

1 BEFORE THE ARIZONA POWER PLANT LS-425
 2 AND TRANSMISSION LINE SITING COMMITTEE
 3 IN THE MATTER OF THE) DOCKET NO.
 4 APPLICATION OF TUCSON) L-00000C-25-0094-00246
 5 ELECTRIC POWER COMPANY IN) LS CASE NO. 246
 6 CONFORMANCE WITH THE)
 7 REQUIREMENTS OF A.R.S.)
 8 § 40-360, ET SEQ., FOR A) PREHEARING CONFERENCE
 9 CERTIFICATE OF ENVIRONMENTAL)
 10 COMPATIBILITY AUTHORIZING THE)
 11 NORTHWEST MARANA RELIABILITY)
 12 PROJECT, WHICH INCLUDES THE)
 13 CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW 138 KV)
 14 TRANSMISSION LINE AND)
 15 SWITCHYARD WITHIN THE TOWN OF)
 16 MARANA, UNINCORPORATED PIMA)
 17 COUNTY, AND UNINCORPORATED)
 18 PINAL COUNTY, ARIZONA.)
 19)
 20)
 21)
 22)
 23)
 24)
 25)

At: Phoenix, Arizona
 Date: June 6, 2025
 Filed: June 10, 2025

REPORTER'S TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

(Pages 1 through 16)

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1 BE IT REMEMBERED that the above-entitled and
2 numbered matter came on regularly to be heard before the
3 Arizona Power Plant and Transmission Line Siting
4 Committee, commencing at 11:00 a.m. on June 6, 2025, with
5 all participants appearing via videoconference.

6

7 BEFORE: ADAM STAFFORD, Chairman

8

9 APPEARANCES:

10 For the Applicant:

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

15

16 ALSO PRESENT:

17 Clark Bryner, TEP
18 Adriana Martinez, TEP
19 Theresa Knoblock, SWCA
20 Tod Brewer, assistant to Chairman Stafford

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1 CHMN STAFFORD: Let's go on the record. Now
2 is the time set for the prehearing conference in the
3 application of TEP for its Marana reliability project,
4 Docket Number L-00000C-25-0094-00246, or Line Siting Case
5 246.

6 Let's start with taking appearances.

7 Ms. Grabel.

8 MS GRABEL: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Meghan
9 Grabel of Osborn Maledon on behalf of Tucson Electric
10 Power Company. With me from my firm is Elias Ancharski.
11 With me from Tucson Electric Power Company are Mr. Clark
12 Bryner and Adriana Martinez. And with us from SWCA is
13 Theresa Knoblock.

14 Nailed it this time.

15 CHMN STAFFORD: All right. And just
16 confirming that you have the lodging arrangements for the
17 committee members for the hearing?

18 MS GRABEL: Yes, that's true. We are
19 putting the hearing members up at the Comfort Inn and
20 Suites located on Cracker Barrel Road in Marana.

21 CHMN STAFFORD: All right. I seem to recall
22 that some of the members hadn't booked rooms. Do you know
23 how many members have booked rooms?

24 MS GRABEL: I don't recall how many have or
25 have not. I know the cutoff date was May 30th.

1 CHMN STAFFORD: All right. We think you
2 have a few that actually reside in Tucson, so they will --
3 they won't -- they won't need lodging.

4 MS GRABEL: Yeah.

5 CHMN STAFFORD: All right. And you have --
6 Let's see. You have six prehearing exhibits; correct?

7 MS GRABEL: Correct.

8 CHMN STAFFORD: Okay. Number 1 is the map
9 of the project.
10 2 is the notice of service to affected
11 jurisdictions.

12 3 is an example of the sign contents.

13 4 is the map showing the locations of the
14 posted signs.

15 5 is the tour itinerary and script.

16 And 6 is the proposed certificate of
17 environmental compatibility.

18 Those are going to be admitted.

19 MS GRABEL: Thank you.

20 CHMN STAFFORD: Okay. There haven't been
21 any requests to intervene that I have seen. Is that --

22 MS GRABEL: We are aware of none, correct.

23 CHMN STAFFORD: Okay. And let's see. There
24 have been no limited appearance statements filed?

25 MS GRABEL: Correct.

1 CHMN STAFFORD: Okay. Now, let's see. The
2 applicant agrees that October 29th, 2025, is the time
3 limit for the Committee to act under the statute; correct?

4 MS GRABEL: Yes, that's correct.

5 CHMN STAFFORD: Okay, let's see. The
6 affected jurisdictions are the City of Marana, the
7 counties of Pima and Pinal. And then the State agencies:
8 State land department and Arizona Department of
9 Transportation; correct?

10 MS GRABEL: Yes, except Marana is a town,
11 not a city. I don't know that it matters.

12 CHMN STAFFORD: Okay. All right. And then
13 let's see. One of the exhibits is the -- Let's see. 2 is
14 the notice of service to the affected jurisdictions. It
15 looks like you had to end up serving Marana and Pinal
16 County with a process server.

