

1 BEFORE THE ARIZONA POWER PLANT LS-500  
2 AND TRANSMISSION LINE SITING COMMITTEE  
3 IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION ) DOCKET NO.  
4 OF TUCSON ELECTRIC POWER, IN ) L-00000C-26-0125-00261  
5 CONFORMANCE WITH THE )  
6 REQUIREMENTS OF A.R.S. § 40-360, ) Case No. 261  
7 ET SEQ., FOR A CERTIFICATE OF )  
8 ENVIRONMENTAL COMPATIBILITY )  
9 AUTHORIZING THE SANTA RITA )  
10 CONNECTION 138 KILOVOLT (KV) )  
11 TRANSMISSION LINE PROJECT, WHICH )  
12 INCLUDES THE CONSTRUCTION OF A )  
13 NEW 138 KV TRANSMISSION LINE )  
14 ORIGINATING AT THE EXISTING )  
15 SONORAN SUBSTATION (SECTION 2, )  
16 TOWNSHIP 16 S, RANGE 14 E), AND )  
17 TERMINATING AT THE PLANNED SANTA )  
18 RITA SUBSTATION (SECTION 29, )  
19 TOWNSHIP 17 S, RANGE 14 E), EACH )  
20 LOCATED WITHIN PIMA COUNTY, )  
21 ARIZONA. ) EVIDENTIARY  
22 ) HEARING

15 At: Tucson, Arizona  
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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 at the Desert Diamond Casino Conference  
5 Center, 7350 South Nogales Highway, Tucson, Arizona,  
6 commencing at 9:02 a.m. on the 27th day of May, 2026.

7

8 BEFORE: ADAM STAFFORD, Committee Chair

9 MICHAEL COMSTOCK, Arizona Corporation Commission  
10 DOUGLAS FANT, General Public  
11 SAL DICICCIO, Cities and Towns  
12 MARGARET "TOBY" LITTLE, PE, General Public (via Zoom)  
13 ROMAN FONTES, Counties (via Zoom)  
14 GABBY SAUCEDO MERCER, General Public  
15 LANEY MEEKER, Arizona Department of Water Resources  
16 (Via Zoom)

17 APPEARANCES:

18 For the Applicant:

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20 By: Meghan H. Grabel  
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24 - and -

25 TUCSON ELECTRIC POWER  
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1 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: Let's go back on the  
2 record.

3 Ms. Grabel, I believe you had concluded your  
4 direct case. We had some public comment last night that  
5 raised some issues I think we should probably cover  
6 before we move to your closing.

7 MS. GRABEL: Okay.

8 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: The first issue was about  
9 the substation. And that's not excluded by the  
10 Applicant. That's excluded by the statute. Substations  
11 are beyond the jurisdiction of this committee, so that's  
12 why we don't issue the certificates for them.

13 He also mentioned the Copper World Toro  
14 Switchyard. Can you show us on the map where that is?  
15 And is that under construction? Is it already existing?

16 MS. GRABEL: Certainly. Can we pull up the map  
17 of the project.

18

19 CHRIS ORTIZ Y PINO AND CLARK BRYNER (Cont'd),  
20 called as witnesses as a panel on behalf of Applicant,  
21 having been previously affirmed by the Chairman to speak  
22 the truth and nothing but the truth, were examined and  
23 testified as follows:

24

25

1 DIRECT EXAMINATION

2

3 Q. (BY MS. GRABEL) And, actually, I'm going to  
4 ask Mr. Bryner to address the location and the current  
5 state of the Toro Switchyard.

6 A. BY MR. BRYNER: Can we pull up Slide 19, Grace?

7 All right. So we're looking at Slide 19. Hold  
8 on. Technical difficulties. We'll get it here.

9 Okay. I got the laser pointer going. So sorry  
10 for folks online who may not -- okay. We've got the red  
11 dot now.

12 So the Toro Switchyard, as contemplated under  
13 Case 164, is immediately adjacent to the west side of  
14 the Santa Rita Substation site.

15 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: Okay. So it's not  
16 constructed. It's just authorized by CEC 164.

17 A. BY MR. BRYNER: That's correct.

18 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: Okay. Will it still be  
19 necessary with the Santa Rita Substation?

20 A. BY MR. BRYNER: So with the Santa Rita  
21 Substation -- so Toro Switchyard, Case 164, as was  
22 discussed last night, was approved in 2012.

23 Since that time, we had identified the need for  
24 a substation to serve residential and commercial  
25 business load in this area, and the site that we were

1 able to secure from the State Land Department was  
2 immediately adjacent to the Toro Switchyard.

3 So our plan is to build a facility that can  
4 accommodate both purposes rather than having two  
5 facilities adjacent to one another.

6 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: Say the last part one more  
7 time.

8 A. BY MR. BRYNER: So our plan is to have one  
9 facility that can serve both purposes of the switchyard  
10 portion as well as the substation portion.

11 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: Okay. So the Santa Rita  
12 Substation will eliminate the need for the Toro  
13 Switchyard. Is that what you're saying?

14 A. BY MR. BRYNER: Correct.

15 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: Okay. Now, the 164 line,  
16 that's the one that goes from the Santa Rita Substation,  
17 and you'll share the poles with that all the way up  
18 to -- what is that road?

19 A. BY MR. BRYNER: So along Santa Rita Road is  
20 what you're talking about.

21 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: Right.

22 A. BY MR. BRYNER: Until the intersection with the  
23 Vail to Kantor line. There is no road intersection  
24 there.

25 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: Okay. So then -- now, the

1 164 line, can you trace that on the map to show us?  
2 Because it's the left-hand portion of the -- I see,  
3 okay, where you're pointing. So it follows that and  
4 then it goes south?

5 A. BY MR. BRYNER: So it continues southeast and  
6 then terminates at a substation that would serve the  
7 mine.

8 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: Right. And the mine is not  
9 operational, is it?

10 A. BY MR. BRYNER: No. Well, they're working on  
11 developing it. We're not serving electricity to it  
12 today.

13 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: Okay. All right. And  
14 then -- but the purpose of the line before us today for  
15 261, what is its -- its function is not to serve the  
16 mine. That's what 164 does; correct?

17 A. BY MR. BRYNER: That's correct.

18 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: Okay. The purpose of this  
19 line is to increase reliability for this entire area.

20 A. BY MR. BRYNER: It's exactly as we discussed  
21 yesterday. It's because of that P6 event. This is a  
22 mitigation project to ensure reliability for the bulk  
23 electric system.

24 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: Okay.

25 MEMBER LITTLE: Mr. Chairman.

1 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: Yes, Member Little.

2 MEMBER LITTLE: Along those same lines, in the  
3 public comment yesterday the gentleman addressed the --  
4 I'm trying to remember the name of it. The --

5 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: Santa Rita Experimental  
6 Range.

7 MEMBER LITTLE: Thank you.

8 And the fact -- he said that their transmission  
9 lines are not allowed to be built in there, no more will  
10 be allowed to be built in there. Is that true or did I  
11 misunderstand him?

12 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: I think they -- I seem to  
13 recall yesterday you said -- that was going to be my  
14 next question, too, Member Little, was about that they  
15 stated that the reason they were going to co-locate on  
16 the 164 line and the -- what's the other one? -- the 176  
17 line because -- you're going to co-locate on both those  
18 lines for Route 1 is because you couldn't put any new  
19 poles in that range.

20 A. BY MR. BRYNER: That's correct. So we've  
21 already got an easement across the Santa Rita  
22 Experimental Range for the case -- or the portion that  
23 would be co-located with Case 176. So right here.

24 And then we've already got an easement across  
25 the Santa Rita Experimental Range for Case 164. So

1 those rights exist today.

2 MEMBER LITTLE: And no further authorizations  
3 will be necessary to put a second circuit on those  
4 poles?

5 A. BY MR. BRYNER: Okay. So, no, no further  
6 authorization is needed. We have a blanket  
7 authorization from ASLD for those lines.

8 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: And how would the timing of  
9 that would work out? Because I remember you said you  
10 couldn't run it straight across. That's why you had to  
11 do -- that was when you explored the routes you could  
12 take and you had your little grid of all of the  
13 potential segments. You eliminated those because you  
14 couldn't get new rights-of-way across the range.

15 When did they -- when was the cut-off for  
16 putting new infrastructure in the range?

17 A. BY MR. BRYNER: So the gentleman,  
18 Mr. Dougherty, he wasn't wrong about his discussions on  
19 that timing. So that was back in the '90s that they  
20 actually issued that order.

21 Nonetheless, we do have the rights to put that  
22 transmission line along Santa Rita Road and along the  
23 existing transmission line. So I don't know how that  
24 worked out. I just know that we have those rights.

25 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: And that was under 176 and

1 164 you got the rights to cross the range.

2 A. BY MR. BRYNER: That's correct.

3 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: And since those are both  
4 double-circuit lines, now you're going to add the second  
5 circuit.

6 A. BY MR. BRYNER: Correct.

7 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: Member Fant.

8 MEMBER FANT: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

9 What is the Santa Rita Experimental Range?

10 A. BY MR. ORTIZ Y PINO: So the Santa Rita  
11 Experimental Range is state land that's managed by the  
12 University of Arizona. It's actually a rangeland  
13 laboratory. It's one of the longest, single -- like,  
14 the oldest living laboratory in the country. And it's  
15 managed by the Life Sciences Department.

