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BEFORE THE ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION

COMMISSIONERS

JIM O'CONNOR – CHAIRMAN  
LEA MÁRQUEZ PETERSON  
ANNA TOVAR  
KEVIN THOMPSON  
NICK MYERS

Arizona Corporation Commission

DOCKETED

APR 17 2023

DOCKETED BY

JM

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF ARIZONA PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY IN CONFORMANCE WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES 40-360, ET SEQ., FOR A CERTIFICATE OF ENVIRONMENTAL COMPATIBILITY AUTHORIZING CONSTRUCTION OF AN APPROXIMATELY 0.6 MILE 500 KILOVOLT (KV) INTERCONNECTION TRANSMISSION LINE AND AMENDING CEC 135 TO AUTHORIZE USE OF A NEW TRANSMISSION STRUCTURE TYPE THAT WILL CONTACT THE PROVING GROUND SOLAR+STORAGE PROJECT TO THE HOODOO WASH SWITCHYARD LOCATED NEAR DATELAND, ARIZONA WITHIN UNINCORPORATED YUMA COUNTY, ARIZONA.

DOCKET NO. L-00000DA-23-0011-00214

CASE NO. 214

DECISION NO. 78914

**ORDER**

April 11, 2023  
Open Meeting  
Phoenix, Arizona

BY THE COMMISSION:

Pursuant to A.R.S. § 40-360, *et seq.*, after due consideration of all relevant matters, the Arizona Corporation Commission (“Commission”) finds and concludes that the Certificate of Environmental Compatibility (“CEC”) issued by the Arizona Power Plant and Transmission Line Siting Committee (“Siting Committee”) is hereby approved as granted by this Order.

The Commission, in reaching its decision, has balanced all relevant matters in the broad public interest, including the need for an adequate, economical, and reliable supply of electric power

1 with the desire to minimize the effect thereof on the environment and ecology of this state, and finds  
2 that granting the Project a CEC is in the public interest.

3 The Commission further finds and concludes that in balancing the broad public interest in this  
4 matter:

- 5 1. The Project is in the public interest because it aids the state in meeting the need for an  
6 adequate, economical, and reliable supply of electric power.
- 7 2. In balancing the need for the Project with its effect on the environment and ecology of the  
8 state, the conditions placed on the CEC effectively minimize its impact on the  
9 environment and ecology of the state.
- 10 3. The conditions placed on the CEC resolve matters concerning the need for the Project and  
11 its impact on the environment and ecology of the state raised during the course of  
12 proceedings and, as such, serve as the findings on the matters raised.
- 13 4. In light of these conditions, the balancing in the broad public interest results in favor of  
14 granting the CEC.

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1 THE CEC ISSUED BY THE SITING COMMITTEE IS INCORPORATED  
2 HEREIN AND IS APPROVED BY ORDER OF THE  
3 ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION

4 **EXCUSED**

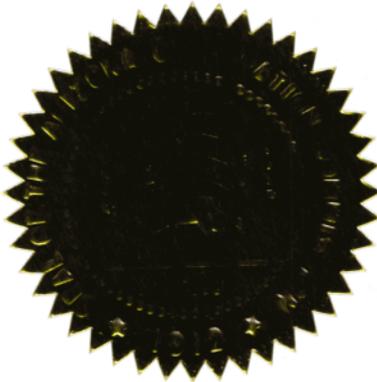
5 CHAIRMAN O'CONNOR

*Lea Marquez Peterson*  
6 COMMISSIONER MARQUEZ PETERSON

*Anna Tovar*  
7 COMMISSIONER TOVAR

*Ken Thompson*  
8 COMMISSIONER THOMPSON

*WJ Myers*  
9 COMMISSIONER MYERS



10 IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I, DOUGLAS R. CLARK,  
11 Executive Director of the Arizona Corporation Commission,  
12 have hereunto, set my hand and caused the official seal of this  
13 Commission to be affixed at the Capitol, in the City of Phoenix,  
14 this 17th day of April, 2023.

