23 A. (MR. BRYNER) Yes, they were.

24 Q. And is a map of the sign locations marked as
25 Exhibit UNS-12H?

1 A. (MR. BRYNER) Yes.

2 Q. Do the photographs of the signs confirm that
3 notice was posted in compliance with the Chairman's
4 Procedural Order?

5 A. (MR. BRYNER) Yes, they do.

6 Q. And did you have take those pictures or were
7 they taken at your control or direction?

8 A. (MR. BRYNER) Yes.

9 Q. And were the signs posted at least 20 days
10 before the hearing was set to begin, as required by the
11 Chairman's September 25th Procedural Order?

12 A. (MR. BRYNER) Yes.

13 Q. Are the photos shown on this slide marked as
14 Exhibit 12I?

15 A. (MR. BRYNER) Yes, they are.

16 Q. Okay. So please turn to Exhibit 12J.

17 A. (MR. BRYNER) Okay.

18 Q. Is this the example of the contents of the
19 notice sign that's also included on this slide?

20 A. (MR. BRYNER) Yes.

21 Q. So turning to slide 92.

22 All right. What does this slide depict?

23 A. (MR. BRYNER) Slide 92 has graphics that show
24 advertisements that were placed by the company through
25 Facebook and Instagram, so social media applications to

1 advertise about this hearing.

2 Q. Did you -- oh --

3 A. (MR. BRYNER) Sorry, I was also going to mention
4 that the little map in the middle of the slide shows the
5 area -- the geographic area for which we -- we placed
6 those advertisements. So it was based on the center of
7 our project area, and then we went 11 miles to either
8 side so it covered, in general, from the town of
9 Sahuarita in the north to the town of Tubac in the south.

10 Q. And did UNSE acquire the metrics for the
11 campaign that ran from October 27th to November 2nd,
12 which occurred after the filing of this exhibit?

13 A. (MR. BRYNER) Yes, we did.

14 Q. And please turn to Exhibit UNS-23.

15 A. (MR. BRYNER) Okay.

16 Q. And does this exhibit include the updated social
17 media metrics as of October 31st, 2025?

18 A. (MR. BRYNER) Yes, it does.

19 Q. So these metrics aren't even fully complete
20 necessarily, they were obtained before the weekend, which
21 would have included additional clicks and impressions and
22 reach?

23 A. (MR. BRYNER) That's correct. The campaign ran
24 through the beginning of the hearing.

25 Q. Please turn to slide 93.

1 Does this depict proof that UNSE emailed copies
2 of the Notice of Hearing to the affected jurisdictions,
3 as required by the Chairman's September 25th Procedural
4 Order?

5 A. (MR. BRYNER) Yes.

6 Q. Are these found in Exhibit UNS-12K?

7 Sorry for jumping?

8 A. (MR. BRYNER) Keeping me on my toes.

9 Yes, it's there.

10 Q. All right. So please turn to slide 94, as well
11 as Exhibit UNS-13, what does this depict?

12 A. (MR. BRYNER) This is the filing fee that
13 accompanied our filing of the CEC application with the
14 Corporation Commission.

15 Q. Did UNSE also direct communications with the ACC
16 business office confirming that UNSE would cover the
17 expenses related to this CEC hearing?

18 A. (MR. BRYNER) Yes.

19 Q. And please turn to slide 95.

20 So, in addition to the legal notice that's
21 required by law, did UNSE perform additional outreach
22 regarding the hearing in this matter?

23 A. (MR. BRYNER) Yes, we did.

24 Q. And before you walk through the additional
25 hearing provided, did UNSE receive additional public

1 comments after the application was submitted?

2 A. (MR. BRYNER) Yes, we did.

3 Q. And is a copy of those comments included as
4 Exhibit UNS-24?

5 A. (MR. BRYNER) Yes, they are.

6 Q. Please continue with these next few slides,
7 then.

8 A. (MR. BRYNER) Okay. So, again, like I mentioned
9 on the -- so, like I mentioned with respect to the
10 newspaper advertisements, we published in those
11 additional newspapers consistent with the ways we
12 notified the public about our -- our various outreach
13 efforts and different phases of the siting process, we
14 wanted to be consistent.

15 And so one of the things we did then was to mail
16 out newsletters or postcards, letting all the residents,
17 landowners within the vicinity of the project know
18 about -- about what was going on. So within our larger
19 siting -- project siting area, we buffered that by one
20 mile, and again, developed this mailing list of 17,000
21 plus addresses. These are the same that we use
22 throughout the siting study area and we mailed these
23 newsletters.

24 And we built up a decent-sized email list from
25 people who had attended public meetings or provided

1 comment and expressed a desire to be -- for us to include
2 them through electronic communications through email, and
3 so on September 19th, when we filed the application, we
4 sent out email to the members of the public on that list.
5 We also sent an email to all of our stakeholder lists.
6 And we sent an email to elected officials, notifying them
7 that we had filed our application with the Commission.

8 And you may have seen a flyer up in the
9 restaurant we ate at today on our field tour. We placed
10 flyers throughout the project study area in areas where
11 the public frequented, and there was a place available
12 for posting to just provide further notification of the
13 hearing. And consistent with what we had done for
14 advertising at open houses, we placed an ad campaign on a
15 Spanish radio station broadcasting throughout Santa Cruz
16 County providing notification of this hearing in Spanish.

17 And, of course, we also placed notification of
18 the hearing on our project web page, in both English and
19 Spanish, and provided the information on how to
20 participate in person or remotely in this hearing.

21 Q. All right. Thank you, Mr. Bryner.

22 Do you have any concluding remarks you would
23 like to make at this time?

24 A. (MR. BRYNER) I do. Thank you.

25 So just in conclusion, the Santa Cruz

1 Reliability Project is needed. It provides benefits as a
2 stand-alone project to improve the reliability of the
3 electrical service to our customers -- to the customers
4 of UNSE in Santa Cruz County, and it strengthens the
5 regional grid. These benefits, as we've discussed, are
6 more fully realized when compounded with phases 2 and 3
7 of the Santa Cruz Reliability Project.

