

1 BEFORE THE ARIZONA POWER PLANT LS-527
2 AND TRANSMISSION LINE SITING COMMITTEE
3 IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION) DOCKET NO.
4 OF TUCSON ELECTRIC POWER COMPANY)
5 IN CONFORMANCE WITH THE) L-000000C-26-0407-
6 REQUIREMENTS OF A.R.S. § 40-360,) 00269
7 ET SEQ., FOR A CERTIFICATE OF)
8 ENVIRONMENTAL COMPATIBILITY) CASE NO. 269
9 AUTHORIZING THE 138 KILOVOLT)
10 (KV) SOUTHWEST TUCSON)
11 RELIABILITY PROJECT, WHICH)
12 INCLUDES THE CONSTRUCTION OF A)
13 NEW 138 KV TRANSMISSION LINE)
14 WITHIN THE CITY OF TUCSON AND)
15 UNINCORPORATED PIMA COUNTY,)
16 ARIZONA.) PREFILING
17) CONFERENCE

13 At: Phoenix, Arizona
14 Date: September 14, 2026
15 Filed: September 21, 2026
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17 REPORTER'S TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS
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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 3:00 p.m. on the 14th day of
5 September, 2026, with all participants appearing via
6 videoconference.

7

8 BEFORE: ADAM STAFFORD, Committee Chair

9

10

11 APPEARANCES:

12 For the Applicant:

13 OSBORN MALEDON
14 By: Meghan H. Grabel
15 Elias Ancharski
2929 North Central Avenue, 21st Floor
Phoenix, Arizona 85012

16 TUCSON ELECTRIC POWER COMPANY
17 By: Megan C. Hill
18 88 East Broadway Blvd., MS HQE910
P.O. Box 711
Tucson, Arizona 85702

19

20 ALSO PRESENT:

21 Clark Bryner - TEP
22 Deb Vining - TEP
23 Erin Mendoza - TEP
Renee Darling - Sonoran Land Resources
24 Tod Brewer - Assistant to Chairman Stafford

25

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

2 Now is the time set for the prefiling
3 conference for Tucson Electric Power's Southwest Tucson
4 Reliability Project.

5 Let's start with appearances. Ms. Grabel.

6 MS. GRABEL: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Meghan
7 Grabel from the law firm of Osborn Maledon. With me
8 from my firm is my colleague Elias Ancharski.

9 And with me from the company is Clark Bryner;
10 Megan Hill, inside regulatory counsel.

11 And Clark is -- I don't remember your title,
12 Clark. I'm sorry. It's changed.

13 MR. BRYNER: Manager of Siting Outreach and
14 Engagement.

15 MS. GRABEL: Thank you.

16 Deb Vining who is on Clark's team; Erin Mendoza
17 who works with Megan; and Renee Darling, the consultant
18 from Sonoran Land Resources.

19 CHMN. STAFFORD: Okay.

20 (Audio disruption.)

21 MS. GRABEL: We couldn't hear you, Mr. Chairman,
22 if you spoke. No one can hear you.

23 CHMN. STAFFORD: How about now?

24 MS. GRABEL: Now we can hear you.

25 CHMN. STAFFORD: I don't know what happened.

1 You could hear me before.

2 Has there been much public interest in this
3 case?

4 MS. GRABEL: I don't think so. I think we've
5 had public open houses.

6 And, Clark, do you want to talk to the
7 attendance at those?

8 MR. BRYNER: Yeah. We've had three rounds of
9 public outreach. We've had about -- between 30 and 40
10 people attend each of those public open houses, really,
11 primarily in support. We don't expect any intervention,
12 so yeah.

13 CHMN. STAFFORD: Okay. All right. I see you
14 have four prefiling exhibits. Do you want to talk us
15 through those, Ms. Grabel.

16 MS. GRABEL: Sure.

17 The first is the project map that will probably
18 be Exhibit A to the CEC when we get there. [Exhibit
19 PF-1]

20 The second is the proposed notice of hearing
21 sign that we will install along the proposed routes.
22 [Exhibit PF-2]

23 The third is the map of the notice of hearing
24 sign locations which shows eight -- post eight potential
25 hearing signs that we posted in the higher traffic

1 areas, and some are located, it looks like, on either
2 side of the street. [Exhibit PF-3]. Correct me if I'm
3 wrong about that, Mr. Bryner. Am I right?

4 MR. BRYNER: You are correct.

5 MS. GRABEL: Thank you.

6 And then, finally, is the proposed notice of
7 hearing as Exhibit 4.

8 CHMN. STAFFORD: All right. Those are
9 admitted.

10 I think you anticipate filing on
11 September 18th?

12 MS. GRABEL: That's correct.

13 CHMN. STAFFORD: All right. When will you need
14 the notice of hearing finalized?

15 MS. GRABEL: Well, we want to publish in the
16 Arizona Daily Star. The earliest date is
17 September 23rd, so we probably need it as soon as
18 possible after we file on the 18th in order to meet that
19 deadline.