*Douglas R. Clark*  
15 Douglas R. Clark,  
16 Executive Director

17 DISSENT: \_\_\_\_\_

18 DISSENT: \_\_\_\_\_

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**BEFORE THE ARIZONA POWER PLANT  
AND TRANSMISSION LINE SITING COMMITTEE**

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IN THE MATTER OF THE  
APPLICATION OF ARIZONA PUBLIC  
SERVICE COMPANY, IN  
CONFORMANCE WITH THE  
REQUIREMENTS OF ARIZONA  
REVISED STATUTES 40-360, ET SEQ.,  
FOR A CERTIFICATE OF  
ENVIRONMENTAL COMPATIBILITY  
AUTHORIZING CONSTRUCTION OF  
AN APPROXIMATELY 0.6 MILE 500  
KILOVOLT (KV) INTERCONNECTION  
TRANSMISSION LINE AND  
AMENDING CEC 135 TO AUTHORIZE  
USE OF A NEW TRANSMISSION  
STRUCTURE TYPE THAT WILL  
CONNECT THE PROVING GROUND  
SOLAR+STORAGE PROJECT TO THE  
HOODOO WASH SWITCHYARD  
LOCATED NEAR DATELAND,  
ARIZONA WITHIN UNINCORPORATED  
YUMA COUNTY, ARIZONA.

DOCKET NO. L-00000D-23-0011-00214

Case No. 214

**CERTIFICATE OF  
ENVIRONMENTAL  
COMPATIBILITY**

AZ CORP COMMISSION  
DOCKET CONTROL

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**A. INTRODUCTION.**

Pursuant to notice given as provided by law, the Arizona Power Plant and Transmission Line Siting Committee (Committee) held a public hearing on February 13, 2023 through February 14, 2023 in Yuma, Arizona, in conformance with the requirements of Arizona Revised Statutes (A.R.S.) §§ 40.360, *et seq.*, for the purpose of receiving evidence and deliberating on the application (Application) of Arizona Public Service Company (APS or Applicant) for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility (Certificate) in the above-captioned case.

The following members and designees of members of the Committee were present at one or more of the hearing days for the evidentiary presentations, public comment, and/or the deliberations:

1	Paul A. Katz	Chairman, Designee for Arizona Attorney General Kris Mayes
2	Gabriela Saucedo Mercer	Designee of the Chairman, Arizona Corporation Commission (Commission)
3		
4	Leonard C. Drago	Designee for Director, Arizona Department of Environmental Quality
5	David French	Designee for Director, Arizona Department of Water Resources
6		
7	Mary Hamway	Appointed Member, representing incorporated cities and towns
8	Rick Grinnell	Appointed Member, representing counties
9	James Palmer	Appointed Member, representing agricultural interests
10	Margaret "Toby" Little	Appointed Member, representing the general public
11		

12       The Applicant was represented by Linda J. Benally of Pinnacle West Capital  
13 Corporation and Matt Derstine of Snell & Wilmer, LLP. Agua Caliente Solar, LLC  
14 through counsel Christopher D. Thomas of Perkins Coie, LLP made a limited  
15 appearance.

16       At the conclusion of the hearing, the Committee, after considering the  
17 (i) Application, (ii) evidence, testimony and exhibits presented by Applicant, and  
18 (iii) comments of the public, and being advised of the legal requirements of A.R.S.  
19 §§ 40-360 through 40-360.13, upon motion duly made and seconded, voted 8 to 0 grant  
20 the Applicant, its successors and assignees, this Certificate for construction of the 500kV  
21 Interconnection Project that includes the amendment of CEC 135<sup>1</sup> all as described below  
22 (the Interconnection Project).