8 Phase 1 alone will reduce the frequency and
9 duration of outages affecting residents, businesses, and
10 industries, including hospitals, schools, ports of entry,
11 and federal facilities vital to international commerce.
12 In addition, it will increase the import capability of
13 the transmission system throughout the Santa Cruz River
14 valley, leading to a substantial increase in the
15 company's load-serving capability from 165 megawatts
16 today to 226 megawatts to meet both current and future
17 energy needs, without impacting service to any of our
18 existing customers. And, of course, not to be forgotten
19 adding a second transmission line will allow for
20 maintenance and upgrades to the existing line without
21 interrupting service to our customers.

22 The largest example of this is phase 2 of the
23 Santa Cruz Reliability Project. Where phase 1 will allow
24 us to take a portion of the existing line between the
25 Nogales tap and Kantor out of service so we can upgrade

1 it while continuing to serve all of our customers in
2 Santa Cruz County. As we've discussed, either the
3 preferred route or the alternative route would meet the
4 need and benefits of the project, and both of the
5 alternatives balance the need for an adequate economical
6 and reliable supply of electric power with the effects to
7 the environment and ecology of the state.

8 Based on our analysis, we believe the preferred
9 route best minimizes the impacts to the environmental
10 factors that are considered by this committee, but we do
11 acknowledge that there are tradeoffs between the two
12 route alternatives with respect to different resources.
13 So primarily amongst those are visual and cultural
14 resource impacts.

15 Lastly, both routes under consideration are
16 consistent with applicable land use plans, policies, and
17 ordinances. So UNSE respectfully requests that the
18 committee issue a CEC for the construction of the Santa
19 Cruz Reliability Project North.

20 Thank you.

21 CHMN STAFFORD: Mr. Ancharski, I don't have
22 reference to Exhibit 20, the Corporation Commission Staff
23 letter.

24 MR. ANCHARSKI: Yes, that's correct,
25 Chairman. I don't believe we had a specific slide on

1 that, although, I mean, I think Mr. Bryner would be happy
2 to address that.

3 Q. So if you would turn to Exhibit UNS-20.

4 A. (MR. BRYNER) Okay.

5 Q. Can you confirm that's the Staff report we
6 received in this matter?

7 A. (MR. BRYNER) Yes, it is.

8 Q. And what was Staff's ultimate conclusion as it
9 related to this project?

10 A. (MR. BRYNER) So their ultimate conclusion was
11 that they believe that it would -- give me one second to
12 actually just review it.

13 Q. Mr. Bryner, I might just ask you to read so
14 you're not putting words in Staff's mouth, just maybe the
15 first few sentences of the conclusions and
16 recommendations in that document.

17 A. (MR. BRYNER) So based on Staff's review of the
18 application, the applicant's responses to a Staff-issued
19 data request, as well as the analyses performed by UNSE,
20 Staff believes the proposed project could improve the
21 reliability and safety of the grid and the delivery of
22 power in Arizona; however, since no SIS, so that's a
23 System Impact Study, was provided to Staff, Staff
24 recommends the Power Plant and Line Siting Committee
25 allocate sufficient time during the hearing to discuss

1 the reliability and safety of the project, as well as
2 what analysis was performed to ensure that the project
3 most effectively meets the eight factors of Arizona
4 Revised Statute 40-360.06 over the several different ways
5 UNSE evaluated to provide an alternate source of power to
6 the region.

7 Q. Mr. Bryner, is that -- is Staff's conclusion,
8 consistent with previous Staff reports that the company
9 has received or, I guess, the sister company, TEP as
10 well, as it relates to line siting matters, generally?

11 A. (MR. BRYNER) I would say it's an identical
12 response, with the exception of their recommendation for
13 a System Impact Study, which I discussed that on slide 10
14 or 11. I know the studies that we did do. So we don't
15 do a System Impact Study for internal projects, that's
16 more when there's an interconnector coming into our
17 system, and we need to ensure that that will not have an
18 impact on our system, so to identify projects that are
19 internal to the company, we go through different planning
20 processes, which I discussed.

21 CHMN STAFFORD: Member Little, you had some
22 questions?

23 MEMBER LITTLE: Yes, thank you,
24 Mr. Chairman.

25 I concur with what Mr. Bryner said as far

1 as, generally speaking, the System Impact Studies are the
2 addition of the project that will interconnect with the
3 utility. The utility's internal studies are as, if not
4 more, inclusive and complete to determine the impacts of
5 their internal upgrades. Can you maybe, Mr. Bryner, tell
6 us what studies are generally done on your system as far
7 as voltage drop studies, transient stability studies,
8 those kinds of studies, just to confirm that they're
9 consistent with what a utility would do with a System
10 Impact Study.

11 MR. BRYNER: So you're correct that we do
12 those studies that you mentioned as part of our annual
13 review, where we're going through that process, we call
14 it our budget study process, where we're looking at
15 what's going on on the system and identifying projects
16 where we may be deficient, and so then the results of
17 those studies come out as projects that we need to do to
18 clear up any deficiencies.

19 So, in this case, it was a little bit
20 different because we weren't deficient necessarily on the
21 Santa Cruz Reliability System, because it wasn't subject
22 to some of that -- the NERC reliability requirements, but
23 it was a known issue on the system, and so we studied
24 potential solutions to identifying that, that result in
25 this project.

1 MEMBER LITTLE: Thank you.

2 Also, I would just like to, for the record
3 at this point in the hearing, reiterate that this project
4 has been included in regional studies and for the impact
5 on the grid. And was also included in the most recent
6 Biennial Transmission Assessment.

7 That's it for that.

8 MEMBER FONTES: Mr. Chairman?

9 CHMN STAFFORD: One second. Did you have
10 additional questions about the concerns that were raised
11 by Mr. Magruder?

12 MEMBER LITTLE: I did. Is now the time to
13 do that?

14 CHMN STAFFORD: I think someone else may
15 have a quick question.

16 Member Mercer. And then you have a number
17 of questions on this front, don't you, Member Little?

18 MEMBER LITTLE: A few, yes.

19 CHMN STAFFORD: Member Mercer, your
20 question, you have one or two questions, not a list?

21 MEMBER MERCER: Two questions.

22 CHMN STAFFORD: Please proceed.

23 MEMBER MERCER: I kind of wrote things
24 down, because -- can you hear me? Okay. So, yes, I have
25 one -- one issue with the -- with Mr. Magruder's

1 comments. And that was -- he mentioned that the
2 ratepayers may ultimately bear the cost of this project
3 through increased rates. I understand that the United
4 States Department of Energy Grid Resilience and
5 Innovation Partnership, also known as the GRIP program,
6 has selected this project to move forward in it's first
7 round of review. Congratulations to the applicant on
8 that.