16 MEMBER FANT: Just out of curiosity, the jaguar  
17 El Cinco, where does he hang out in the Santa Rita  
18 Mountains? Where is the reputed hangout in the Santa  
19 Rita Mountains, or does he hang out in the Santa Rita  
20 Mountains?

21 A. BY MR. BRYNER: I would say that's beyond the  
22 scope of my understanding.

23 MEMBER FANT: I assume he's farther south  
24 toward Mount Wrightson, not in this area.

25 A. BY MR. BRYNER: This is not the -- sorry. Let

1 me restart my response.

2 The project area for this does not go into the  
3 Santa Rita Mountains at all.

4 MEMBER FANT: Right.

5 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: Member Fontes, you have a  
6 question.

7 MEMBER FONTES: I do, Mr. Chairman.

8 Mr. Bryner, what do you mean by "rights"?  
9 Rights being you were granted a CEC, or are there other  
10 rights that we should have awareness on at state,  
11 federal, local, county?

12 A. BY MR. BRYNER: We have a lease from the  
13 Arizona State Land Department authorizing the  
14 construction, operation, and maintenance of transmission  
15 lines across the experimental range that would authorize  
16 the routes that we're proposing to build here.

17 MEMBER FONTES: So you have a lease agreement  
18 and a CEC.

19 A. BY MR. BRYNER: We have both.

20 MEMBER FONTES: Anything else we should just be  
21 aware of for the record?

22 A. BY MR. BRYNER: Not that I'm aware of. That  
23 CEC for 164 has its own conditions.

24 MEMBER FONTES: There was no NEPA or anything  
25 like that? I'm just trying to button this up to make it

1 for the public record here.

2 A. BY MR. BRYNER: Correct. No NEPA.

3 MEMBER FONTES: Okay. Thank you.

4 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: All right. Are there any  
5 other questions from members?

6 MEMBER DICICCIO: Mr. Chair.

7 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: Yes, Member DiCiccio.

8 MEMBER DICICCIO: Really quick, and just to get  
9 it on the record, because his major concern was dealing  
10 with the mine. I mean, even if this line was to be used  
11 for the mine, the line is already there. The electrical  
12 wiring is there. Everything is there. I mean, it could  
13 already be done today.

14 So I just want to make sure it's in the record  
15 that no matter what it is, they have a legal right to  
16 use this, and they have a legal right to be able to  
17 connect to another user, as well, just because the line  
18 is already there.

19 You know, from my end, we don't have any  
20 jurisdiction over that at all. So I just wanted to make  
21 sure that's on the record. Because that's what he was  
22 addressing and that's what he was talking about.

23 MS. GRABEL: And if I could add to that, Member  
24 DiCiccio, I agree with you. In fact, we don't only have  
25 the right to serve them, we have an obligation to serve

1 any customer that wants connection within our service  
2 area, and we don't have the legal ability to  
3 discriminate based on who the end user is.

4 So this is an objection that the gentleman and  
5 his organization have made on the Copper World project  
6 on time extensions, and the Commission has consistently  
7 said we don't have jurisdiction or the ability to not  
8 serve a customer who is in our service territory.

9 MEMBER DICICCIO: Exactly. And I just wanted  
10 to make sure that's on the record. Because if whatever  
11 were to occur sometime in the future and that were to  
12 happen, you don't want someone coming back saying this  
13 wasn't discussed in the public meeting. It wasn't  
14 brought up.

15 The fact is you have a legal right -- and I  
16 didn't even add the word "obligation" to be able to  
17 serve that customer. I just wanted to make sure that's  
18 on the record. Thank you.

19 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: All right. And I think we  
20 established that the line that would service the mine is  
21 the 164 that's already been certificated.

22 Is that the -- refresh my memory. Is that the  
23 case where the Commission was going to look at the  
24 environmental impacts of the mine and then they decided,  
25 no, that's not appropriate, that's beyond the scope of

1 our authority? Is that the case that I'm thinking of?

2 MS. GRABEL: Yes, Chairman, that is.

3 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: Now, Copper World, is that  
4 Rosemont? Is that the same mine?

5 MS. GRABEL: It is.

6 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: All right. Member Mercer.

7 MEMBER MERCER: Yeah. Again, for the record, I  
8 just want to make sure that we put it in layman's terms.

9 I want the Applicant to clarify whether this  
10 transmission project was planned independently of Copper  
11 World or whether the mine materially changed the scope  
12 or the necessity of this project.

13 A. BY MR. BRYNER: Thank you, Member Mercer. So,  
14 yeah, the mine was -- the line to serve the mine was  
15 approved in 2012. This project came about much later  
16 not as a result of the mine but as a result of a NERC  
17 reliability concern.

18 MEMBER MERCER: Thank you.

19 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: And, say, for sake of  
20 argument the Commission and the committee didn't approve  
21 this line, the mine would still be -- could still be  
22 served by the 164 line that's already been approved;  
23 correct?

24 A. BY MR. BRYNER: That is correct.

25 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: So the approval or denial

1 of this line will have no impact on the ability or  
2 obligation of TEP to serve the mine.

3 A. BY MR. BRYNER: Correct.

4 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: Okay. I think that's all  
5 the questions I have.

6 Any other questions from members?

7 MEMBER LITTLE: Mr. Chairman.

8 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: Yes, Member Little.

9 MEMBER LITTLE: I reviewed all my notes and my  
10 little plastic clips on the application, and I do have  
11 several questions. I don't know whether now is the --  
12 on various different aspects. I don't know whether now  
13 is the time to ask them or whether we want to hear the  
14 Applicant's closing statement and then I'll ask.

15 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: I think questions. The  
16 time for questions is now.

17 MEMBER LITTLE: All right. And I know it comes  
18 as no surprise that I have questions. Just some things  
19 that I noted when I was reviewing the application.

20 In Exhibit C, we were talking about the linkage  
21 zones on Page C-3, or 111 of the application, talking  
22 about the Arizona Wildlife Linkages Work Group and  
23 recommendations that they may have about any activity in  
24 those linkages.

25 And the statement was made "TEP's objective to

1 utilize existing corridors to the maximum extent  
2 possible follows the recommendations of the AWLW."

3 I'm not real sure what that statement says.  
4 What kinds of recommendations, generally, are made by  
5 that organization?

6 A. BY MR. ORTIZ Y PINO: Yes. Thank you, Member  
7 Little.

8 So by co-locating Route 1 and Route 3 on  
9 existing facilities, we're not creating additional  
10 disturbances and not having any additional impacts in  
11 fragmenting that environment in the area in these  
12 communities.

13 MEMBER LITTLE: Okay. And what about any new  
14 roads that may be necessary to do the stringing of the  
15 wires and replacement of the poles in the areas where  
16 the poles are going to be replaced? Are there roads --  
17 are there service roads existing in the right-of-way or  
18 the corridors right now?

19 A. BY MR. ORTIZ Y PINO: Yes, there are.

20 MEMBER LITTLE: So there won't be any -- so no  
21 new roads will be necessary either.

22 I have a question about the key observation  
23 points. The Key Observation Point No. 2 was chosen as  
24 sort of in the middle of the -- it's on Whispering Sage  
25 Road, and it's sort of in the middle of a clump of homes

1 there, residences.

2 And I'm wondering why that particular KOP was  
3 chosen as opposed to choosing one that was a residence  
4 that was actually closer to the line so we could see  
5 what the residents that are very close to the line would  
6 be seeing as opposed to what somebody quite a ways back  
7 would see.

8 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: Member Little, you're  
9 talking about KOP-2?

10 MEMBER LITTLE: Yes, I am.

11 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: Can we pull the map up with  
12 KOP-2 that shows where on the route.

13 A. BY MR. ORTIZ Y PINO: That will be Slide 24.

14 So, Member Little, KOP-2 was actually chosen to  
15 be in this residential area for the exact reason you  
16 stated, to provide a representative view from this  
17 neighborhood, from the residents in this neighborhood of  
18 this corridor.

19 So there are homes in the background here. So  
20 we're taking this picture from the road, but it is --  
21 the objective is to take it from the perspective of this  
22 residential area and what their views and the impacts to  
23 their views would be like.

24 MEMBER LITTLE: I understand that. But I'm  
25 wondering why it was chosen in the middle of the

1 neighborhood instead of from the residences that are  
2 very close to the --

3 A. BY MR. ORTIZ Y PINO: So let me get to that  
4 section in the application really quickly.

5 So KOP No. 2 was taken on Whispering Sage Road,  
6 and that is a public road that we have access to.

7 Continuing to the north to get closer to the  
8 line, those are private residences and private roads.  
9 So this was where we were able to take the road -- take  
10 the picture from is on the northern portion of that  
11 neighborhood as well.

12 MEMBER LITTLE: Okay. I see.

13 A. BY MR. ORTIZ Y PINO: If I may point you --

14 MEMBER LITTLE: So you would have needed  
15 permission from the residents in order to get any closer  
16 to where some of the residences would have a more  
17 obvious view of the project.