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25  
26 <sup>1</sup> On January 6, 2023, APS filed its Notice of Filing Application for a Certificate of  
27 Environmental Compatibility for the Proving Ground 500kV Interconnection Transmission Line  
28 Project That Includes Request to Amend Decision No. 74206 to Allow Co-Location of New  
500kV Line with HANG2 Line in ACC Docket No. L-00000D-07-0566-00135.

1 **B. PROJECT OVERVIEW.**

2 The Interconnection Project consists of a 500kV generation intertie transmission  
3 line that will connect APS's planned Proving Ground Solar+Storage Project (Solar  
4 Project) to the regional electric grid at the existing Hoodoo Wash Switchyard.<sup>2</sup> The  
5 Solar Project is a renewable energy development that includes a planned 250 megawatt  
6 (MW) solar photovoltaic (PV) facility with battery storage, double-circuit 69kV lead  
7 lines, and associated step-up substations. The Interconnection Project will extend  
8 approximately 3,000 feet from the Solar Project's planned 69kV step-up substation to  
9 the Hoodoo Wash Switchyard.

10 The Interconnection Project will be constructed adjacent to or within a previously  
11 established utility corridor in a relatively remote area of unincorporated Yuma County,  
12 approximately 10 miles north of Dateland, Arizona. Approximately 1,600 feet of the  
13 Interconnection Project will be on federal land administered by the Bureau of Land  
14 Management (BLM) and within a BLM-utility corridor. The remainder of the  
15 Interconnection Project traverses privately owned land.

16 The Interconnection Project will utilize a 200 foot wide right-of-way and a map  
17 and corridor description are attached as **Exhibit A**.

18 **C. CEC AMENDMENT**

19 A segment of the Interconnection Project will be co-located with the existing  
20 500kV Hassayampa-North Gila #2 transmission line (HANG2), which was authorized in  
21 Decision No. 70127 and modified in Decision No. 74206 (CEC 135). Co-locating the  
22 Interconnection Project with HANG2 requires the use of two double-circuit structures  
23 and relocating a short segment of HANG2 from its existing alignment all within an  
24 approximately 2,000 foot segment of HANG2.

25 Accordingly, the approval of the "Interconnection Project" as granted herein shall  
26

27 <sup>2</sup> Hoodoo Wash Switchyard is jointly owned by APS, Imperial Irrigation District (IID), and San  
28 Diego Gas & Electric (SDG&E). APS is the Operating Agent for the switchyard.

1 be deemed to include the amendment of CEC 135 pursuant to A.R.S. § 40-252 to  
2 specifically authorize the use of double-circuit structures to allow for the co-location of  
3 the Interconnection Project with HANG2 within the original corridor. The amendment  
4 of CEC 135 only relates to the co-location of the Interconnection Project with the  
5 HANG2 line as described above. All other terms and conditions of CEC 135 shall  
6 remain unchanged.

### 7 **CONDITIONS**

8 This Certificate is granted upon the following conditions:

9 1. This authorization to construct the Interconnection Project shall expire ten  
10 (10) years from the date this Certificate is approved by the Arizona Corporation  
11 Commission, with or without modification. Construction of the Interconnection Project  
12 shall be complete such that the Interconnection Project is in-service within this ten-year  
13 timeframe. However, prior to the expiration of the time period, the Applicant may  
14 request that the Commission extend the time limitation.

15 2. In the event that the Interconnection Project requires an extension of the  
16 term(s) of this Certificate prior to completion of construction, the Applicant shall file  
17 such time extension request at least one hundred and eighty (180) days prior to the  
18 expiration of the Certificate. The Applicant shall use reasonable means to promptly  
19 notify the Arizona State Land Department (ASLD), the BLM, the Board of Supervisors  
20 for Yuma County, all landowners and residents within a two (2) mile radius of the  
21 centerline of the Interconnection Project, all persons who made public comment at this  
22 proceeding who provided a mailing or email address, and all parties to this proceeding.  
23 The notification provided will include the request and the date, time, and place of the  
24 hearing or open meetings during which the Commission will consider the request for  
25 extension. Notification shall be no more than three (3) business days after the Applicant  
26 is made aware of the hearing date or the open meeting date.