9 MR. BRYNER: Thank you.

10 MEMBER MERCER: And for the record and for
11 the benefit of my committee members, the U.S. Department
12 of Energy GRIP program was created under the bipartisan
13 infrastructure law, also known as IIJA, to invest
14 approximately 10.5 billion for -- let me see, fiscal year
15 2022 to 2026 towards grid resiliency, innovation, and
16 modernization.

17 My question is, if the Department of Energy
18 grant is ultimately awarded, would that federal funding
19 help offset project costs and potentially reduce or avoid
20 rate increases for customers?

21 MR. BRYNER: It would certainly offset
22 project costs. To the extent that that would have an
23 impact on rates, I can infer that, yes, it would, but I
24 don't know that yet.

25 MEMBER MERCER: My second question is, it's

1 kind of redundant, but would those savings directly
2 benefit ratepayers in Santa Cruz and Pima Counties? And
3 how would that be reflected in future rate filings with
4 the Commission?

5 MR. BRYNER: So it would benefit customers
6 in Santa Cruz County because they're customers of UNS
7 Electric. I don't believe it would have any impact on
8 any of our customers in Pima County, who would be
9 customers of Tucson Electric.

10 MEMBER MERCER: Okay. And, let's see, what
11 else did I write, kind of the same question, if the
12 Department of Energy grant is awarded, how would it
13 directly benefit our local communities in terms of
14 reliability, jobs, or resiliency improvements?

15 MR. BRYNER: Sure.

16 So, obviously, all of the benefits that
17 we've outlined for this project would benefit the
18 communities in the Santa Cruz River valley, from Tubac
19 south to Nogales. All of the letters of support. For
20 the most part, most of those letters of support site the
21 economic value of that for having a community that has a
22 reliable source of power, so whether that's drawing in
23 new businesses or having existing businesses be able to
24 continue to operate and thrive, so it's going to have a
25 direct impact there. So with or without the grant, that

1 benefit comes along. The benefit of the grant is it will
2 cost essentially our customers less money, because that
3 will be subsidized by, well, by everybody.

4 MEMBER MERCER: Taxpayers.

5 MR. BRYNER: Sure.

6 MEMBER MERCER: Thank you.

7 CHMN STAFFORD: Mr. Bryner, so remind me,
8 what was the estimated cost of the project for the
9 preferred route?

10 MR. BRYNER: I'm going to use my cheat
11 sheet on the placemat. For the preferred route, the
12 estimated cost is \$13.4 million.

13 CHMN STAFFORD: And what's the amount of
14 the grant that we're talking about?

15 MR. BRYNER: So the grant is for the
16 overall Santa Cruz Reliability Project, so phases 1, 2,
17 and 3, so the grant was up to \$75 million.

18 CHMN STAFFORD: Say what?

19 MR. BRYNER: Up to \$75 million.

20 CHMN STAFFORD: So that could potentially
21 cover the entire project?

22 MR. BRYNER: So I don't know the exact
23 rules of the grant, you know, a lot of the times there's
24 funding, so that was based on really the investment that
25 UNSE had made in its system over the last three years,

1 that was sort of a cap on the maximum amount that we
2 could -- that we could receive, so the exact amount was
3 that was about 50 percent of our estimated cost for the
4 overall project.

5 Now that was based on a phase 3 that had an
6 independent route, as opposed to where we've landed to
7 use the existing infrastructure and place a second
8 circuit, so that will bring the total cost of the project
9 down substantially.

10 CHMN STAFFORD: And thus the amount of the
11 grant?

12 MR. BRYNER: So that we're not sure about
13 yet.

14 CHMN STAFFORD: Okay.

15 MR. BRYNER: So it's been interesting
16 trying to coordinate with the federal government on this.

17 CHMN STAFFORD: Well, they've been on
18 vacation for the last several weeks, haven't they?

19 MR. BRYNER: Some of them might argue
20 differently, but -- but certainly it's been interesting
21 to work with them.

22 CHMN STAFFORD: All right.

23 MEMBER KRYDER: Mr. Chairman?

24 CHMN STAFFORD: Yes, Member Kryder.

25 MEMBER KRYDER: You go ahead.

1 MEMBER MERCER: I'm crossing my fingers for
2 you guys.

3 MR. BRYNER: Thank you. We would love to
4 receive the grant. But right now, it's -- we're not
5 certain what its status is.

6 CHMN STAFFORD: I guess a quick follow-up,
7 when will you find out whether you're going to receive
8 the grant or not?

9 MR. BRYNER: Question we've been asking for
10 quite a while. We've submitted all the paperwork. So
11 what we do know right now, I'll share what we do know, is
12 there were a number of recipients that received the same
13 essentially acceptance that they were awarded the
14 opportunity to receive this grant. A number of those
15 were cancelled a week or two ago, what we know is we were
16 not amongst them.

17 CHMN STAFFORD: Okay. Well, that's a good
18 sign.

19 MEMBER KRYDER: Mr. Chairman?

20 CHMN STAFFORD: Yes, Member Kryder.

21 MEMBER KRYDER: As a follow-up to some of
22 those questions. First, anyone who has ever delved into
23 grants recognizes that you never know until the check
24 clears how long it's going to take to get the fund, even
25 if you're told that it has been approved in your favor,

1 so I thoroughly appreciate, I think the committee does
2 too, the fact that it's somewhat delicate, even to talk
3 about this at this point, but I do appreciate your
4 comments.

5 I do have a question, though, and that is
6 the following: If the grant is approved and, in fact, the
7 check cashes, as they say, help the committee understand
8 what complications that might put on TEP and the -- your
9 parent company, as a result of receiving a Department of
10 Energy grant.