18 A. BY MR. ORTIZ Y PINO: That's correct.

19 MEMBER LITTLE: Am I correct?

20 A. BY MR. ORTIZ Y PINO: If I can point you to  
21 Page 366 of the application, you can see a map of where  
22 KOP-2 was taken from.

23 MEMBER LITTLE: Right.

24 A. BY MR. ORTIZ Y PINO: And you can see East  
25 Whispering Sage Road is a public road. There are

1 residences to the north closer to this corridor, as you  
2 noted, but those are private driveways.

3 MEMBER LITTLE: All righty.

4 And on Exhibit H-2, that shows the zoning in  
5 the area. And I recall you discussing something about  
6 this, but I don't -- I didn't catch what it was.

7 The pale -- maybe I could give you a minute to  
8 get to that exhibit.

9 A. BY MR. ORTIZ Y PINO: Okay.

10 MEMBER LITTLE: There's a section -- there's a  
11 zoning in Pima County called SP, and I believe that's  
12 "special projects" or something like that.

13 What is that, the SP zoning?

14 A. BY MR. ORTIZ Y PINO: So this light blue  
15 section here is what you're talking to.

16 MEMBER LITTLE: Yes, I am.

17 A. BY MR. ORTIZ Y PINO: And that is a specific  
18 plan.

19 So in this community you have -- this area here  
20 is the Wilmot Energy Center. And the specific plan is  
21 similar to -- it's a zoning designation that allows for  
22 multiple uses within an area. So it's multiple planned  
23 uses within one zoning.

24 So there is a residential development here, a  
25 solar generation facility is here, and then more vacant

1 land up here. And so that one zoning gives rights to  
2 multiple uses within one zone.

3 MEMBER LITTLE: Thank you.

4 I'm jumping all over the place here. I realize  
5 that.

6 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: You go ahead, Member  
7 Little. This is the time to get all the member  
8 questions done before they give their closing, and then  
9 we can move on to the certificate.

10 A. BY MR. ORTIZ Y PINO: Keeping us on our toes.

11 MEMBER LITTLE: Right.

12 For the record, the Applicant is continuing to  
13 work with both the State Historic Preservation Office  
14 and the tribes that have expressed an interest or a  
15 desire to be aware of the status of things.

16 You're continuing to work with them to do  
17 things like providing your reports to SHPO and the  
18 tribes; is that correct?

19 A. BY MR. ORTIZ Y PINO: That is correct. So we  
20 have already provided the Class 1 cultural resources  
21 inventory report to the tribes with the affiliated  
22 ancestral affiliations to the land within our study  
23 area, and we will provide the Class 3 pedestrian survey  
24 to SHPO as well once it's completed.

25 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: And the tribes will have

1 access to the Class 3 survey as well?

2 A. BY MR. ORTIZ Y PINO: Yes.

3 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: Okay. I seem to recall  
4 that was another benefit of Route 1 over Route 3 was  
5 less contact with potential or existing cultural  
6 resources.

7 A. BY MR. ORTIZ Y PINO: That's correct. So if I  
8 can find that slide here.

9 We know of a lot more cultural resources on  
10 this side. As we get closer to the river, there are  
11 more cultural resources that we know of.

12 MEMBER LITTLE: And an interactive map was  
13 mentioned as being on the website, and I'm curious about  
14 that. Does that mean that people could put in their  
15 address and have the map show where their house is  
16 relative to the routes?

17 A. BY MR. ORTIZ Y PINO: Yes, Member Little, that  
18 is correct.

19 MEMBER LITTLE: That's awesome. I think that's  
20 really great. Because I know that very often, as I'm  
21 going through this, people will say, you know, "Where is  
22 this with respect to my house?"

23 A. BY MR. ORTIZ Y PINO: Absolutely. And so at  
24 the various stages of our siting and planning process,  
25 we were able to update that interactive map with the new

1 layers to show where we were in the process and how we  
2 were making decisions with respect to routes and  
3 segments nearest their homes.

4 MEMBER LITTLE: I have a question about the  
5 substation location. And I realize that we have no  
6 jurisdiction over it, but there was a comment made by  
7 somebody here saying that they should have had a vote on  
8 where that substation was going to be.

9 Can you tell me what the process was or is for  
10 the public to have input on, for example, the location  
11 of that substation?

12 A. BY MR. ORTIZ Y PINO: So there is a public  
13 process associated with substations in Pima County.  
14 It's called a -- it's an entitlement process called a  
15 power substation permit. And that goes through the Pima  
16 County process, and there's opportunity for neighborhood  
17 meetings as well as public comment and public hearing  
18 before the Board of Supervisors.

19 MEMBER LITTLE: So it's a county process, then.

20 A. BY MR. ORTIZ Y PINO: Correct.

21 MEMBER LITTLE: We still have people that talk  
22 about existing lines humming. For the record, that is  
23 corona; correct?

24 A. BY MR. BRYNER: Can you repeat your question,  
25 Member Little?

1 MEMBER LITTLE: We still have people comment  
2 about humming that they notice when they are in the  
3 proximity of existing lines.

4 A. BY MR. BRYNER: Thank you for repeating your  
5 question.

6 Yes, that is corona that causes that humming.

7 MEMBER LITTLE: And people really do complain  
8 about it even though I realize that -- well, I'm aware  
9 of the facts about it.

10 Could you, for the record, make a comment about  
11 that.

12 A. BY MR. BRYNER: So corona is an audible noise  
13 that comes from electrical current flowing through those  
14 lines because of, essentially, imperfections in the  
15 conductor. And it's noticeably higher when you get into  
16 your EHV voltages, sort of 230kV and above.

17 On the lower voltages, like we're talking about  
18 for this 138kV line, it's fairly minimal to almost  
19 nonexistent.

20 MEMBER LITTLE: Thank you.

21 And one final comment since Member Hill is not  
22 here.

23 I noticed on the webpage for the Santa Rita  
24 Connection Project you have this awesome picture of a  
25 pretty complex transmission structure on the first page.

1 And I think it would be more representative if you were  
2 just to put a transmission line there and probably less  
3 disturbing to people who are looking at the picture.

4 A. BY MR. ORTIZ Y PINO: I presume you're speaking  
5 of the lattice tower structure that's on, like, the  
6 banner?

7 MEMBER LITTLE: Yes. Yes. You don't need to  
8 respond. I'm just making a comment:

9 And, Mr. Chairman, I think that's all the  
10 questions I have.

11 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: All right. And Member  
12 Fontes has his hand raised, and then Member Fant.

13 And before Member Fontes starts, refresh my  
14 memory. Did we get a description -- an answer about the  
15 question about the size of the base for the single  
16 circuit as opposed to double-circuit kV structures?

17 A. BY MR. ORTIZ Y PINO: Yes. I kind of provided  
18 a late answer after the fact.

19 At this point, without a significant amount of  
20 engineering completed, there's no way to know exactly  
21 what that increase would be like. So it was a  
22 nonanswer. We didn't have that information at this  
23 time.

24 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: Can't even ballpark it?

25 A. BY MR. BRYNER: I'll give you a ballpark.

1 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: Okay.

2 A. BY MR. BRYNER: So our typical -- typical,  
3 okay -- double-circuit 138kV pole is about 30 inches at  
4 the base in diameter.

5 And the existing for Route 3, those poles that  
6 are single-circuit capable, those are more like in the  
7 24-inch diameter range. So you're talking a little bit,  
8 you know, 6 inches or so on the typical.

9 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: Okay. Thank you.

10 All right. Member Fontes.

11 MEMBER FONTES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

12 Mr. Ortiz y Pino or Mr. Bryner, thanks for  
13 everything. I liked the biological resource report, and  
14 I respect that you guys are qualified planners. I used  
15 to be a member of that organization.

16 I cannot find a professional opinion by a  
17 subject matter expert, qualified biologist, that says  
18 that there's no significant findings for the biology.  
19 We usually have that testimony from other developers,  
20 including APS and SRP, by biologists and the attorney  
21 asks them for that.

22 Can you point that to me in the binder where  
23 Natural Leaders, LLC, or Docket Consulting say that  
24 there's nothing of -- that give their professional  
25 opinion that this is?

1           If not, a letter, follow-up, that's fine, just  
2 to complete the record. Just trying to make this  
3 bulletproof as we tend to do for you all. Thank you.

4           CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: I think it's on Page 148 of  
5 the application or 23 of the Exhibit C.

6           I'm looking to the witnesses to provide the  
7 answer.

8           A. BY MR. ORTIZ Y PINO: Yes. So in the  
9 conclusions and recommendations on Page 148 of the  
10 application, it says the -- Natural Leaders, LLC, states  
11 that "Impacts to wildlife and vegetation are anticipated  
12 to be limited and potential impacts to sensitive  
13 resources can be minimized or avoided with the  
14 implementation of the recommended environmental  
15 protection measures."

16           MEMBER FONTES: And that was from Natural  
17 Leaders, LLC; correct?

18           A. BY MR. ORTIZ Y PINO: That is correct.

19           MEMBER FONTES: And that was the main  
20 environmental consulting firm you used to look at all of  
21 the CEC statute items. Did they look at visual impact  
22 and other things beyond biology, in other words.