27 3. During the development, construction, operation, maintenance and  
28 reclamation of the Interconnection Project, the Applicant shall comply with all existing

1 applicable air and water pollution control standards and regulations, and with all existing  
2 applicable statutes, ordinances, master plans and regulations of any governmental entity  
3 having jurisdiction including, but not limited to, the United States of America, the State  
4 of Arizona, the Board of Supervisors for Yuma County, and their agencies and  
5 subdivisions, including but not limited to the following:

- 6 a. All applicable land use regulations;
- 7 b. All applicable zoning stipulations and conditions including but not limited  
8 to landscaping and dust control requirements;
- 9 c. All applicable water use, discharge and/or disposal requirements of the  
10 Arizona Department of Water Resources and the Arizona Department of  
11 Environmental Quality;
- 12 d. All applicable noise control standards; and
- 13 e. All applicable regulations governing storage and handling of hazardous  
14 chemicals and petroleum products.

15 4. The Applicant shall obtain all approvals and permits necessary to  
16 construct, operate and maintain the Interconnection Project required by any  
17 governmental entity having jurisdiction including, but not limited to, the United States  
18 of America, the State of Arizona, the Board of Supervisors for Yuma County, and their  
19 agencies and subdivisions.

20 5. The Applicant shall comply with the Arizona Game and Fish Department  
21 (AGFD) guidelines for handling protected animal species, should any be encountered  
22 during construction and operation of the Interconnection Project, and shall consult with  
23 AGFD or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, as appropriate, on other issues concerning  
24 wildlife.

25 6. The Applicant shall design the Interconnection Project's facilities to  
26 incorporate reasonable measures to minimize electrocution of and impacts to avian  
27 species in accordance with the Applicant's avian protection program. Such measures  
28 will be accomplished through incorporation of Avian Power Line Interaction Committee  
guidelines set forth in the current versions of *Suggested Practices for Avian Protection  
on Power Lines and Reducing Avian Collisions with Power Lines* manuals.

1           7.     The Applicant shall consult the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO)  
2 with respect to cultural resources. If any archaeological, paleontological, or historical  
3 site or a significant cultural object is discovered on state, county or municipal land  
4 during the construction or operation of the Interconnection Project, the Applicant or its  
5 representative in charge shall promptly report the discovery to the Director of the  
6 Arizona State Museum (ASM), and in consultation with the Director, shall immediately  
7 take all reasonable steps to secure and maintain the preservation of the discovery as  
8 required by A.R.S. § 41-844.

9           8.     The Applicant shall comply with the notice and salvage requirements of  
10 the Arizona Native Plant Law (A.R.S. §§ 3-901 *et seq.*) and shall, to the extent feasible,  
11 minimize the destruction of native plants during the construction and operation of the  
12 Interconnection Project.

13           9.     The Applicant shall make every reasonable effort to promptly investigate,  
14 identify and correct, on a case-specific basis, all complaints of interference with radio or  
15 television signals from operation of the Interconnection Project addressed in this  
16 Certificate and where such interference is caused by the Interconnection Project take  
17 reasonable measures to mitigate such interference. The Applicant shall maintain written  
18 records for a period of five (5) years of all complaints of radio or television interference  
19 attributable to operations, together with the corrective action taken in response to each  
20 complaint. All complaints shall be recorded to include notation on the corrective action  
21 taken. Complaints not leading to a specific action or for which there was no resolution  
22 shall be noted and explained. Upon request, the written records shall be provided to the  
23 Staff of the Commission. The Applicant shall respond to complaints and implement  
24 appropriate mitigation measures. In addition, the Interconnection Project shall be  
25 evaluated on a regular basis so that damaged insulators or other line materials that could  
26 cause interference are repaired or replaced in a timely manner.