11 MR. BRYNER: Yeah, so there's a couple --
12 Thank you, Member Kryder, for that question. So with
13 the grant it does come with a timeline that we have to
14 have the project in service within five years. So thus,
15 we propose that '28 for phase 1, '29 for phase 2, '30 for
16 phase 3. Now, that's pretty quick for us to get this --
17 a project of this magnitude done. You know, we have a
18 game plan in place, we feel like we can make it happen,
19 but it's pretty quick. It's more accelerated than it
20 would be without the grant, but at the same time, we'd
21 like to have this project in service so our customers can
22 start benefiting from it. So that's one challenge.

23 Another challenge is along with that money
24 comes a lot of red tape, if you want to call it that,
25 accountability for that, reporting requirements. There's

1 also some level of a NEPA component, National
2 Environmental Policy Act, component that we would have to
3 do, in addition to the State-issued CEC to make sure that
4 we're -- we're complying with environmental laws.

5 MEMBER KRYDER: So as a follow-up to that,
6 I know you ran the projections here of 13.4 and 16.9 for
7 the preferred route and the alternative route. Do those
8 dollar amounts go up as a result of receiving potentially
9 \$70 million in Department of Energy grants? So the short
10 version is, we've got these numbers set now, I assume
11 they're pretty solid. Would they grow, if you get a
12 grant?

13 CHMN STAFFORD: So I guess does the NEPA
14 component raise the cost of the line more than it
15 would -- the grant would be, I guess? Is the juice worth
16 the squeeze for the grant, is that kind of what you're
17 asking?

18 MEMBER KRYDER: Just some -- I have some
19 experience that getting a grant in itself raises the cost
20 of a project X percent, and I was wondering is my
21 experience similar to what you could project from the
22 experience that you or your parent company has had?

23 MR. BRYNER: So receiving a grant like this
24 is somewhat of a new experience at least for what I've
25 been involved in. But we do anticipate that there will

1 be some administrative costs associated with managing
2 that grant and ensuring that we're compliant to all the
3 stipulations with it, the NEPA component will add some
4 costs. To say that it would substantially increase those
5 costs, I think that might be mischaracterized, but there
6 will be an added percentage, 5 percent, 10 percent,
7 somewhere in there added, yes.

8 MEMBER KRYDER: Thank you very much, and
9 good luck.

10 CHMN STAFFORD: But quick follow-up
11 question, with or without the grant, UniSource or UNSE
12 needs this project to maintain reliability in Santa Cruz
13 County, correct?

14 MR. BRYNER: That's correct. So the need
15 for the project was identified before we ever applied for
16 the grant, before we ever received the grant. What the
17 grant allows us to do is not only compels us to
18 accelerate the project, but allows us to accelerate the
19 project because we don't want to build this quicker than
20 our customers are able to afford it.

21 CHMN STAFFORD: But even without the grant,
22 this project, the one we're on today, will be
23 constructed?

24 MR. BRYNER: Correct. It just -- it may
25 slow down the timeline of the phases.

1 CHMN STAFFORD: Okay. Thank you.

2 Member Fant?

3 MEMBER FANT: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'd
4 like to wind the tape back about five minutes to Toby's
5 question about regional transmission planning and the
6 project being involved in the regional transmission
7 planning process. You nodded your head, but I didn't
8 hear any -- I didn't hear your verbal response, was that
9 a yes that the project was included in regional
10 transmission planning process?

11 MR. BRYNER: Yes, it is or it has been.

12 MEMBER FANT: Thank you, sir.

13 CHMN STAFFORD: All right. Member Fontes,
14 did you have a question?

15 MEMBER FONTES: I did. Again, my last duty
16 assignment was the IIJI office and the DOE before I
17 departed, and I wrote a lot of those standards. You are
18 indeed correct, there will be a NEPA review. And I think
19 you are prudent to look at all courses of actions going
20 forward, especially in light of the current priorities of
21 this administration.

22 The other thing that is in there is a -- I
23 don't know how to characterize it, but we did have things
24 in there for, like, what path, and I know you stated that
25 you weren't, but there will be some sort of peer NERC

1 reliability review. Is the schedule there or did you
2 have through, like, WestConnect or something somebody
3 review the wires to wires that is not part of either
4 UniSource or TEP? Because I think that's going to be
5 part of if you decide to go down the IIJI grant route,
6 that's going to be asked upon you.

7 So I'm asking in the sense of did you
8 consider that yet? And also, giving you a harbinger of
9 things that might come that you may not have thought of.

10 MR. BRYNER: All right. I'm having to
11 consult on that real fast.

12 So part of our -- part of our -- part of
13 our planning process is to do that. So the difference
14 between this and other project on a wires-to-wires
15 agreement is the fact that the only interconnection is
16 with TEP. And so it's just really between TEP and UNSE
17 on how this works through that wires-to-wires process, so
18 there's really not any reason for us to consult with or
19 have an outside entity take a look at that.

20 MEMBER FONTES: Perfect. Thank you.

21 CHMN STAFFORD: Member Little.

22 MEMBER LITTLE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

23 I reviewed all of the filings in the
24 docket, including the one that Mr. Magruder made today.
25 And I have a whole bunch of questions, many of which have

1 been answered by the applicant here during the hearing.
2 And I appreciate that, but there were a few left that I'd
3 like to have you address, if you can, and will -- would
4 please.

5 First, he mentions that he believes that
6 the system, as it stands right now, is reliable enough
7 for the residential customers. And that the reliability
8 issue is really for the data centers that the area hopes
9 will come, and the, I believe he mentioned the
10 interconnect with Mexico, and he mentioned the
11 possibility of a merchant line to serve the industrial
12 and commercial requirements that may increase over the
13 years. I'd like to have TEP address that, if you could,
14 please.

15 MR. BRYNER: Sure. I'm happy to.

16 So I'm going to say, for the most part,
17 Mr. Magruder is just incorrect in some of his speculation
18 on what the purpose of this line is. As I've stated a
19 number of times, this is for reliability purposes for all
20 of our customers in Santa Cruz County, residents,
21 businesses, commercial users.

22 There is no interconnection with Mexico.
23 Yes, there is another project that's on the books to
24 interconnect with Mexico, part of Case 176, there were
25 two CECs that were issued as part of that case. One was

1 issued to UNSE to rebuild from the Nogales tap to
2 Valencia, sorry, from the Nogales tap to Kantor. We
3 would use that CEC granted to UNSE to rebuild that line
4 as part of phase 2 of our Santa Cruz Reliability Project.