23           A. BY MR. ORTIZ Y PINO: So Natural Leaders was  
24 our subconsultant on biological resources.

25           MEMBER FONTES: Okay. That's the main one I

1 like to focus on. Again, Member Hill is not here. She  
2 would have picked up on that. And usually we have that  
3 person from the environmental firm here testifying. You  
4 don't have them here, so I wanted to put that in the  
5 record. So thank you.

6 A. BY MR. ORTIZ Y PINO: Thank you.

7 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: Right. And the  
8 recommendations of the environmental consulting firm,  
9 Natural Resources, LLC, all their recommendations for  
10 biological mitigation are contained in Exhibit B to the  
11 proposed CEC, which is Exhibit TEP-12; is that correct?

12 A. BY MR. ORTIZ Y PINO: That is correct.

13 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: All right. I was going to  
14 ask you about that, Member Little. They used Exhibit B  
15 with the mitigation measures instead of referencing  
16 pages of the application.

17 MEMBER LITTLE: I have yet to do a close  
18 comparison between Exhibit B, but -- and what was in the  
19 application, but I like it.

20 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: Yeah. I think it's -- I  
21 like that approach because then it's all spelled out in  
22 one place as opposed to referencing the pages of the  
23 application that show what mitigation measures will be  
24 taken. So if you look at the CEC, you have to go pull  
25 the application, flip to those pages. If you have it

1 all contained in the Exhibit B, it's right there for  
2 ease of reference.

3 MEMBER LITTLE: You are absolutely correct. I  
4 like it too.

5 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: Member Fontes, did you have  
6 additional questions? I think your hand is still up.

7 MEMBER FONTES: (No response.)

8 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: Member Fant.

9 MEMBER FANT: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Just two  
10 follow-up questions.

11 Back to the corona effect. And you may have  
12 said this and I may have missed it.

13 If you have two lines strung, double line  
14 versus a single line, does that change the corona effect  
15 or not really?

16 A. BY MR. BRYNER: I don't know the answer to  
17 that. I would have to check in.

18 MEMBER FANT: Okay. If you could check, that  
19 would be great. I assume the distance attenuates the  
20 noise equally, but I'm curious.

21 My second question goes back to the  
22 experimental range area. I'm assuming that that one  
23 jaguar, El Cinco, who wanders around the Santa Ritas is  
24 not infrequently seen down in the experimental  
25 grasslands.

1 A. BY MR. ORTIZ Y PINO: I believe the only known  
2 sitings are from wildlife cameras that catch them in the  
3 mountains.

4 MEMBER FANT: Up in the mountains. All right.  
5 Thank you.

6 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: Any further questions from  
7 members? Going once. Going twice.

8 Ms. Grabel, I believe it's time for your  
9 closing.

10 MS. GRABEL: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

11 TEP would first like to thank the committee for  
12 spending time with us today and yesterday. For those of  
13 you who traveled here and stayed in the hotel, we  
14 especially appreciate that. Michele, we would like to  
15 thank you as well for your time.

16 This line, I think, as we've talked about, is  
17 needed in order to comply with NERC regulations to  
18 mitigate what was identified as a P6 planning event. As  
19 a result, it will enhance reliability for both TEP and  
20 the UNSE systems.

21 Both routes take advantage of existing or  
22 already authorized transmission infrastructure along  
23 most of their routes. And while we hope to build  
24 Route 1, we do need authority to build both routes in  
25 the event that we're unable to co-locate along the Vail

1 to Kantor segment because of the terms of a federal  
2 grant that will significantly benefit UNSE's customers.

3 We respectfully submit that both routes meet  
4 the need for the project by minimizing the environmental  
5 and ecological impacts on the state. And, therefore, we  
6 ask for a CEC that authorizes both routes. Thank you.

7 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: Thank you.

8 All right. With that, we're ready to begin  
9 discussions and deliberations on the CEC itself.

10 I think now is the time to take a break. I  
11 will get the Chairman's Exhibits 1 and 2 to the  
12 Applicant and the court reporter, and then we can get it  
13 loaded on the tablet for the members.

14 Member Little, do you want to take advantage of  
15 this break to compare the mitigation measures spelled  
16 out in the application to what is on Exhibit B?

17 MEMBER LITTLE: That's my plan.

18 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: Okay. Let's take a  
19 15-minute recess, and we'll come back and we'll begin  
20 deliberations on the certificate.

21 We stand in recess.

22 (A recess was taken from 9:39 a.m. to  
23 10:15 a.m.)

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

1 Chairman's Exhibit 1, which is PDF of the  
2 proposed certificate, should be on the tablets in front  
3 of the members here at the hearing.

4 Members Little and Fontes, Tod e-mailed you  
5 Chairman's 1. Can you give me a sign or let me know if  
6 you received it.

7 And if we could bring up Chairman's 2, which is  
8 the Word version of it, on the screens in front of the  
9 members so we can see if we make any changes.

10 I would remind members, if you want to suggest  
11 an amendment, do it to Chairman's 1, which is the PDF,  
12 which won't move around the line and page numbers.

13 I'm seeing a thumbs up from Member Little.

14 Member Fontes?

15 MEMBER FONTES: Good to go, Mr. Chairman.

16 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: Thank you.

17 All right. And then Exhibits A and B are  
18 attached to Hearing Exhibit TEP-12. So that will be the  
19 starting point for Exhibits A and B when we get to  
20 those.

21 The members will review the introduction.

22 Of course, we'll have to fill in the actual  
23 vote count.

24 Any comments from the Applicant on the  
25 introduction?

1 I'm seeing shaking heads.

2 MEMBER LITTLE: Mr. Chairman, I move the  
3 introduction.

4 MEMBER MERCER: Second.

5 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: Further discussion?

6 (No response.)

7 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: All in favor say aye.

8 (A chorus of ayes.)

9 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: Opposed?

10 (No response.)

11 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: Hearing none, the  
12 introduction is admitted -- is adopted.

13 Project description.

14 MEMBER DICICCIO: I move the project  
15 description.

16 MEMBER MERCER: Second.

17 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: Further discussion?

18 (No response.)

19 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: Any comments from the  
20 Applicant?

21 MS. GRABEL: No, sir.

22 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: All right.

23 MR. ANCHARSKI: Chairman, actually, one on the  
24 change to UniSource Energy Service. That should be  
25 UniSource Electric. UNS Electric.

1 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: It's not UniSource Energy  
2 Services?

3 MR. ANCHARSKI: I'm being told it's UNS  
4 Electric. That's the entity that owns the structures.

5 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: Okay. Ms. Hill.

6 MS. HILL: UNS Electric is the legal name of  
7 the owner of the assets.

8 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: Okay. Can we make an  
9 amendment to make the change to UniSource Electric?

10 MEMBER DICICCIO: Motion to amend to UniSource  
11 Electric.

12 MEMBER MERCER: Second.

13 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: Further discussion?

14 (No response.)

15 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: All in favor say aye.

16 (A chorus of ayes.)

17 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: Opposed?

18 (No response.)

19 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: Hearing none, the amendment  
20 is adopted.

21 Can I get a motion to adopt the project  
22 description as amended.

23 MEMBER MERCER: So moved.

24 MEMBER DICICCIO: Second.

25 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: Further discussion?

1 MEMBER LITTLE: Mr. Chairman.

2 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: Yes, Member Little.

3 MEMBER LITTLE: Can you give us a minute to  
4 read through the whole thing? It's kind of long.

5 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: Oh, sorry. I thought you  
6 already had.

7 I'm looking to the Applicant to confirm the  
8 accuracy of the project description.

9 MEMBER FANT: Mr. Chair, I would like to move  
10 to amend the description of Route 1 by adding a word in  
11 the second line.

12 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: So you're looking at  
13 Chairman's 1, Page 3.

14 MEMBER FANT: Yes. The route in corridor  
15 section --

16 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: Line?

17 MEMBER FANT: Line 6 of that page.

18 And it says "exits from a bay on the south  
19 side." I would like to add the word "substation" in  
20 front of "bay."

21 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: You want to add  
22 "substation" in front of the word "bay" on Line 6 of  
23 Page 3?

24 MEMBER FANT: Yes, Mr. Chair.

25 MS. GRABEL: The Applicant is fine with that.

1 MEMBER MERCER: Second.

2 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: Further discussion?

3 (No response.)

4 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: All in favor say aye.

5 (A chorus of ayes.)

6 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: Opposed?

7 (No response.)

8 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: Hearing none, the amendment  
9 is adopted.

10 Can I get a motion to adopt the project  
11 description as amended again?

12 MEMBER DICICCIO: Motion to adopt as amended  
13 again.

14 MEMBER MERCER: Second.

15 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: Further discussion?

16 Are you still reviewing, Member Little?

17 MEMBER LITTLE: I'm fine. Thanks.

18 I'm done reading, Mr. Chairman.

19 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: All right. The project  
20 description as amended has been moved and seconded.

21 All in favor say aye.

22 (A chorus of ayes.)

23 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: Opposed?

24 (No response.)

25 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: Hearing none, the project

1 description as amended is adopted.

2 On to conditions.

3 MEMBER LITTLE: Mr. Chairman, I move

4 Condition 1.

5 MEMBER MERCER: Second.

6 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: Further discussion?

7 (No response.)

8 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: All in favor say aye.