20 CHMN. STAFFORD: Okay. Let's see. Let me look
21 at the calendar here.

22 I anticipate you'll file the morning of the
23 18th; correct?

24 MS. GRABEL: Correct.

25 CHMN. STAFFORD: All right. So you need to get

1 it to the publisher by what? The following --

2 MS. GRABEL: Wednesday.

3 CHMN. STAFFORD: -- Wednesday. Okay. So if
4 you get it by the 21st, will that be soon enough for
5 you?

6 MS. GRABEL: I think so. Thank you.

7 CHMN. STAFFORD: All right. And then we've got
8 a PDF of the notice of hearing. We need a Word version
9 of it. Send it to Tod.

10 MS. GRABEL: Yes. We will send it to you in
11 Word.

12 CHMN. STAFFORD: Okay. Awesome.

13 Let's see. So you said you'll get it published
14 in the Arizona Daily Star.

15 MS. GRABEL: Correct.

16 CHMN. STAFFORD: Both times?

17 MS. GRABEL: Wednesday, September 23rd, and
18 Sunday, September 27th.

19 CHMN STAFFORD: And then should that be more
20 than 30 days before the hearing, then.

21 MS. GRABEL: Correct.

22 CHMN. STAFFORD: So you've got eight signs.

23 MS. GRABEL: Eight signs.

24 On the newspaper, real quickly, Mr. Chairman,
25 we were also going to publish in the Arizona Bilingual.

1 It's a monthly publication, so we're going to shoot for
2 October. But if we can't do that, it will have to be
3 November.

4 CHMN. STAFFORD: November. That's --

5 MS. GRABEL: It's close, but it's not a
6 statutory requirement, so --

7 CHMN. STAFFORD: Right, right. It's just a
8 bonus, but yeah.

9 MS. GRABEL: Nice to have. Exactly.

10 CHMN STAFFORD: Okay. And then you have a
11 project website, I presume?

12 MS. GRABEL: We do have a project website on
13 TEP.com/Southwest-Tucson-Reliability-Project.

14 CHMN. STAFFORD: Okay. And so are you going to
15 do outreach on social media for the hearing as well?

16 MS. GRABEL: Yes.

17 CHMN STAFFORD: So what do you -- is it just
18 the neighborhoods where the lines will be located? It
19 looks like some of it has yet to be built.

20 MS. GRABEL: I think about 80 percent of it is
21 taking place on existing infrastructure. It's only
22 about 20 percent that is yet to be constructed.

23 CHMN. STAFFORD: Okay. So are you doing any
24 notifications within a mile off the centerline?

25 MS. GRABEL: Is that the intention, Mr. Bryner?

1 MR. BRYNER: So for the social media -- so we
2 have our project siting study area that we have that's
3 much larger than just around those and so will include
4 everybody that was receiving notifications for that
5 beforehand, which will go a mile beyond that. So it
6 includes about 50,000 addresses. And all of that area
7 will also be included in the social media target area.

8 CHMN. STAFFORD: Okay. And you're putting it
9 in two locations, a library and a community center?

10 MS. GRABEL: That's correct. We're putting it
11 in the Southwest Library on Mark Road, and the Drexel
12 Heights Community Center on San Joaquin Avenue.

13 CHMN. STAFFORD: All right. So we have the
14 application notices there.

15 MS. GRABEL: Correct.

16 CHMN. STAFFORD: All right. What are the
17 affected jurisdictions?

18 MS. GRABEL: The affected -- just so you know
19 also, Mr. Chairman, we will be leaving a copy of the
20 application in the ACC's Docket Control center in
21 Phoenix. We're going to try to do it in Tucson as well.
22 We're not sure whether or not that's a possibility.

23 CHMN STAFFORD: Okay.

24 MS. GRABEL: The affected jurisdictions are the
25 Arizona State Land Department, the Arizona Department of

1 Transportation, the City of Tucson, Pima County.

2 And then we are going to send notices of
3 hearing as a courtesy, even though they don't meet the
4 statutory definition of affected jurisdiction, to the
5 Pascua Yaqui, the Tohono O'odham, and the Bureau of Land
6 Management.

7 CHMN. STAFFORD: Okay. All right. And so
8 those notices will go out certified mail at least
9 20 days before the hearing.