5 Also, part of that CEC, that same CEC, was
6 a line to go from a future gateway substation on the west
7 side of Nogales to the existing Valencia Substation. We
8 had initially envisioned using that piece of the CEC as
9 part of phase 3 of our project, but since we have
10 determined the best route forward is to double the circuit
11 the existing line. We no longer plan to use that. So
12 that CEC will continue to be in force until it expires,
13 or is -- is extended.

14 Also, that one was also issued to UNSE.
15 There was another CEC that was issued as part of Case 176
16 that was issued to Nogales Transmission. That was a
17 double-circuit 230 line that extended from the gateway
18 substation south to Mexico through a DC intertie. That
19 is not owned by UNSE. That's no -- in no way, shape, or
20 form part of this project. I don't know the plans on
21 whether or not that would go forward at some point in the
22 future, nor could I say that Mr. Magruder knows anything
23 about that. But it is on the books as an approved
24 project.

25 I think there was something else on your

1 questions there, Member Little.

2 MEMBER LITTLE: I think you -- well, his
3 suggestion that perhaps a merchant line --

4 MR. BRYNER: Okay. I think that that's in
5 reference to that interconnection project, so they
6 were -- that was through the Nogales Transmission effort.

7 MEMBER LITTLE: I remember that now.

8 MR. BRYNER: I assume that that's what he's
9 referring to. And with respect to reliability, yeah,
10 it's a very reliable line today, you know, you look at it
11 over history and it's -- it's, you know, 99.9 percent
12 reliable. But when it fails, it has high consequences.
13 And so what we've heard from our customers in Santa Cruz
14 County is that they would like something more reliable.

15 MEMBER LITTLE: Thank you. And I believe
16 that your -- your response has addressed something that
17 he filed today that mentions that the lines that were
18 authorized in 176, and he's making some reference to the
19 fact that if they're all built there's going to be three
20 lines coming south, and you have explained that.

21 MR. BRYNER: Sure, yeah. There is no third
22 line authorized anywhere -- well, there's one line
23 authorized. If you all approve this, then we will have
24 portions of a second line. And, you know, if we're able
25 to successfully amend our CEC from Case 144, there will

1 be two lines. But there is nothing on the books for a
2 third line and there is no proposal for a third line, at
3 least not from us. I can't speak for any third party
4 that may be out there contemplating something.

5 MEMBER LITTLE: Thank you.

6 That addresses those issues. The only
7 other thing that -- like I said, I had a whole bunch of
8 questions and you guys have pretty much answered them all
9 during the course of the hearing. I did want to ask
10 about his contention that it would be better to use 559.5
11 AAAC conductors, as opposed to the "old," and that's in
12 quotes, conductors that TEP is accustomed to using, and I
13 just would like to hear your response to that, please.

14 MR. BRYNER: Sure.

15 So the 559 AAAC, triple AC, conductor is
16 what's causing the constraint today on the Nogales tap to
17 Kantor section of the line. So that is a lower-rated
18 conductor than what we use today, which we use a, what we
19 would consider a modern conductor, the 954 ACSS
20 conductor, which has a much higher rating for us, and so
21 that would actually be going backwards.

22 MEMBER LITTLE: Thank you. I just wanted
23 that on the record.

24 Thanks very much.

25 CHMN STAFFORD: Any other questions from

1 members?

2 MEMBER COMSTOCK: Mr. Chairman?

3 CHMN STAFFORD: Yes, Member Comstock.

4 MEMBER COMSTOCK: Yes, sir, thank you.

5 Mr. Bryner, considering the accelerated
6 pace that maybe the grant would give you and the amount
7 of construction that you have in place, do you feel that
8 your supply chain is adequate for poles and wires and all
9 the hardware that's necessary to put these projects into
10 place in the timeline in which you have them?

11 MR. BRYNER: Yes, we feel comfortable that
12 we can meet that timeline if granted -- granted this CEC,
13 and the other CEC or amendment that we would need.

14 MEMBER COMSTOCK: Thank you.

15 CHMN STAFFORD: Member Fant?

16 MEMBER FANT: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

17 I just -- I just might mention to you that
18 Nvidia, in their recent GDC 2025 presentation, mentioned
19 the development of a new product, a new called arc -- arc
20 RAN hub, RAN being radio access network, the -- it's a
21 wireless 6G technology, and what it does, they also build
22 out an industrial cloud with the 6G technology, which you
23 can extend all the way out to the edge of whatever your
24 facilities are.

25 They're going to use that to smooth the

1 perturbations on fiber systems, but that might work in
2 electrical systems too. So I just throw this out there
3 as a suggestion that that might be something that might
4 be helpful down here, where you have less transmission
5 lines.

6 MR. BRYNER: Sounds interesting. I don't
7 have any comment, but we can consider that.

8 MEMBER FANT: Worth a look.

9 CHMN STAFFORD: All right. Mr. Bryner, if
10 I could direct your attention to Exhibit 25, the letter
11 from SHPO. Perhaps you're not the ideal witness to
12 respond to this, but --

13 MR. BRYNER: Okay.

14 CHMN STAFFORD: Would you be or?

15 MR. BRYNER: Yes.

16 CHMN STAFFORD: Okay. They raise some
17 concerns about the Class I report on the second page of
18 their letter, right after the recommended against the
19 preferred route.