9 (A chorus of ayes.)

10 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: Opposed?

11 (No response.)

12 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: Hearing none, Condition 1

13 is adopted.

14 Number 2.

15 MEMBER DICICCIO: Motion to approve.

16 MEMBER LITTLE: Second.

17 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: Further discussion?

18 (No response.)

19 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: All in favor say aye.

20 (A chorus of ayes.)

21 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: Opposed?

22 Hearing none, Condition 2 is adopted.

23 Number 3.

24 MEMBER MERCER: Mr. Chairman, I move

25 Condition 3.

1 MEMBER DICICCIO: Second.

2 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: Further discussion?

3 (No response.)

4 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: All in favor say aye.

5 (A chorus of ayes.)

6 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: Opposed?

7 (No response.)

8 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: Hearing none, Condition 3  
9 is adopted.

10 Number 4.

11 MEMBER DICICCIO: Motion to approve.

12 MEMBER MERCER: Second.

13 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: Further discussion?

14 (No response.)

15 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: All in favor say aye.

16 (A chorus of ayes.)

17 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: Opposed?

18 (No response.)

19 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: Hearing none, Condition 4  
20 is adopted.

21 Number 5.

22 MEMBER DICICCIO: Motion to approve.

23 MEMBER MERCER: Second.

24 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: Further discussion?

25 This paragraph references Exhibit B. We'll

1 vote on that separately. But while we're here, I wanted  
2 to check with Member Little if she had a chance to  
3 compare Exhibit B to the relevant pages of the  
4 application.

5 MEMBER LITTLE: I did. And it looks great to  
6 me with one exception, and that is that in the Fish and  
7 Game letter they discuss habitat connectivity and  
8 minimizing ground disturbance in the riparian and  
9 ephemeral washes.

10 And I'm wondering whether this condition, since  
11 it says that the Applicant shall comply with the AGFD  
12 guidelines and recommendations, whether that covers what  
13 was in the letter.

14 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: Okay. I think that it  
15 would because it says they shall, in consultation with  
16 AGFD, follow the environmental protection measures in  
17 Exhibit B. So they will consult with them.

18 And I think one of the reasons for that, too,  
19 was that if -- I think there's a form letter from AGFD  
20 that comes out. And some of them, on second thought or  
21 in consultation with the Arizona Game and Fish, they may  
22 determine, well, okay, that one may not be applicable in  
23 this particular instance.

24 But I think the ephemeral washes is covered in  
25 that. I'm looking to the Applicant.

1 MS. GRABEL: I would concur with that,  
2 Mr. Chairman.

3 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: And when we get to  
4 Exhibit B itself, we can see if you want to amend any of  
5 the language in there.

6 MEMBER LITTLE: Okay. Otherwise, it looks  
7 great.

8 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: All right. Condition 5 has  
9 been moved and seconded.

10 Further discussion?

11 (No response.)

12 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: All in favor say aye.

13 (A chorus of ayes.)

14 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: Opposed?

15 (No response.)

16 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: Hearing none, Condition 5  
17 is adopted.

18 Number 6.

19 MEMBER MERCER: Mr. Chairman, I move  
20 Condition 6.

21 MEMBER DICICCIO: Second.

22 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: Further discussion?

23 (No response.)

24 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: All in favor say aye.

25 (A chorus of ayes.)

1 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: Opposed?

2 Hearing none, Condition 6 is adopted.

3 Number 7.

4 MEMBER DICICCIO: Motion to approve.

5 MEMBER MERCER: Second.

6 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: Further discussion?

7 Quick question for the Applicant. The  
8 condition says that if any historic property will be  
9 substantially altered or demolished as a result of the  
10 construction, the Applicant will take timely steps to  
11 make appropriate documentary recordation in accordance  
12 with SHPO standards.

13 I just want to confirm with the Applicant that,  
14 of course, the first course of action to be followed  
15 would be to avoid the site altogether and that the  
16 recordation would only become necessary if you were  
17 unable to avoid the site.

18 MR. ORTIZ Y PINO: That's correct. And also  
19 there are no historic properties within the study  
20 project area.

21 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: Could you hear him?

22 MEMBER LITTLE: Yes.

23 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: Thank you very much.

24 And it should be minimized --

25 MEMBER LITTLE: Is this language okay with

1 SHPO?

2 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: Yes, I believe so.

3 MS. GRABEL: I believe this is the language  
4 that we negotiated with SHPO and the utilities about a  
5 year ago. Is that right, Clark?

6 MR. BRYNER: It appears to be so, yes.

7 MEMBER LITTLE: Okay.

8 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: All right. The big ask, I  
9 think, for SHPO was to have the Class 3 cultural  
10 inventory for the entire right-of-way regardless of  
11 whether it was on public or private land, and that's  
12 what the condition requires.

13 All right. Condition 7 has been moved and  
14 seconded. Further discussion?

15 (No response.)

16 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: All in favor say aye.

17 (A chorus of ayes.)

18 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: Opposed?

19 (No response.)

20 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: Hearing none, Condition 7  
21 is adopted.

22 Number 8.

23 MEMBER DICICCIO: Motion to approve. And then  
24 I have a question.

25 MEMBER MERCER: Second.

1 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: Further discussion?

2 Member DiCiccio.

3 MEMBER DICICCIO: Just a quick question, and  
4 I'm just having a brain freeze right now on this.

5 Have we had this language in any of our other  
6 CECs or no?

7 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: Yes.

8 MEMBER DICICCIO: We have.

9 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: All of them.

10 MEMBER DICICCIO: That's what I was wondering.  
11 I just don't remember this one.

12 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: It's been a while since our  
13 last hearing. It's been almost a couple of months. I  
14 can see how --

15 MEMBER DICICCIO: You know, that could be true.  
16 Because I was thinking, you know, I don't remember the  
17 language about the Arizona State Museum in the other  
18 ones. But I will start to remember better now that  
19 we've had -- it's been two months.

20 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: Yes.

21 MEMBER DICICCIO: Thank you Mr. Chair.

22 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: It is there, I assure you.  
23 Thank you.

24 All right. Condition 8 has been moved and  
25 seconded.

1 Further discussion?

2 (No response.)

3 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: All in favor say aye.

4 (A chorus of ayes.)

5 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: Opposed?

6 (No response.)

7 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: Hearing none, Condition 18  
8 is adopted.

9 Number 9.

10 MEMBER DICICCIO: Motion to approve.

11 MEMBER MERCER: Second.

12 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: Further discussion?

13 (No response.)

14 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: All in favor say aye.

15 (A chorus of ayes.)

16 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: Opposed?

17 (No response.)

18 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: Hearing none, Condition 9  
19 is adopted.

20 Number 10.

21 MEMBER MERCER: Mr. Chairman, I move  
22 Condition 10.

23 MEMBER DICICCIO: Second.

24 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: Further discussion?

25 (No response.)

1 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: All in favor say aye.

2 (A chorus of ayes.)

3 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: Opposed?

4 (No response.)

5 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: Hearing none, Condition 10  
6 is adopted.

7 Number 11.

8 MEMBER DICICCIO: Motion to approve, Mr. Chair.

9 MEMBER MERCER: Second.

10 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: Further discussion?

11 (No response.)

12 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: All in favor say aye.

13 (A chorus of ayes.)

14 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: Opposed?

15 (No response.)

16 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: Hearing none, Condition 11  
17 is adopted.

18 Number 12.

19 MEMBER DICICCIO: Motion to approve.

20 MEMBER MERCER: Second.

21 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: Further discussion?

22 (No response.)

23 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: All in favor say aye.

24 (A chorus of ayes.)

25 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: Opposed?

1 (No response.)

2 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: Hearing none, Condition 12  
3 is adopted.

4 Number 13.

5 MEMBER DICICCIO: Motion to approve, but I also  
6 have another question here, Mr. Chair.

7 MEMBER MERCER: Second.

8 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: Further discussion?

9 Member DiCiccio.

10 MEMBER DICICCIO: Again, brain freeze here, but  
11 is it within the one mile of the centerline of the  
12 project? Is that what we have done before, or is it  
13 just new to this project here, Mr. Chair?

14 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: The radius may vary  
15 depending on the project.

16 MEMBER DICICCIO: Yeah. And this one is one  
17 mile. Just wanted to make sure we're clear on that.

18 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: It has, but I'm looking to  
19 the Applicant. I think that was -- was that the  
20 notification area for this project that you had used?

21 MS. GRABEL: I'm going to ask Mr. Bryner to  
22 respond to that.

23 MR. BRYNER: I'm sorry, Chairman Stafford. Can  
24 you repeat your question.

25 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: The one-mile radius of the

1 centerline, that was the notification range used?

2 MR. BRYNER: We did one mile outside of our  
3 study area, so it was much larger than the centerline,  
4 but we're fine with the one one mile.

5 The one thing that I might suggest that we add,  
6 since we have two routes here, only one of which will be  
7 built, if we -- and since this is 90 days before  
8 construction, obviously, we'll know which one will be  
9 built.

10 If we could say -- add something to the effect  
11 of one mile from the route that's selected to be  
12 constructed.

13 MEMBER DICICCIO: Or one mile from the chosen  
14 route. Does that work?

15 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: One mile from the  
16 centerline of the selected route of the project.

