

Robinson To Leaders: Renewables in a responsible way

Criteria looks at best fit to load needs, price

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"APS selects renewable energy projects based on what is the best fit with our load and is the best price for customers," stated **Don Robinson**, Senior Vice President, Planning and Administration, during this week's Leadership Forum.

While Robinson discussed the nuts and bolts of the new Solana Generating Station, which the company announced in February, he took a few moments to respond to some recent rumblings about APS purchasing out-of-state wind energy.

"Each time we issued a Request for Proposals, we received proposals for wind from both Arizona and New Mexico, and quite frankly the energy from New Mexico was less expensive," said Robinson.

He also addressed the allegation that purchasing wind out-of-state hurts Arizona. Robinson explained while the new Solana project will create nearly 1,500 temporary construction jobs, followed by 85 full-time workers, the 100-megawatt Aragon Mesa Wind project only employs eight individuals.

"The wind turbines are built overseas and the skilled labor force that is needed to construct the turbines also come from outside of Arizona," said Robinson about any possible loss to Arizona's economy by receiving out-of-state wind.

However, he went on to say, Arizona could be the location of a new concentrated solar power manufacturing plant. Abengoa, the Spanish company which will build Solana, has indicated it would like to move some of its production from overseas to somewhere in the U.S., specifically the southwestern U.S.