20 MR. BRYNER: Would you like me to respond
21 to their concerns?

22 CHMN STAFFORD: Yes, please.

23 MR. BRYNER: Okay. Yeah, happy to.

24 So, yeah, when we received this letter I'll
25 say I wasn't super excited. So what we -- so immediately

1 after we received this letter, we scheduled a follow-up
2 call with SHPO. So that we could understand what their
3 concerns were. Basically what we learned is the Class I
4 report that we submitted to them it included, if you'll
5 recall the graphic that we showed on slide -- well, the
6 larger siting study area that we expanded to, our Class I
7 report consisted of information for that entire area.
8 Obviously, we trimmed that down substantially for just
9 our preferred and alternative route, so within that
10 Class I report it included hundreds of sites, and it
11 really confused things a lot. So as a result of our
12 phone call, and actually prior to our phone call, we
13 submitted to them, I believe it's --

14 MR. ANCHARSKI: Exhibit 26.

15 MR. BRYNER: -- Exhibit 26, thank you,
16 which includes just the sites, so a Class I report is
17 really, it just consists of what's --

18 CHMN STAFFORD: It's a desktop review,
19 isn't it?

20 MR. BRYNER: Sorry?

21 CHMN STAFFORD: It's a desktop review,
22 isn't it?

23 MR. BRYNER: Yes, and so it's what do we
24 know today, so what's been -- what studies have occurred
25 and what was found, so we paired it down to just those

1 sites within that 500-foot corridor. So that's really
2 what they needed to comment on as opposed to the hundreds
3 of sites that had been identified within this area that
4 most of them just really didn't matter to this project in
5 that context.

6 CHMN STAFFORD: This is for both the
7 preferred and the alternative route?

8 MR. BRYNER: Correct. Yes. And so they
9 had that updated table with them at the time that we met
10 with them. I think it was on Halloween. I think it was
11 on the 31st that we met with them. And they were
12 satisfied with that in understanding what the known
13 potential impacts would be with respect to either the
14 alternative or the preferred route. Nonetheless, even
15 knowing that, they still preferred the alternative route,
16 for the reasons that we mentioned earlier.

17 CHMN STAFFORD: Okay. Now, so what's the
18 next step to follow up with SHPO on this?

19 MR. BRYNER: So the next step with SHPO
20 would be for us to conduct the Class III of -- a Class
21 III -- a Class III survey is an intensive pedestrian
22 survey, so you go out there with a number of
23 archaeologists, they're going to walk in a transect, each
24 covering a certain area, and recording the sites that
25 they find. So whichever route is approved, I guess,

1 first of all, we would true up our engineering a little
2 bit more. We wouldn't finalize it. So that we could
3 determine what our right-of-way would be. And then we
4 would go and conduct that survey of that area. We would
5 identify what sites that we find. We would adjust the
6 pole locations accordingly. And then we would present
7 those results to SHPO. We would also present those
8 results to the various tribes that have an interest in
9 the area to see, hey, is this acceptable? Are there
10 other things that we might need to do?

11 CHMN STAFFORD: Okay. And that would
12 include Class III surveys on any private land that you
13 would have to traverse with the line, correct?

14 MR. BRYNER: So per the condition of our
15 CEC, yes.

16 CHMN STAFFORD: Okay. Now, will State Land
17 Department will they require you to do a Class III survey
18 of the entire corridor or just the final right-of-way?

19 MR. BRYNER: Just the right-of-way.

20 MEMBER LITTLE: Mr. Chairman?

21 CHMN STAFFORD: Yes, Member Little.

22 MEMBER LITTLE: Just a hypothetical. If
23 you were to find during that Class II survey a lot of
24 stuff out there that you need to avoid, would that
25 influence which of the two alternatives you would

1 consider to be your preferred alternative?

2 MR. BRYNER: So, again, we're requesting
3 that you approve a route versus two routes. So the
4 preferred route would still be the preferred route. Now,
5 say, hypothetically we found some massive cultural site
6 that was like the Seventh Wonder of the World, Eighth
7 Wonder of the World, yeah, it would probably influence
8 us. But, again, based upon what's known out there and
9 extrapolating that out, we believe that the sites that
10 would be found would be something that we could avoid on
11 either of the routes.

12 MEMBER LITTLE: Okay. I guess I'm just
13 wondering whether just approving one route in this CEC
14 would tie your hands in any way.

15 MR. BRYNER: I think that every route has
16 its concerns. I think that we would be either dealing
17 with residential -- residents, homeowners and their
18 concerns, or we'll be dealing with cultural resource
19 concerns with SHPO.

20 MEMBER LITTLE: Thank you.

21 CHMN STAFFORD: Well, to that -- to that
22 point, I think, from my perspective, that weighs in favor
23 of the preferred route, because there are ways to
24 mitigate the impacts on cultural resources, whereas once
25 the line is there, and it obscures their view of the

1 Santa Rita Mountain, there's no way to mitigate that.
2 It's there, it's in their viewshed, every time they look
3 at the mountain, they look at the line.

4 So from my perspective, I'm more inclined
5 to approve the preferred route and not the alternative
6 route, so they have one place to build it and they can
7 focus on mitigating any of the impacts which primarily
8 would be seems like the cultural resources it seems like
9 a lot of those can be avoided just by where they place
10 the poles.

11 MEMBER LITTLE: I agree completely, and I
12 also think that if we approved both routes then the issue
13 would still be debated and argued about which one you
14 should choose, and I'm sure you would rather have a
15 defined route at this point.

16 CHMN STAFFORD: I'm more inclined to say
17 we've weighed the evidence and made a choice, not just,
18 well, it's all good, go ahead and build a line and place.
19 So I think it's more of kind of our role on the committee
20 to hear the evidence and select a place to put it where
21 it's going to be -- where we find that it's going to have
22 the least impacts to all the factors listed in the
23 statute.

24 Member Fant?

25 MEMBER FANT: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

1 Question for Mr. "Anakarski," did I
2 pronounce that correct?

3 MR. ANCHARSKI: Ancharski.

4 MEMBER FANT: Ancharski, I'm sorry. If we
5 approve the preferred route and Class III reveals
6 problems in placing poles, et cetera, what step can UNSE
7 take? Do you go to the ACC and ask since you've gone
8 through a full Line Siting Committee hearing, do you go
9 to the ACC and just ask for an amendment. Do we grant
10 you a CEC to change the routes or do you have to do
11 another CEC hearing?

12 MR. ANCHARSKI: Yeah. Member Fant, that is
13 a fair question. I think probably the needed deviation
14 would dictate the process for that. If it was a slight
15 deviation that would potentially go outside the approved
16 corridor, it could just be an amendment at the
17 Commission. They do have kind of a guideline for how
18 they address amendments to CECs. Obviously, if it was,
19 you know, the Seventh, Eighth Wonder of the World that we
20 had to maneuver around, that could require coming back to
21 the committee for either a new route or a significant
22 modification. So it would be kind of contingent on what
23 that deviation would look like.