17 MEMBER DICICCIO: There you go. That's better.

18 MS. GRABEL: Although I do think, Mr. Chairman,  
19 didn't you define "project" as Route 1 or Route 3, but  
20 not both, and so --

21 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: Right.

22 MEMBER LITTLE: No. At the beginning, the  
23 project is defined as both.

24 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: Right. But Condition 1, if  
25 you look back, it says the authorization to construct

1 the project as either Route 1 or Route 3, but not both.

2 And then in the description it says we are  
3 approving Routes 1 and 3 subject to the conditions, and  
4 it says that they will build one or the other, only one  
5 of the routes. So I think --

6 MEMBER LITTLE: So even though the capital P  
7 project was defined as both. Once we get to that --

8 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: Well, both are approved but  
9 only one may be built. So I think it's implied that,  
10 you know, if you're going to construct the project, it's  
11 going to be -- the project is either Route 1 or Route 3.

12 And so it would be one mile from the centerline  
13 of either route, whichever is selected, is what this  
14 requires the notification of before construction.

15 And then I did add -- and I'm jumping ahead  
16 here into the condition -- where is it? -- 20, which is  
17 the compliance letter. They're going to identify which  
18 route will be built in the compliance filing.

19 MEMBER LITTLE: I see. And then on Page 1, the  
20 Santa Rita -- the capital P project is defined as the  
21 Santa Rita Connection Project. So that would just be  
22 one line. Okay.

23 MEMBER DICICCIO: Mr. Chair.

24 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: Member DiCiccio.

25 MEMBER DICICCIO: Maybe -- you're the attorney

1 and you're the boss, but maybe at Line 23 where it says  
2 one mile of the centerline of the "selected" project.  
3 Just put one word in there. Would that work?

4 MS. GRABEL: Or rather than use the word  
5 "project," you could say "one mile of the centerline of  
6 the selected route."

7 MEMBER DICICCIO: That's better.

8 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: So your motion is to  
9 substitute "project" on Line 23, Page 8, of Chairman's 1  
10 with "selected route."

11 MEMBER DICICCIO: Correct.

12 That's why you have lawyers in the room.

13 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: We have a bunch of them in  
14 the room.

15 MEMBER DICICCIO: Yes, we do.

16 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: Your motion has been moved.  
17 Do I hear a second?

18 MEMBER LITTLE: And an engineer.

19 Second.

20 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: Have I heard a second?

21 MEMBER DICICCIO: Oh, I thought we had a  
22 second. I'm sorry. Go ahead.

23 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: Who?

24 MEMBER MERCER: Me.

25 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: Oh, Member Mercer seconded.

1 All right. Thank you very much.

2 Further discussion?

3 (No response.)

4 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: All in favor say aye.

5 (A chorus of ayes.)

6 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: Opposed?

7 (No response.)

8 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: Hearing none, the amendment  
9 is adopted.

10 Can I get a motion to adopt Condition 13 as  
11 amended.

12 MEMBER DICICCIO: Motion to adopt Condition 13  
13 as amended.

14 MEMBER MERCER: Second.

15 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: Further discussion?

16 (No response.)

17 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: All in favor say aye.

18 (A chorus of ayes.)

19 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: Opposed?

20 (No response.)

21 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: Hearing none, Condition 13  
22 as amended is adopted.

23 Number 14.

24 MEMBER MERCER: Mr. Chairman, I move  
25 Condition 14.

1 MEMBER DICICCIO: Second.

2 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: Further discussion?

3 (No response.)

4 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: All in favor say aye.

5 (A chorus of ayes.)

6 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: Opposed?

7 (No response.)

8 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: Hearing none, Condition 14  
9 is adopted.

10 Number 15.

11 MEMBER MERCER: Mr. Chairman, I move  
12 Condition 15.

13 MEMBER DICICCIO: Second.

14 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: Further discussion?

15 (No response.)

16 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: All in favor say aye.

17 (A chorus of ayes.)

18 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: Opposed?

19 (No response.)

20 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: Hearing none, Condition 15  
21 is adopted.

22 Number 16.

23 MEMBER DICICCIO: Motion to approve.

24 MEMBER MERCER: Second.

25 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: Further discussion?

1 (No response.)

2 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: All in favor say aye.

3 (A chorus of ayes.)

4 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: Opposed?

5 (No response.)

6 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: Hearing none, Condition 16  
7 is adopted.

8 Number 17.

9 MEMBER DICICCIO: Mr. Chair.

10 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: Yes, Member DiCiccio.

11 MEMBER DICICCIO: I know we crossed out 17, but  
12 we've used language similar to this in other ones, I'm  
13 pretty sure. Why was that taken out?

14 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: Well, I could answer, but  
15 I'll look to the Applicant. I think it was addressed in  
16 Staff's letter because this is not a interconnection of  
17 a new generation source from an entity other than the  
18 entity that controls the transmission who has to provide  
19 open access to it. I think that was -- they do their  
20 own reliability analysis to comply with the NERC  
21 standards as opposed to having a system impact study.

22 I'm looking to the Applicant. I think  
23 Mr. Bryner is probably going to answer this question.

24 MR. BRYNER: Happy to. That's correct. Just  
25 not applicable for this project.

1 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: And Staff did address it in  
2 their letter, which was, I believe, Exhibit --

3 MS. GRABEL: 20.

4 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: -- 20.

5 MEMBER DICICCIO: Okay. I'm good. Thank you,  
6 Mr. Chair and Mr. Bryner.

7 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: Did you move Condition 17?

8 MEMBER DICICCIO: Oh, yeah. I'll move  
9 Condition 17.

10 MEMBER MERCER: Second.

11 MEMBER LITTLE: Second.

12 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: Further discussion?

13 (No response.)

14 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: All in favor say aye.

15 (A chorus of ayes.)

16 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: Opposed?

17 Hearing none, Condition 17 is adopted.

18 Number 18.

19 MEMBER LITTLE: Mr. Chairman, I move

20 Condition 18 be adopted.

21 MEMBER MERCER: Second.

22 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: Further discussion?

23 MEMBER DICICCIO: Really quick, Mr. Chair.

24 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: Yes, Member DiCiccio.

25 MEMBER DICICCIO: I would like to get Mike's

1 thought on this. I mean, this is similar to the  
2 language we've used in other things regarding the gas  
3 line.

4 Are you good with this, Mike?

5 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: Member Comstock.

6 MEMBER COMSTOCK: Member DiCiccio, I've learned  
7 to live with it, but I'm not sure it's where we're going  
8 to be five years from now. So at this point, I think we  
9 have to go ahead and approve it.

10 MEMBER DICICCIO: Sure.

11 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: And I believe my  
12 recollection of the testimony is that there's no gas  
13 lines impacted by this project.

14 MEMBER COMSTOCK: Not today, Mr. Chairman.

15 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: Not today. Right.

16 Looking to Mr. Bryner.

17 MR. BRYNER: Yes. So when we're talking about  
18 transmission gas lines, there are no transmission gas  
19 lines impacted by this project.

20 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: All right. Thank you.

21 MEMBER DICICCIO: Motion to approve.

22 MEMBER FANT: Second.

23 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: I think it's been moved and  
24 seconded twice but --

25 MEMBER DICICCIO: Sorry about that.

1 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: Further discussion?

2 (No response.)

3 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: All in favor say aye.

4 (A chorus of ayes.)

5 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: Opposed?

6 Hearing none, Condition 18 is adopted.

7 Number 19.

8 MEMBER MERCER: Mr. Chairman, I move

9 Condition 19.

10 MEMBER DICICCIO: I'll second, but also I want  
11 to -- I've got a question on that.

12 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: Further discussion?

13 Member DiCiccio.

14 MEMBER DICICCIO: So I just want to make sure  
15 it's clear, and it is in here, but we're looking at a  
16 1,000 foot right-of-way; correct?

17 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: No. A 100-foot  
18 right-of-way.

19 MEMBER DICICCIO: 100-foot?

20 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: I'm looking to the  
21 application to confirm. I'm seeing Mr. Bryner. Can I  
22 get an oral response, please.

23 MR. BRYNER: A 100-foot wide right-of-way is  
24 what we would seek.

25 MEMBER DICICCIO: Okay.

1 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: And much of that is already  
2 in existence if you're putting it on existing poles,  
3 wouldn't it?

4 MR. BRYNER: That is correct.

5 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: All right. And then we  
6 have, just to confirm, the maximum height is 150 feet.

7 MR. ORTIZ Y PINO: Can you repeat the question?

8 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: The maximum height is  
9 150 feet?

10 MR. ORTIZ Y PINO: That is correct.

11 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: Okay. And then I did  
12 strike out the "on private land" because that was the  
13 prior case where they were having a wider right-of-way  
14 on the Arizona State Trust land due to co-locating -- or  
15 not co-locating but parallel siting to an additional --  
16 somebody else's line in that case. So I didn't think it  
17 was applicable to this matter, so I struck it out of  
18 there.

19 MEMBER DICICCIO: Yeah, I transposed the 2 into  
20 a zero. You would think that someone who knows how to  
21 write pro formas would be able to read that better.

22 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: Condition 19 has been moved  
23 and seconded.

