



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest  
Service

Prescott National Forest

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File Code: 1920/1950-1

Date: February 7, 2008

Dear Interested Party:

The purpose of this letter is to inform you that Chapters 1 and 2 of the Environmental Assessment (EA) including an amendment to the Forest Plan, for the Arizona Public Service Company (APS) VV01 to Copper Canyon 69kV Power Line Project is now available for comment. The power line is proposed to be built from the new Verde Valley Substation, located west of Interstate 17, in Section 24 of Township 12 North, Range 2 East, on Arizona State Trust land, and will terminate at the expanded Copper Canyon Substation, located on National Forest land, in Section 1 of Township 13 North, Range 4 East. Approximately 15 to 20 miles of the proposed 69kV power line will be located on National Forest land and approximately 2 miles of the power line on Arizona State Trust land. The decision the Forest Service will be making will apply to National Forest land only.

These chapters include a project description, purpose and need statement, mitigation measures, and a summary of potential impacts for the three alternatives analyzed. Comments were received at the beginning of the NEPA process in March 2007 and were considered as we moved forward with the EA. Two action alternatives were analyzed; both the alternative Power Line Routes 1 and 2 consist of construction of a power line and contain a general re-alignment (Option A) for consideration. At this time and based on the analysis, I have identified a preferred route as Alternative 3, Power Line Route 2 (see Chapter 2.)

Peoples' perceptions of the scenic quality of the Prescott National Forest have changed since the adoption of the Visual Quality Objectives (VQO's) in to the Forest Plan in 1986. This was supported by some of the comments in the initial scoping. To address this, the entire study area was analyzed for scenic value. The selection of any of the alternatives, including the preferred, will require a non-significant Amendment to the Forest Plan to update Visual Quality Objectives in the area of the chosen alignment.

The EA Chapters 1 and 2 and scenery analysis maps can be viewed electronically at the PNF website (<http://www.fs.fed.us/r3/prescott/projects>), as well as at the APS siting website ([http://www.aps.com/aps/general\\_info/Siting/siting\\_15.html](http://www.aps.com/aps/general_info/Siting/siting_15.html)). For a hard copy of Chapters 1 and 2, please contact Judy Adams at the number listed below.

Comments concerning this action will be accepted for 30 calendar days following the publication of a legal notice announcing the comment period in the Prescott Courier newspaper. The publication date in the newspaper of record is the exclusive means for calculating the comment period for this analysis. Those wishing to comment should not reply upon dates or timeframe



information provided by any other source. Only those who provide comment or otherwise express interest in the proposed project by the close of the comment period will be accepted as appellants. Comments must meet the requirements of 36 CFR 215.6 as outlined below.

Written comments must be submitted to: Red Rock Ranger District, Attention Judy Adams, Project Leader, APS VV01 to Copper Canyon 69kV Power Line Project, PO Box 20429, Sedona, AZ 86341. Comments may be submitted by email in Word (.doc), rich text format (.rtf), text (.txt), and hypertext markup language (.html) to: [comments-southwestern-prescott-verde@fs.fed.us](mailto:comments-southwestern-prescott-verde@fs.fed.us) Please specify if your comments are regarding the Environmental Assessment or plan amendment.

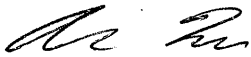
Comments must have an identifiable name attached or verification of identity will be required. A scanned signature may serve as verification on electronic comments.

I will consider comments when making my decision on the power line and plan amendment.

For additional information on the project, please contact the U.S. Forest Service Project Leader, Judy Adams, at (928) 203-7506 or the APS Project Manager, Mike DeWitt, at (602) 493-4446.

Your interest in the Prescott National Forest is appreciated.

Sincerely,



ALAN M. QUAN  
Forest Supervisor