17 MS GRABEL: Right. We didn't get the
18 certified mail back. This has happened to us before. And
19 we just wanted to be able to demonstrate that we actually
20 did give it to them, even though the statute requires us
21 to do it by certified mail. So we did do it the right way
22 first, but we couldn't get it to them, so we decided let's
23 process-serve them.

24 CHMN STAFFORD: Excellent. Well, they have
25 actual notice. I think you're -- I think serving them

1 with the process server is --

2 MS GRABEL: Above and beyond.

3 CHMN STAFFORD: -- certified mail, so I
4 think you have more than complied with the notice
5 requirements.

6 And the publishing requirements, you had
7 those in there as well. Looks like you published twice in
8 the Arizona Daily Star, March 7th and 11th, which is more
9 than 30 days before the hearing. You also published in a
10 couple other newspapers in an abundance of caution.

11 MS GRABEL: It was more just because we
12 thought those were the readership of the area. So it was
13 the Explorer and Marana News. That was on May 7th. And
14 we published in the Arizona Bilingual on May 26th.

15 CHMN STAFFORD: Okay. All right. And you
16 have seen the agenda. Are there any objections or
17 additions to that?

18 MS GRABEL: No, sir.

19 CHMN STAFFORD: Okay. The hearing is going
20 to be at the -- from June 16th through the 20th. I don't
21 anticipate it will take that long -- and it will be at
22 the --

23 What's the location again?

24 MS GRABEL: It's the Northwest Fire District
25 Training Center.

1 And I'm going to send you a map,
2 Mr. Chairman, because it's an interesting place to get
3 into and there are some restrictions as to where people
4 can smoke and not smoke. So I'll send you that so the
5 Committee members can kind of figure out the lay of the
6 land before they get there.

7 CHMN STAFFORD: Okay. Just send it to Tod
8 and he will distribute it to the members then and that
9 will work.

10 MS GRABEL: Will do.

11 CHMN STAFFORD: Okay. Let's see. Looks
12 like you have three witnesses. I am assuming you
13 anticipate being done with the hearing by Tuesday
14 afternoon. Correct?

15 MS GRABEL: That would be awesome. Our
16 internal bet is Wednesday.

17 CHMN STAFFORD: Okay.

18 MS GRABEL: But it also depends on the
19 length of the tour. We would propose a tour on Monday
20 morning and then followed by a lunch.

21 CHMN STAFFORD: You mean Tuesday morning?

22 MS GRABEL: Tuesday morning. That's what I
23 mean, yes.

24 CHMN STAFFORD: All right. Okay. And you
25 have -- I assume you have Peaks Audio for the AV setup.

1 All right. And you'll have signed forms for
2 public comment. Do you anticipate much public comment?

3 MS GRABEL: You know, we've had really good
4 outreach and there's been a lot of really positive
5 comments, so I don't know.

6 Adriana, I kind defer to you. Do you
7 anticipate much public comment?

8 MS. MARINEZ: I don't.

9 CHMN STAFFORD: Okay. Will there be any
10 need for security at the hearing?

11 MS GRABEL: No, there will not.

12 CHMN STAFFORD: Okay. You've got the tour
13 plan and the script. I like to -- on these multiple route
14 cases when you have the ability to say, okay, as you drive
15 past the checkpoint there is a script that can describe
16 what you are looking at instead of having to wait for the
17 next stop and get the court reporter out. I think that
18 works out pretty well.

19 MS GRABEL: Good.

20 CHMN STAFFORD: Okay. And we'll have the
21 daily transcripts, the Wi-Fi. Business casual for the
22 hearing attire.

23 THE COURT REPORTER: Did you say daily
24 transcripts?

25 CHMN STAFFORD: No, we're not doing daily

1 transcripts. I'm just looking at the checklist and it
2 says if daily transcripts, breaks every 90 minutes. We
3 don't need daily since it's three days after the
4 conclusion. We do break every 90 minutes, though. Yeah.

5 All right. And you've got -- You don't have
6 any segments where you have groups opposed to certain
7 segments for this case, do you?

8 MS GRABEL: Will you repeat that,
9 Mr. Chairman?

10 CHMN STAFFORD: You don't have like a group
11 of -- you don't have -- Because you have multiple routes
12 you don't have different groups of people that are opposed
13 to different segments of the route then; correct?

14 MS GRABEL: That's correct. We have some
15 routes that are probably more popular with the residential
16 residences in the area than others, but no one is opposed
17 to any of the routes.

18 CHMN STAFFORD: Okay. And you have got
19 your -- filed your witness summaries. And I've received
20 the hard copy of the exhibits for the hearing already.

21 MS GRABEL: Yes. Those were delivered to
22 you yesterday.

23 CHMN STAFFORD: Yep.

24 So we've got -- I guess there was no other
25 parties to exchange exhibits with.

1 MS GRABEL: Correct.

2 CHMN STAFFORD: All right. All right. And
3 you've made the financial arrangements with the
4 Commission?

5 MS GRABEL: We have.

6 CHMN STAFFORD: Okay. Now, staff has not
7 responded to my letter of requesting their comment. I
8 anticipate they will file that probably next week.

9 MS GRABEL: I would agree. We did get data
10 requests from staff and we have responded to those, so we
11 anticipate that a letter is forthcoming.