24 Further discussion?

25 (No response.)

1 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: All in favor say aye.

2 (A chorus of ayes.)

3 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: Opposed?

4 (No response.)

5 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: Hearing none, Condition 19  
6 is adopted.

7 Number 20.

8 MEMBER DICICCIO: Motion to approve.

9 MEMBER MERCER: Second.

10 MEMBER LITTLE: Second.

11 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: Further discussion?

12 I added the language about whether Route 1 or  
13 Route 3 will be constructed in the compliance letter. I  
14 toyed with the idea of having you notify -- make a  
15 filing and notify Staff when the selection was made, but  
16 I've decided against that because I figured you have to  
17 do an annual compliance filing and you have to give  
18 90-day notice to the people that will be impacted.

19 I think that the compliance letter should be  
20 sufficient to -- I'm guessing you're going to file your  
21 first one before you actually start construction too.

22 MS. GRABEL: Likely, yes.

23 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: All right. Condition 20  
24 has been moved and seconded.

25 Further discussion?

1 (No response.)

2 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: All in favor say aye.

3 (A chorus of ayes.)

4 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: Opposed?

5 (No response.)

6 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: Hearing none, Condition 20  
7 is adopted.

8 Number 21.

9 MEMBER MERCER: Mr. Chairman, I move  
10 Condition 21.

11 MEMBER DICICCIO: Second.

12 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: Further discussion?

13 (No response.)

14 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: All in favor say aye.

15 (A chorus of ayes.)

16 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: Opposed?

17 (No response.)

18 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: Hearing none, Condition 21  
19 is adopted.

20 Number 22.

21 MEMBER FANT: I move Condition 22 for approval.

22 MEMBER MERCER: Second.

23 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: Further discussion?

24 (No response.)

25 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: All in favor say aye.

1 (A chorus of ayes.)

2 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: Opposed?

3 (No response.)

4 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: Hearing none, Condition 22  
5 is adopted.

6 Number 23.

7 MEMBER FANT: I move Condition No. 23 for  
8 approval, Mr. Chair.

9 MEMBER MERCER: Second.

10 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: Further discussion?

11 (No response.)

12 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: All in favor say aye.

13 (A chorus of ayes.)

14 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: Opposed?

15 (No response.)

16 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: Hearing none, Condition 23  
17 is adopted.

18 Number 24.

19 MEMBER MERCER: Mr. Chairman, I move  
20 Condition 24.

21 MEMBER DICICCIO: Second.

22 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: Further discussion?

23 (No response.)

24 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: All in favor say aye.

25 (A chorus of ayes.)

1 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: Opposed?

2 (No response.)

3 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: Hearing none, Condition 24  
4 is adopted.

5 On to the findings of fact and conclusions of  
6 law.

7 MEMBER DICICCIO: Motion to approve.

8 MEMBER MERCER: Second.

9 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: Are we moving all of them  
10 at once or one at a time?

11 MEMBER DICICCIO: I would go ahead and do all  
12 of them. It's standard language we've used before, it  
13 looks like.

14 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: The motion is to adopt  
15 Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law 1 through 6.

16 Is there a second?

17 MEMBER MERCER: Second.

18 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: Further discussion?

19 Any comments from the Applicant?

20 MS. GRABEL: No, sir.

21 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: All in favor say aye.

22 (A chorus of ayes.)

23 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: Opposed?

24 (No response.)

25 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: Hearing none, Findings of

1 Fact and Conclusions of Law 1 through 6 are adopted.

2 Before I move on to Exhibit A, I'm going to  
3 look to the Applicant and ask their opinion on whether  
4 we should add the old Finding of Fact and Conclusion of  
5 Law No. 7 that states that substations are  
6 nonjurisdictional.

7 MS. GRABEL: That might be helpful in this  
8 situation, yes.

9 MEMBER LITTLE: Mr. Chairman, I move that we  
10 add the Finding of Fact No. 7 used in previous CECs with  
11 respect to the jurisdiction over substations be added to  
12 the CEC.

13 MEMBER FANT: Second.

14 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: Further discussion?

15 (No response.)

16 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: All in favor say aye.

17 (A chorus of ayes.)

18 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: Opposed?

19 (No response.)

20 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: Hearing none, Finding of  
21 Fact and Conclusion of Law No. 7 regarding the  
22 nonjurisdictional nature of substations, the language  
23 used in prior CECs, is adopted.

24 All right. On to Exhibit A. Exhibit A will  
25 be -- there are several maps that are attached to

1 hearing Exhibit TEP-12. That will be our starting point  
2 for Exhibit A. That details the corridor widths for  
3 both routes, as well as has the boundaries of the city  
4 of Tucson and the -- those are the identification of the  
5 parcel numbers; correct?

6 MS. GRABEL: That is correct.

7 MR. BRYNER: Chairman Stafford, those are  
8 actually sections. So township, range, and sections  
9 versus parcel numbers.

10 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: Okay. Can I get a motion  
11 to adopt the Exhibit A from hearing Exhibit TEP-12 as  
12 the Exhibit A to the certificate?

13 MEMBER FANT: I move we adopt as Exhibit A the  
14 TEP -- the portion of TEP Exhibit 12.

15 MEMBER MERCER: Second.

16 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: Further discussion?

17 (No response.)

18 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: Are there any changes the  
19 members would like to see to the Exhibit A?

20 MEMBER LITTLE: Mr. Chairman, I would just like  
21 to make a comment.

22 This is real different than previous  
23 Exhibit A's -- Exhibits A that we have seen, but I like  
24 it. I think there's a lot of good information on there  
25 that is useful.

1           And I don't think we need the other things that  
2 are very often included in exhibits, for example, other  
3 transmission lines and the ownership and all of that  
4 stuff. I think this particular project it's more  
5 important to have the detail on the two options.

6           MEMBER COMSTOCK: Mr. Chairman.

7           CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: Yes, Member Comstock.

8           MEMBER COMSTOCK: Considering the discussions  
9 around the proposed Santa Rita Substation, should we  
10 remove that from this map since it's not part of the  
11 project, and we exclusively said in No. 7 that they're  
12 nonjurisdictional, so --

13           CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: Right. I believe the -- I  
14 have to go back and look, but I think it often says that  
15 the substations are disclosed for informational  
16 purposes, even though they're nonjurisdictional, because  
17 that's where the line ends. So it's the terminus of the  
18 CEC is at the substation.

19           Even though we don't permit the substation,  
20 it's important to know where the line we are permitting  
21 will end. So I think it's relevant from that  
22 perspective even though -- like, in a switchyard, we'll  
23 say it can be placed in a zone and it will be a certain  
24 size. We'll impose restrictions on switchyards because  
25 we have jurisdiction over them. But the substation, I

1 think it's just informational.

2 MEMBER COMSTOCK: Thank you.

3 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: Member Fant.

4 MEMBER FANT: Just a question. We don't need  
5 to debate this now, but does the line end where it  
6 crosses the border of the substation or where it enters  
7 the bay? Just kind of mark that for a future.

8 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: Well, I think it's where  
9 the conductor ends, which would be at the edge of the  
10 substation, but it's -- the statute could be worded  
11 better from my perspective.

12 MEMBER FANT: Clearer, yeah.

13 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: But you don't count the  
14 structures inside the substation, so I would think it's  
15 the conductor to the edge of the substation. That's the  
16 measuring point.

17 The statute says "measured from the first  
18 structure outside of the substation generation site or  
19 switchyard where it originates to the fifth structure."

20 Again, that wording is -- it wouldn't have been  
21 my choice, but I think maybe at some point it will get  
22 cleaned up.

23 But I think the number of structures, I think  
24 it's kind of a red herring. I think it should be the  
25 length of the conductor from the edge of the origination

1 point, whether it's a switchyard, substation, or a  
2 generation site, to the edge of the substation,  
3 switchyard, or generation site where it ends.

4 So, I mean, that's not what the statute says,  
5 but I think that's -- I think it's the conductor because  
6 it's -- the line continues past the fifth structure by  
7 miles and miles and miles, so that's still part of the  
8 CEC, so -- but the structures inside do not count.

9 MEMBER FANT: Okay.

10 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: I'm looking to the  
11 Applicant. Do you have a suggested language?

12 MS. GRABEL: For what?

13 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: I'm just --

14 MS. GRABEL: The statute?

15 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: I'm being facetious. For  
16 the statute, yeah.

17 MS. GRABEL: I think the current statute is a  
18 lot better than the old statute.

19 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: Yes.

20 MS. GRABEL: Progress.

21 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: I seem to recall multiple  
22 debates on the meaning of the word "series."

23 Yeah, usually we include on the map the  
24 existence of other transmission lines and the ownership,  
25 voltage, all that sort of thing. I think with this one

1 it's pretty busy to have that additional detail. I  
2 think it would get lost in the map like tears in rain,  
3 but I think that it's probably worth having a  
4 discussion -- it would be worth having an additional  
5 page to Exhibit A that shows less detail of the route  
6 and more about the surrounding infrastructure and  
7 existing lines.

8 I think I'm comfortable either way because this  
9 certificate is focused on this project.

10 I'm looking to you, Member Little.

11 MEMBER LITTLE: I agree. Absolutely.

12 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: Is your preference to add a  
13 page or just keep it as it is?

