

Environmental Planning Group  
4350 East Camelback Road  
Suite G200  
Phoenix, Arizona 85018



Newsletter #4

PRESORTED  
FIRST CLASS MAIL  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
PHOENIX, AZ  
PERMIT NO. 90



FACILITIES SITING PROJECT

NEWSLETTER #4 • MARCH 2001

## TRANSMISSION LINE ROUTES AND SUBSTATION SITES SELECTED

### PROJECT UPDATE

This is the fourth newsletter in a series designed to inform the public about the North Central Facilities Siting Project, a comprehensive planning project which began in July 1999.

To better serve the rapidly growing population in north-central Phoenix and Maricopa County, APS plans to construct electrical facilities that include a 230 kilovolt (kV) substation, 69kV substations, and 230kV and 69kV transmission lines. The planning process, which is now complete, included detailed environmental

studies and extensive public involvement activities to assist in the determination of the most appropriate placement of the proposed facilities.

Public open houses were held in October 1999, January 2000, and July 2000. The July set of open houses was held to gather community input regarding the preliminary alternative routes and substation sites that had been identified. A total of 271 people attended the July meetings and more than 400 comments were submitted from July to September 30, 2000.

## APS OFFICIAL NOTICE

### NORTH CENTRAL FACILITIES SITING PROJECT UPDATE

### APS announces transmission line routes and substation sites

### FINAL ROUTES

APS has selected overhead routes for 69kV and 230kV transmission lines, seven 69kV substation siting areas, and one 230kV substation siting area. The primary comments heard from the public throughout the planning process were to parallel existing transmission lines (when possible) and to avoid Carefree Highway. Through the planning process, both of these primary requests from the public were accommodated. Refer to the map on page 2 and the explanation that follows for route and site locations.

### 230kV FACILITIES

The purpose of the 230kV transmission line is to connect the

Pioneer Substation near Carefree Highway and Interstate 17 (I-17) with the Pinnacle Peak Substation near 64th Street and Pinnacle Peak Road. The preferred route, which had the least amount of environmental impacts coupled with the largest public support, follows I-17 south from Pioneer Substation, turning east just south of Happy Valley Road. It then follows an existing 230kV transmission line corridor to the Pinnacle Peak Substation. The final alignment for the 230kV transmission line will be determined through the state certificate of environmental compatibility process. A 230kV substation siting area was selected south of Desert Hills Drive and east of 16th Street. This siting area

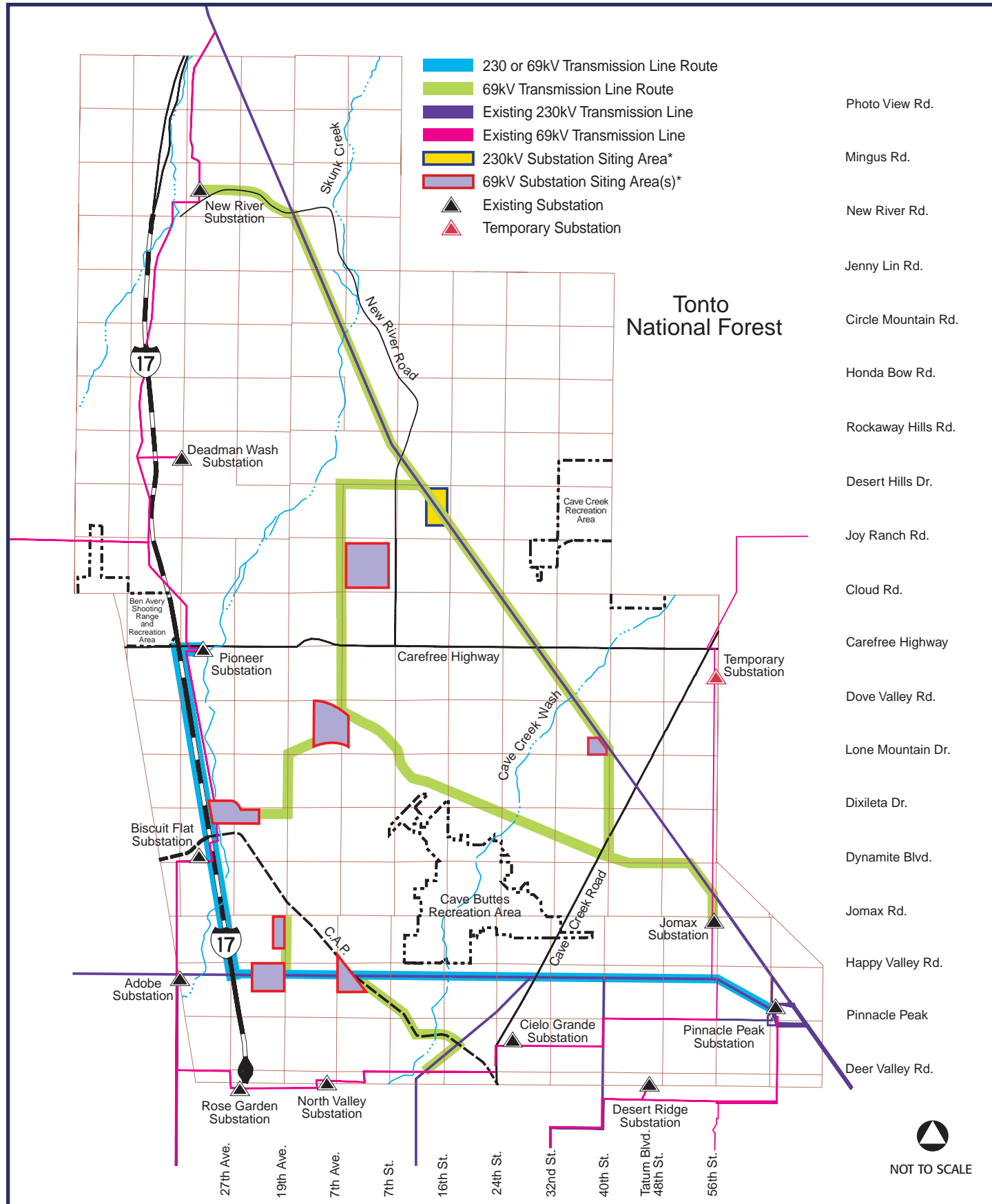
met engineering requirements, while minimizing environmental impacts.