12 CHMN STAFFORD: Okay. And I assume you'll
13 introduce that as a new exhibit at the hearing, Number 16.

14 MS GRABEL: Yes.

15 CHMN STAFFORD: There is no related
16 litigation.

17 Okay. We've got the draft CEC. No one is
18 objecting to that because there is no other parties.
19 Let's see.

20 Did you meet with SHPO at all in
21 consultation on this?

22 MS GRABEL: We absolutely did. We met with
23 SHPO and the other affected utilities and we negotiated
24 language that was acceptable to everybody. So we don't
25 anticipate any objection on the language.

1 CHMN STAFFORD: Okay. And then do you have
2 any -- I haven't looked through all the exhibits yet. Do
3 you have any -- And I didn't see it in the application.
4 Do you have any correspondence from SHPO on their position
5 on any of the routes?

6 MS GRABEL: Ms. Martinez, would you answer
7 that question?

8 MS. MARINEZ: I don't believe we have any
9 formal comments from them on any routes.

10 MS GRABEL: We do have communications from
11 SHPO with respect to the conditions and we have comments
12 from them with respect to the type of environmental survey
13 that will be required. But I am not sure that they
14 actually opined on any of the routes themselves.

15 Is that right, Adriana?

16 MS. MARINEZ: Yes. I would agree with that,
17 yes. Thank you.

18 CHMN STAFFORD: Okay. But they didn't opine
19 on what be would necessary for any of the routes then.
20 Because I seem to recall from the application there's a
21 number of historical sites listed in the area of -- not
22 the area affected, it's the study area I guess. Correct?

23 MS GRABEL: That's correct, yes.

24 CHMN STAFFORD: Okay. And so what's the
25 status of any other permits from either the federal,

1 State, County or City or Town?

2 MS GRABEL: We're going to need a
3 conditional use permit for the switchyard, the Owl Head
4 Ranch switchyard. We need some right-of-way permits from
5 ADOT, from Union Pacific Railroad, Kinder Morgan, and
6 potentially others. And then we do have -- we cross the
7 Central Arizona Project canal, so that might require a
8 NEPA process. But that's likely going to be an EA, not an
9 extensive analysis.

10 CHMN STAFFORD: Okay. And that has -- none
11 of that's -- The NEPA process hasn't begun yet?

12 MS GRABEL: I don't believe so.

13 CHMN STAFFORD: Okay.

14 MS. MARINEZ: It hasn't.

15 CHMN STAFFORD: Pardon?

16 MS. MARINEZ: It hasn't.

17 CHMN STAFFORD: Okay. And what about the
18 conditional use permit for the switchyard; has that
19 already commenced?

20 MS GRABEL: No, it has not.

21 MS. MARINEZ: Not for the switchyard, no.

22 CHMN STAFFORD: Okay. And then I'm assuming
23 that the transmission line itself is a permitted use.

24 MS GRABEL: I believe that's true, yes.

25 Correct.

1 CHMN STAFFORD: Okay. Okay. Let me just
2 make sure I got that. I don't write as fast as you talk.

3 So you have got -- there's going to be a
4 permit for the cross from ADOT and from which railroad?

5 MS GRABEL: Union Pacific.

6 CHMN STAFFORD: Okay. And they have --
7 Where are -- do those stand in the process?

8 I guess you probably wait to get a route and
9 then you'll talk to them about where you are going to need
10 to cross. Correct?

11 MS GRABEL: That is correct.

12 And that's also true with Kinder Morgan.
13 There's a pipeline in the area that might encroach. We'll
14 need a permit from them as well.

15 CHMN STAFFORD: Okay. All right. Now, for
16 the hearing you'll have the exhibits for hearing
17 members -- for the committee members at the hearing on
18 tablets I assume. Correct?

19 MS GRABEL: That's correct.

20 CHMN STAFFORD: And you'll have -- I already
21 have my hard copy, so you will only need one more hard
22 copy for the court reporter.

23 MS GRABEL: That's good.

24 CHMN STAFFORD: All right. Are there any
25 other issues that we need to cover?

1 MS GRABEL: I don't believe so, no.

2 CHMN STAFFORD: All right. Do you have
3 everything you need, Jill?

4 THE COURT REPORTER: SHPO.

5 CHMN STAFFORD: All right.

6 THE COURT REPORTER: I need the spelling for
7 SHPO.

8 CHMN STAFFORD: Oh, it's -- it's an acronym.
9 S-H-P-O. It stands for the State Historic Preservation
10 Office.

11 THE COURT REPORTER: Thank you.

12 CHMN STAFFORD: All right. Do we have
13 everything we need, Tod?

14 MR. BREWER: Yes, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

15 CHMN STAFFORD: All right. Thank you all
16 very much. We are adjourned and I will see you on the
17 16th.

18 MS GRABEL: Bye.

19 MR. BRYNER: Thank you. See you.

20 (Whereupon, at 11:12 a.m. the proceedings
21 ended.)

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25

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

4 BE IT KNOWN that the foregoing proceedings are a
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15 Dated at Prescott, Arizona, this 10th day of June,
16 2025.

17 

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

21 * * * * *

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