14 MEMBER LITTLE: Keep it as it is.

15 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: Okay. Member Fant.

16 MEMBER FANT: Oh, no. I was just curious if  
17 you were quoting from Blade Runner.

18 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: I was.

19 MEMBER FANT: Rutger Hauer's final soliloquy.

20 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: I was.

21 MEMBER FANT: That's what I thought that was.  
22 1971.

23 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: All right. Exhibit A has  
24 been moved and seconded.

25 Further discussion?

1 (No response.)

2 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: All in favor say aye.

3 (A chorus of ayes.)

4 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: Opposed?

5 (No response.)

6 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: Hearing none, Exhibit A is  
7 adopted.

8 Can I get a motion to adopt Exhibit B, the  
9 Exhibit B from TEP-12.

10 MEMBER LITTLE: Mr. Chairman.

11 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: Yes, Member Little.

12 MEMBER LITTLE: I have a question about  
13 Exhibit A. When I look at -- what is it? -- Exhibit 20  
14 on the exhibits that were filed, in other words, the  
15 proposed CEC, there were two other Exhibit A's, one  
16 for --

17 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: Exhibit 20 is the  
18 Commission Staff letter.

19 MEMBER LITTLE: Okay. Then 12. I'm sorry.  
20 Exhibit 12.

21 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: Well, there's multiple  
22 pages of Exhibit A.

23 MEMBER LITTLE: Why are we only looking at one  
24 on the screen?

25 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: We're not. Well, okay.

1 You can only put one on the screen at a time, but the  
2 motion was to adopt all three maps as the Exhibit A for  
3 this certificate.

4 MEMBER LITTLE: All right. That answers my  
5 question. Thank you.

6 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: Is that clear to everyone?  
7 We adopted all the attached maps that were listed as  
8 Exhibit A to TEP-12 as the Exhibit A to the certificate.  
9 Okay.

10 On to Exhibit B, which is also multiple pages.

11 MEMBER LITTLE: Mr. Chairman, I propose the  
12 adoption of Exhibit B.

13 MEMBER MERCER: Second.

14 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: Further discussion?

15 MEMBER LITTLE: Mr. Chairman, I compared  
16 Exhibit B to the various places where mitigation  
17 measures were listed in the application as well as to  
18 the Fish and Game letter, and I think it's very  
19 inclusive. I think that it covers everything with the  
20 exception of one substation that -- or one  
21 recommendation that was made in the Fish and Game  
22 letter, and I'm happy with it.

23 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: All right. Would you like  
24 to propose an amendment, Member Little?

25 MEMBER LITTLE: Yes. While I agree that to

1 some extent the Fish and Game letters have a lot of  
2 recommendations that are kind of standard for every  
3 letter, the one having to do with habitat connectivity I  
4 think was written specifically for this project.

5           It states "Maintaining habitat connectivity is  
6 a priority for the department and wildlife movement  
7 corridors are important for wildlife to respond to  
8 changing environmental conditions. The department  
9 appreciates that both alternatives are co-located with  
10 existing transmission lines which will help minimize  
11 potential impacts to wildlife movement. The department  
12 recommends minimizing ground disturbance within the  
13 riparian areas and ephemeral washes that intersect the  
14 project footprint to maintain connectivity and minimize  
15 potential impacts to wildlife movement within these  
16 areas."

17           I would like to suggest that under the standard  
18 EPMS we add one further bullet that says "Ground  
19 disturbance within the riparian areas and ephemeral  
20 washes that intersect the project footprint will be  
21 minimized to maintain habitat connectivity and minimize  
22 potential impacts to wildlife movement within these  
23 areas."

24           CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: And that could be added  
25 as -- the first bullet is about minimizing vegetation

1 clearing and ground disturbance within the riparian  
2 areas and ephemeral washes. This would be a second  
3 bullet right below that or add to that bullet?

4 MEMBER LITTLE: Well --

5 MS. GRABEL: I actually think, Mr. Chairman,  
6 Member Little, the first one encompasses what you're  
7 getting at. It just doesn't reference the purpose of  
8 it, which is the connectivity issue that you were  
9 talking about.

10 MEMBER LITTLE: Now that you point that out, I  
11 agree. I will withdraw my motion.

12 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: All right.

13 MEMBER LITTLE: Thank you.

14 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: All right. So the  
15 Exhibit B from TEP-12 has been moved and seconded.

16 Further discussion?

17 (No response.)

18 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: All in favor say aye.

19 (A chorus of ayes.)

20 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: Opposed?

21 (No response.)

22 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: Hearing none, the Exhibit B  
23 from TEP-12 is adopted.

24 All right. Can I get a motion to the adopt the  
25 certificate as amended?

1 MEMBER MERCER: So move.

2 MEMBER FANT: Second.

3 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: Further discussion?

4 (No response.)

5 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: We'll do a roll call vote.

6 Member Comstock.

7 MEMBER COMSTOCK: Yes.

8 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: Member Mercer.

9 MEMBER MERCER: Mr. Chairman, I would like to  
10 make a comment.

11 First, I want to thank the Applicant for such  
12 an easy project, and I want to acknowledge the public  
13 participation. I always learn something.

14 I believe the Applicant has made reasonable  
15 effort to minimize the impact by using existing utility  
16 corridors which is good for the environment, and I  
17 appreciate that.

18 And because of that, I am supporting this  
19 project and I vote yes.

20 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: Thank you.

21 Member Fant.

22 MEMBER FANT: Tucson Electric, well argued as  
23 always.

24 Yes.

25 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: Member DiCiccio.

1 MEMBER DICICCIO: I agree with Gabby Mercer on  
2 this one. I think they did a very good job of trying to  
3 minimize the impact on the surrounding property by  
4 combining the lines, and that they did a very good  
5 presentation on this project as well, and very thorough  
6 and very transparent. And it's important to put that in  
7 there because that was one of the criticisms that we  
8 saw.

9 I vote yes.

10 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: Member Little.

11 MEMBER LITTLE: Mr. Chairman, I also would  
12 reiterate what has been shared by other members about  
13 this project and its presentation, and I would like to  
14 thank the Applicant.

15 And I also vote yes.

16 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: Member Fontes.

17 MEMBER FONTES: Yes.

18 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: And I vote aye.

19 By a vote of seven ayes and zero nays, the  
20 certificate is granted.

21 Can I get a motion to make corrections to  
22 grammatical, clerical, and rule errors?

23 MEMBER FANT: So moved.

24 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: I believe that the  
25 Commission may have recodified the line siting rules to

1 a different section. I believe this one refers to what  
2 was the old numbers that may need to be amended. I'll  
3 have to look. I think -- I'm not sure if they're  
4 effective yet. I think they've been published, but I'll  
5 follow up on that. If that's an additional correction  
6 that needs to be made, I can make that and then sign the  
7 order and file it with the Commission.

8 That was your motion, Member Fant?

9 MEMBER FANT: Yes, Mr. Chair. So moved.

10 MEMBER MERCER: Second.

11 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: Further discussion?

12 (No response.)

13 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: All in favor say aye.

14 (A chorus of ayes.)

15 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: Opposed?

16 Hearing none, the motion carries.

17 Thank you very much to the Applicant, to the  
18 court reporter, to Peaks Audio that makes this possible.

19 I think that this project has very minimal  
20 impacts, particularly because it's being added to  
21 existing structures.

22 I think that's the -- I appreciate the  
23 Applicant's foresight in siting these lines over a  
24 decade ago with double-circuit capable structures to  
25 minimize future impacts. I think that's a good tactic

1 that the other utilities and developers may want to look  
2 to in the future to minimize the impacts if they can  
3 increase the transmission capabilities and increase  
4 reliability without having to put additional poles in  
5 the ground. That certainly does a lot to mitigate  
6 impacts of future projects. I appreciate it a lot.  
7 Thank you very much.

8 Anything further for the good of the order?

9 (No response.)

10 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: With that, we are  
11 adjourned.

12 (The proceedings concluded at 11:00 a.m.)

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

4 BE IT KNOWN that the foregoing proceedings were  
5 taken before me; that the foregoing pages are a full,  
6 true, and accurate record of the proceedings, all done  
7 to the best of my skill and ability; that the  
8 proceedings were taken down by me in shorthand and  
9 thereafter reduced to print under my direction.

10 I CERTIFY that I am in no way related to any of  
11 the parties hereto nor am I in any way interested in the  
12 outcome hereof.

13 I CERTIFY that I have complied with the ethical  
14 obligations set forth in ACJA 7-206(F)(3) and  
15 ACJA 7-206(J)(1)(g)(1) and (2).

16 DATED this 31st day of May, 2026, at Yuma,  
17 Arizona.

18 *Michelle E. Balmer*

19 \_\_\_\_\_  
20 MICHELE E. BALMER  
21 Arizona Certified Reporter  
22 No. 50489

23 I CERTIFY that GLENNIE REPORTING SERVICE, LLC,  
24 has complied with the ethical obligations set forth in  
25 ACJA 7-206(J)(1).

26 *Lisa G. Glennie*

27 \_\_\_\_\_  
28 GLENNIE REPORTING SERVICE, LLC  
29 Arizona Registered Firm  
30 No. R1035