### 69kV FACILITIES

The lower voltage 69kV transmission routes and sites had the fewest environmental impacts and largest public support, while still meeting the engineering and economic requirements for the project. These routes generally follow direct paths to connect existing and planned substations located throughout the study area.

From the New River Substation south, a 69kV line will parallel the existing Western Area Power Administration 230kV transmission line, connecting with a planned 230kV substation located near

## APS' FINAL ROUTES AND SUBSTATION SITING AREAS



\*Please note that less than 2 acres of land are required to construct a 69kV substation, and 10 acres are required for a 230kV substation; therefore, the entire shaded area on the map would generally not be utilized.

Desert Hills Drive and 16th Street. The route will continue southwest to a 69kV substation located near 40th Street and Lone Mountain Drive. The 69kV line will continue south along 40th Street to Dynamite Blvd., then head east to the existing Jomax Substation located at Jomax Road and 56th Street. Other 69kV transmission line routes include:

- connecting the 230kV substation near Desert Hills Drive and 16th Street to a 69kV substation along 7th Avenue between Joy Ranch Road and Cloud Road, and to a

69kV substation located near 7th Avenue and Dove Valley Road

- connecting the 69kV substation near 7th Avenue and Dove Valley Road to the existing Jomax Substation by following the proposed Sonoran Preserve Freeway, and to a planned 69kV substation east of I-17 at Dixileta Drive

- connecting two planned 69kV substations south of Happy Valley Road and west of the Central Arizona Project Canal (CAP) along the existing transmission line corridor

- connecting a planned 69kV substation north of Happy Valley Road along 19th Avenue
- connecting a planned substation at the CAP and 7th Avenue south of Happy Valley Road along the CAP
- placing the 69kV transmission line underneath the 230kV transmission line on the same structure where possible

For a complete layout of the preferred 69kV transmission line routes and sites, refer to the map on page 2.

## SELECTION CRITERIA

Numerous transmission line routes and substation site alternatives were evaluated and ranked considering environmental criteria (e.g., land use and visual resources) and input from the public and Community Working Group.

Public participation was a key component of the planning process and included three newsletters, website updates, telephone information line, three sets of public open house meetings, comment forms, and a

Community Working Group comprised of area citizens and agency representatives. Comments received assisted in the refinement of alternatives as the project evolved.

After extensive review and consideration, the APS final routes and substations sites were selected based on a combination of the environmental evaluation results, engineering and system requirements, economics of each alternative, and public input.

## WHAT'S NEXT?

APS will begin acquiring right-of-way for the 69kV transmission line routes and property for the 69kV and 230kV substation sites immediately. The construction of the 69kV facilities will be determined over the next 10 years as electricity demands increase.

Before construction on the 230kV transmission lines can begin, a certificate of environmental compatibility (CEC) must be granted by the Arizona Corporation Commission. Environmental studies data and recommended routes from a prior siting study in the Northwest Valley will be combined with information from the North Central Facilities Siting Project to complete the CEC application. The project team expects the application to be submitted to the Arizona Power Plant and

Transmission Line Siting Committee, a group appointed by the Corporation Commission, in early 2001. A hearing for the CEC will be held by the Committee after the application is submitted.

With the selection of the APS final routes, the environmental planning and public process is complete. APS and EPG are very appreciative of all the input and participation from the community throughout the project, and would like to express thanks to the Community Working Group as well for their efforts and commitment.

Please visit the website, <http://siting.apsc.com>, or call the voice message information line at (602) 381-1769 if you have further questions.