24 Q. I would like to just clarify with Mr. Bryner,
25 part -- part of UNSE's request in this matter is for a

1 500-foot-wide siting corridor to potentially alleviate
2 some of these concerns; is that correct?

3 A. (MR. BRYNER) That's correct.

4 And if the committee wanted to give us a wider
5 corridor, we wouldn't be opposed to that. That would
6 give us more flexibility to route around things.

7 MEMBER FANT: And then barring the
8 discovery of the Seven Cities of Cibola, you would be
9 okay with a wider corridor?

10 MR. ANCHARSKI: Yes, certainly. I think
11 the wider the corridor certainly helps the applicant
12 maneuver around potential concerns and constraints,
13 obstacles, and cultural resources.

14 MEMBER FANT: Okay. Thank you, sir.

15 CHMN STAFFORD: The final right-of-way
16 would be, what, 100, 150 feet?

17 MR. BRYNER: 100 -- up to 100 feet wide.

18 CHMN STAFFORD: Up to 100 feet wide, okay.

19 BY MR. ANCHARSKI:

20 Q. And I guess just to clarify, that's up to
21 100-foot right-of-way in areas where the company doesn't
22 already have right-of-ways, correct?

23 A. (MR. BRYNER) That's correct.

24 Q. So there might be situations where you are in
25 right-of-ways larger than a hundred feet, but that are

1 preexisting prior to this matter?

2 A. (MR. BRYNER) Yeah, or, for instance, like if we
3 were on Canoa Road utilizing road right-of-way, it would
4 be different.

5 CHMN STAFFORD: Right. Because you
6 wouldn't -- there's not 100-foot right-of-way to share
7 the road right-of-way, correct?

8 MR. BRYNER: Correct. And we may need
9 to -- we may need to secure a little bit of a
10 right-of-way outside of that to make up for it, but, you
11 know, maybe it's 5 feet, maybe it's 10 feet, you know,
12 something like that, but it wouldn't need to be 100 feet.

13 CHMN STAFFORD: All right. Just so it's
14 clear in my head what the preferred route is, I remember
15 we talked about there's going to be some sections where
16 it will be on existing poles, some sections it will share
17 with a different line. Can you -- can we walk through it
18 to start at the Canoa Ranch Substation, to its
19 termination at Kantor Substation, and kind of follow
20 along on the map exactly what section -- what each
21 section is going to look like?

22 MR. BRYNER: Sure. Could we bring up
23 the --

24 MR. ANCHARSKI: Could we do slide 18, I
25 believe.

1 MR. BRYNER: Thank you. I think so.

2 MR. ANCHARSKI: That will be helpful.

3 MR. BRYNER: I think slide 18 is basically
4 the same as the placemat.

5 All right. So you wanted me to begin,
6 Chairman Stafford, at the Canoa Ranch Substation?

7 CHMN STAFFORD: Yes.

8 MR. BRYNER: Okay. So at Canoa Ranch, let
9 me see if my -- so heading east, more like southeast, out
10 of Canoa Ranch, that would be all new structures along
11 that southeast trajectory, once it turns towards the
12 south, southwest, along Canoa Road, this would be all new
13 structures.

14 Once it hits Mt. Hopkins Road, there's
15 existing 46-kV structures on Mt. Hopkins Road, but those
16 structures were not built to support this 954 ACSS
17 conductor, so we would need to replace those structures,
18 but we would plan to replace those essentially pole for
19 pole.

20 Then once you hit this common corridor with
21 the alternative route, which is also the corridor of the
22 existing line, the structures, as you saw, on our field
23 tour today, they're basically identical structures, the
24 138- and the 46-kV structures, those poles can support
25 the 954 ACSS conductor for the 138-kV circuit, and we

1 would plan to reuse those structures, to the extent
2 possible.

3 It is possible that we may get in there and
4 there may be a structure we have to replace. But, for
5 the most part, our engineering has indicated that they're
6 sufficient to support that conductor.

7 CHMN STAFFORD: Okay. So going back to the
8 Elephant Head Road, so where -- after you pass Elephant
9 Head Road and head southeast, you said there's an
10 existing 46-k line that would be replaced by this 138-kV
11 line?

12 MR. BRYNER: Correct. So it's about a mile
13 stretch along Mt. Hopkins Road right there.

14 CHMN STAFFORD: And those 48 -- that 46-kV
15 line would be retired; it's no longer necessary there?

16 MR. BRYNER: Correct.

17 CHMN STAFFORD: Okay. And then for the
18 next segment you'll use the existing 46-kV poles, but
19 would that line also be retired or is that also going to
20 be -- is that part that's not redundant by this.

21 MR. BRYNER: It's part of the 46-kV circuit
22 that serves as that backup today to the Tubac area and it
23 will be retired.

24 CHMN STAFFORD: It will be retired?

25 MR. BRYNER: It will be, yes.

1 So at the end of the day, from the county
2 line south to Kantor, you'll have two lines exactly, for
3 all intents and purposes, it will look the exact same as
4 it looks today right there. It's just they'll both be
5 energized at 138-kV.

6 CHMN STAFFORD: Instead of one at 138- and
7 one at 46-kV?

8 MR. BRYNER: Correct.

9 CHMN STAFFORD: Okay. So the place where
10 you're going to have -- you're going to keep the existing
11 46-kV, that's nowhere along -- that's not on this
12 preferred route, then?

13 MR. BRYNER: It's common to both the
14 preferred or the alternative route. So it's on this --
15 on the map, basically, county line south to Kantor.

16 CHMN STAFFORD: Right. But you're not
17 going to use that -- that 46-kV line is going to be
18 retired and replaced with the 138-kV line, right?

19 MR. BRYNER: Yes.

20 CHMN STAFFORD: Wasn't there somewhere --
21 on the same poles, right. But the conductor, the 46-kV
22 conductor will be removed and it's not coming back?

23 MR. BRYNER: Correct.

24 CHMN STAFFORD: I seem to recall there was
25 someplace along here where you were keeping some 46

1 component.