10 Okay. So the hearing, we're having it at the
11 Commission's hearing room in Tucson; correct?

12 MS. GRABEL: Yes, that's correct.

13 CHMN. STAFFORD: I think we had originally
14 talked about doing it starting that Monday, but seeing
15 how Tuesday is the national elections, we're going to
16 start on Wednesday, the 4th, instead.

17 MS. GRABEL: Okay. Will we start at 10:00? Is
18 that the plan?

19 CHMN. STAFFORD: No. We'll start at 1:00.

20 MS. GRABEL: Okay.

21 CHMN. STAFFORD: So we'll start at 1:00 on
22 October 4th [sic], and then we'll do the public comment
23 that evening at 5:30 to 6:00. I imagine there's not
24 interest, so we'll be sitting around until 6:00, but
25 we'll at least give the public that long.

1 And then I think we had the room through
2 Friday, if it takes that long.

3 MS. GRABEL: Correct.

4 One thing we kind of thought about doing for
5 this project as opposed to others is we actually want to
6 affirmatively propose a tour. And when we anticipated a
7 potential start time at 10:00 a.m., we thought we could
8 go over the project benefits and need at 10:00, take the
9 committee members to lunch, do a physical tour, and then
10 come back for public comment, as needed.

11 We just think a tour is going to show that this
12 is a really kind of easy kind of project. This is a
13 very good route for a transmission line given the amount
14 of existing infrastructure.

15 But if you don't want to do that, I just wanted
16 to let you know that we do think a tour would be
17 valuable in this situation.

18 CHMN. STAFFORD: Okay. So you'll submit a plan
19 for a tour. I guess we would do it -- we would start
20 at -- we would do it at 9:00 on that Thursday morning.

21 MS. GRABEL: Okay.

22 CHMN. STAFFORD: I guess we may not do the
23 tour. How long would it take to do the tour?

24 MS. GRABEL: Two hours.

25 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: Oh, two hours.

1 MS. GRABEL: Very short. Yeah.

2 CHMN. STAFFORD: Okay. I wouldn't imagine we
3 would do a lot of stops, then, would we?

4 MS. GRABEL: It's really just to see how much
5 existing infrastructure is there.

6 CHMN. STAFFORD: Okay. All right. Well, so
7 for the tour -- let me look at the map here.

8 MS. GRABEL: Mr. Bryner, do you want to chime
9 in?

10 MR. BRYNER: I was just going to say two hours
11 max. It will probably be closer to an hour and 15 to an
12 hour 30, especially if we don't really do many stops.

13 I think it will be short enough we can kind of
14 travel it, and then we can have any discussion that we
15 needed to have, really, back in the hearing room.

16 CHMN. STAFFORD: Okay. All right. Yeah. Wow,
17 an hour-and-a-half tour. I don't think I've ever seen
18 one that short before.

19 MR. BRYNER: We've got a fast driver.

20 CHMN. STAFFORD: Okay.

21 MS. GRABEL: Is it Megan? I'm just kidding.

22 MS. HILL: Offline, Grabel. Offline.

23 CHMN. STAFFORD: Okay. And so we had the
24 prehearing conference date. That's going to be
25 October 27th at 3:00 p.m.?

1 MS. GRABEL: Correct.

2 CHMN. STAFFORD: And then there's no related
3 litigation disputes for this project; correct?

4 MS. GRABEL: Correct.

5 CHMN. STAFFORD: All right. I'll get the
6 procedural order out after we get the notice of hearing.

7 So I'll have a draft CEC with proposed
8 conditions by the time of the prehearing conference?

9 MS. GRABEL: Yes, you will.

10 CHMN. STAFFORD: Okay. Yeah, you always file
11 it as an exhibit, but if you send the Word version to
12 Tod, that will make things go more smoothly.

13 All right. So it looks like we're not
14 expecting much public comment on this project.

15 Are any public officials, do you think, going
16 to show up to speak in favor of it or against it? I
17 can't imagine why they would be against it if it's for
18 reliability purposes.

19 MS. GRABEL: Yeah, right.

20 CHMN. STAFFORD: Unless they underground it or
21 something. That's not going to be an issue on this one,
22 is it?

23 MS. GRABEL: Don't say that. Knock on wood,
24 no, it won't be.

25 MR. BRYNER: So we don't have anything that we

1 anticipate from any public officials.

2 CHMN. STAFFORD: Okay. What about permits for
3 the project?

4 MS. GRABEL: Just your standard road
5 right-of-way permits.

6 CHMN. STAFFORD: Okay.

7 MR. BRYNER: Can I just interject there real
8 fast? There is a stretch where we do cross BLM, so we
9 will need special use authorization from them.

10 CHMN. STAFFORD: Okay.

11 MR. BRYNER: Oh, sorry. As we were pausing, I
12 was remembering we do also cross ASLD, so we will need a
13 lease from the State Land Department as well. It's a
14 short stretch.