2 MR. BRYNER: So, yeah, I think that you're
3 recalling that when we stopped at -- it was Stop 2 on our
4 tour at the historic Canoa Ranch, there is an existing
5 46-kV line that cuts across the Canoa Ranch, essentially
6 here. The Canoa -- the Canoa Substation is about where
7 this Interstate 19 logo is on slide 18. So that 46-kV
8 line comes from north from the Green Valley Substation,
9 and runs to that point. There's also another 46-kV line
10 that comes from the west and comes into that Canoa
11 Substation. From that Canoa Substation south along
12 Elephant Head Road, the 46-kV line there will no longer
13 be needed. So that -- that goes only to the Kantor
14 Substation. It serves no other purpose. So once we have
15 a second 138-kV source to Kantor, that 46-kV circuit from
16 Canoa to Kantor is no longer needed. Those portions that
17 would be reused, whether for the preferred route or
18 alternative route, would be used, the other portions
19 could be removed.

20 CHMN STAFFORD: Okay. All right. Thank
21 you. Makes it clear.

22 Any questions from members?

23 (No response.)

24 CHMN STAFFORD: All right. Mr. Ancharski,
25 I believe we're ready for you to make your closing.

1 MR. ANCHARSKI: Great. Well, thank you.

2 Obviously, we want to thank the committee
3 for your time and effort, your thoughtful questions and
4 your thoughtful insight and your helpful illustrative
5 examples of eating sandwiches and being scolded by
6 parents.

7 I also want to thank Pima County and Santa
8 Cruz County. They've been great partners throughout this
9 process as, you know, has been made clear, there still is
10 a big piece of this project that -- that we're working
11 with Pima County on, but it's been good, productive
12 conversations, and I think we've really appreciated the
13 efforts on their part. And I really do -- I think almost
14 most importantly, I'd like to thank the communities that
15 we've been involved with throughout this process. It's
16 been a long process.

17 And I have been personally to several --
18 actually, I think all of the public open houses for these
19 meetings, and these communities have been very passionate
20 about this project, but they've also been very
21 respectful. And that's, I think, what has been really
22 been helpful to make this project work the way it has,
23 run as smooth as well as it has.

24 As you saw, you know, this process is
25 iterative, and we took that feedback into this process,

1 started from the beginning basically after, you know, we
2 heard about constraints, but again, it really has been an
3 effort from this community. As we've talked about
4 throughout this -- throughout this hearing, there really
5 is a need for this project, and specifically just for
6 this phase.

7 If -- if all else -- you know, if anything
8 else changes, phases 2, phase 3 aren't built, there's
9 still a need for phase 1. This phase will support
10 reliability for the region, Santa Cruz County, and it is
11 important that, you know, this project is put into
12 service. So even in the absence of the other projects in
13 the area there still are benefits of this project.

14 And I'd just like to conclude, on balance,
15 as kind of set forth in the statute, the evidence we
16 believe has shown that this project will aid Arizona's
17 need for an adequate, economic, and reliable supply of
18 power while balancing the -- while balancing the impacts
19 to the environment and ecology of the state.

20 And again, we really thank you for your
21 time and effort and we would hope that you would support
22 this project, either the preferred or alternative route.
23 Thank you.

24 CHMN STAFFORD: Thank you. Well, I think
25 this is a good place to stop for the day. I think we can

1 pick up in the morning with the discussion of the
2 proposed CEC.

3 Is there anything that the members want to
4 weigh in on before we recess for the day? I'm inclined
5 to tell the members that I'm leaning towards approving
6 just the preferred route and not the alternative route
7 for this certificate.

8 MEMBER FONTES: Mr. Chairman?

9 CHMN STAFFORD: Yes, Member Fontes.

10 MEMBER FONTES: I'd like to ask the
11 applicant to confirm that maximum right-of-way, based on
12 the circuits that you're going to put on there and the
13 load for a blowout, NERC compliance, and all of those
14 things that we need to fully operate a line, so just
15 trying to get that right for you, make sure we confirm
16 the right-of-way that you need for operations. 100 feet
17 doesn't sound right, but I could be corrected.

18 MR. BRYNER: Sure.

19 No, we've had our engineers look at it.
20 100 feet is sufficient for this. Obviously, in places
21 where we would be adjacent to the existing 138-kV line,
22 the total right-of-way would be more than 100 feet, but
23 any new additional right-of-way would be up to 100 feet
24 or less because there are some overlaps we can do.

25 MEMBER FONTES: I didn't have the benefit

1 of the tour, and I'm also concerned about the pole height
2 structures as you have to traverse any kind of water
3 obstacles, I'll call them, or linear infrastructure, and
4 that may have to go up. So, you know, we like to make
5 sure we've got that right for you with respect to the
6 CEC, so you don't have to come back and amend it, so just
7 offering that as well.

8 MR. BRYNER: And appreciate that, Member
9 Fontes. We could double-check overnight, and if we need
10 to change that amount tomorrow before you vote on
11 anything, we can let you know.

12 CHMN STAFFORD: Thank you.

13 MEMBER FONTES: Again, I didn't have the
14 benefit of the tour, and I want to make sure we got it
15 right for both the preferred and the alternative.

16 CHMN STAFFORD: I predict a robust
17 discussion about conditions.

18 Member Fant?

19 MEMBER FANT: Wise Mr. Fontes just jiggled
20 my memory. What's the height of the poles on this
21 project?

22 MR. BRYNER: So typical height will be
23 between 75 and 85 feet tall, but we did request a maximum
24 height of 115 feet.

25 MEMBER FANT: All right. Thank you, sir.

1 CHMN STAFFORD: Thank you.

2 Anything further from members?

3 (No response.)

4 CHMN STAFFORD: With that we will recess
5 until tomorrow morning at 9:00 a.m.

6 (The hearing recessed at 4:48 p.m.)

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1 STATE OF ARIZONA)
2 COUNTY OF MARICOPA)

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

15 I CERTIFY that I have complied with the ethical
16 obligations set forth in ACJA 7-206(F)(3) and ACJA 7-206
17 (J)(1)(g)(1) and (2). Dated at Phoenix, Arizona, this
18 8th day of November, 2025.

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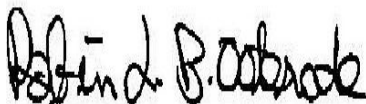
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