15 CHMN. STAFFORD: Oh, like a right-of-way from
16 the State Land?

17 MR. BRYNER: Correct. Yes.

18 CHMN. STAFFORD: All right. Now, for the
19 hearing we're going to be using the broadcast of the
20 Commission's stuff. So they have their own Wi-Fi and
21 there will be the screen -- you should probably
22 coordinate with the Commission's AV people just to make
23 sure that you have a screen that you can project onto,
24 so touch base with them over there.

25 Now, what about for the exhibits? Are you

1 planning on having physical copies, or are you bringing
2 iPads for everybody?

3 MS. GRABEL: We've been doing both, copies and
4 iPads.

5 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: Okay. Yeah, because the
6 tablets work -- they're much more convenient than
7 binders.

8 MS. GRABEL: Certainly.

9 CHMN. STAFFORD: All right. So I'm assuming
10 the filing fee for this application is \$1,000?

11 MS. GRABEL: It is.

12 CHMN. STAFFORD: And you know the Commission's
13 obligated by statute to pay the cost of reporting and
14 transcribing any application hearing, as well as the
15 actual and necessary expenses incurred by the committee
16 members in connection with their participation in said
17 meetings from that filing fee.

18 Costs and fees exceeding the amount of the
19 applicant's fee may, with the Applicant's consent, be
20 incurred by the committee and charged to the Applicant.

21 Does the Applicant consent to pay the
22 Commission those costs in excess of the filing fees?

23 MS. GRABEL: We do.

24 CHMN. STAFFORD: Okay. So it will be the
25 standard three-day turnaround for the transcripts.

1 Is there anything else we need to cover? I
2 think that's everything on the end of my list.

3 MS. GRABEL: I think that's everything on my
4 list as well.

5 CHMN. STAFFORD: All right. Tod, anything else
6 that we need to hit?

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

8 CHMN STAFFORD: Ms. Hill.

9 MS. HILL: I have a meal logistics question.
10 It can be on the record or off the record. It doesn't
11 matter. Up to you, Chairman.

12 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: Go ahead. You can do it on
13 the record.

14 MS. HILL: So, typically, because we're TEP, we
15 do a lot of work in that hearing room, and there is
16 nothing -- there are no restaurants on site. The
17 closest one is across the street at the federal
18 building. There are a few within walking distance.

19 What we propose, given how short the tour is,
20 then, and if we're starting the tour at 9:00, so what
21 we're proposing, though, is there is a back area where
22 during rate cases we typically have food, snacks,
23 et cetera, et cetera. We will bring in lunch there so
24 that committee members and others don't have to walk to
25 a restaurant. We will bring in enough so that if there

1 are members of the public -- we don't anticipate that
2 many -- hopefully, they can too.

3 And so I just want you to be aware that because
4 there are no -- there aren't great facilities there to
5 have something that's kept hot, they will probably be
6 things like bagged lunches and salads from Baggin's,
7 maybe we'll order pizzas, that kind of thing.

8 So, Chairman, is that acceptable to you?

9 CHMN. STAFFORD: That will work.

10 MS. HILL: And then we will have coolers with
11 ice and drinks throughout the day.

12 And the committee members, for breakfast on
13 Thursday, they can either eat prior to at the hotel
14 where they are staying. We have chosen the DoubleTree
15 so there is a restaurant on site, although I'm not sure
16 if it's open. And we will also ensure that there are
17 bagels and coffee and things in the hearing room.

18 CHMN. STAFFORD: Okay. Good.

19 That reminds me, yes, so what is the hotel
20 where the accommodations will be for the committee
21 members?

22 MS. HILL: So there's a DoubleTree at the
23 Tucson Convention Center that is within walking distance
24 of the ACC. Parking, as you know, at that building,
25 Chairman, can be a little difficult. And because it

1 will be November and, hopefully, neither raining or
2 150 degrees outside, we wanted the option of the
3 committee members to be able to walk over.

4 So I don't think it's even a mile. I'm not
5 sure. But you sort of cut across. It's right across
6 the street from El Minuto for the committee members that
7 are from Tucson.

8 CHMN. STAFFORD: Okay. All right. Well, thank
9 you very much. I will look forward to seeing you all in
10 cooler temperatures in Tucson.

11 MS. GRABEL: Excellent.

12 CHAIRMAN STAFFORD: All right. With that,
13 we're adjourned. Thanks.

14 (The Prefiling Conference concluded at
15 3:18 p.m.)
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1 STATE OF ARIZONA)
2 COUNTY OF YUMA) ss.
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 15th of September, 2026 at Yuma,
17 Arizona.

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Arizona Certified Reporter
No. 50489

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



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