27           10.    If human remains and/or funerary objects are encountered during the  
28 course of any ground-disturbing activities related to the construction or maintenance of

1 the Interconnection Project, the Applicant shall cease work on the affected area of the  
2 Interconnection Project and notify the Director of the ASM as required by A.R.S. § 41-  
3 865 for private land, or as required by A.R.S. § 41-844 for state, county, or municipal  
4 lands.

5 11. Within one hundred twenty (120) days of the Commission's decision  
6 approving this Certificate, the Applicant shall post signs in or near public rights-of-way,  
7 to the extent authorized by law, reasonably adjacent to the Interconnection Project  
8 giving notice of the Interconnection Project. Such signage shall be no smaller than a  
9 roadway sign. The signs shall advise:

- 10 a. Future site of the Interconnection Project;
- 11 b. A phone number and website for public information regarding the  
12 Interconnection Project; and
- 13 c. Refer the Public to the Docket:

14 <https://edocket.azcc.gov/Search/Docket-Search>

15 Such signs shall be inspected at least once annually and, if necessary, be repaired  
16 or replaced, and removed at the completion of construction.

17 The Applicant shall make every reasonable effort to communicate the decision  
18 either approving or disapproving the Certificate in digital media.

19 12. Within ninety (90) days after approval of this Certificate by the  
20 Commission, the Applicant shall provide ASLD, BLM, the Board of Supervisors for  
21 Yuma County, and known builders and developers who are building upon or developing  
22 land within one (1) mile of the due centerline of the Interconnection Project with a  
23 written description, including the approximate height and width measurements of all  
24 structure types, of the Interconnection Project. The written description shall identify the  
25 location of the Interconnection Project and contain a pictorial depiction of the facilities  
26 being constructed. The Applicant shall also encourage the developers and builders to  
27 include this information in their disclosure statements. Upon approval of this Certificate  
28

1 by the Commission, the Applicant may commence construction of the Interconnection  
2 Project.

3 13. The Applicant shall use non-specular conductor and non-reflective  
4 surfaces for the transmission line structures on the Interconnection Project.

5 14. Applicant shall be responsible for arranging that all field personnel  
6 involved in the Interconnection Project receive training as to proper ingress, egress, and  
7 on-site working protocol for environmentally sensitive areas and activities. Contractors  
8 employing such field personnel shall maintain records documenting that the personnel  
9 have received such training.

10 15. The Applicant shall follow the most current Western Electricity  
11 Coordinating Council (WECC) and North American Electric Reliability Corporation  
12 (NERC) planning standards, as approved by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission  
13 (FERC), National Electrical Safety Code (NESC) standards, and Federal Aviation  
14 Administration (FAA) regulations.

15 16. The Applicant shall participate in good faith in state and regional  
16 transmission study forums to coordinate transmission expansion plans related to the  
17 Interconnection Project and to resolve transmission constraints in a timely manner.

18 17. When Interconnection Project facilities are located parallel to and within  
19 one hundred (100) feet of any existing natural gas or hazardous pipeline, the Applicant  
20 shall:

- 21 a. Ensure grounding and cathodic protection studies are performed to show  
22 that the Interconnection Project's location parallel to and within one  
23 hundred (100) feet of such pipeline results in no material adverse impacts  
24 to the pipeline or to public safety when both the pipeline and the Project  
25 are in operation. The Applicant shall take appropriate steps to ensure that  
26 any material adverse impacts are mitigated. The Applicant shall provide to  
27 Staff of the Commission, and file with Docket Control, a copy of the  
28 studies performed and additional mitigation, if any, that was implemented

1 as part of its annual compliance-certification letter; and

- 2 b. Ensure that studies are performed simulating an outage of the  
3 Interconnection Project that may be caused by the collocation of the  
4 Interconnection Project parallel to and within one hundred (100) feet of the  
5 existing natural gas or hazardous liquid pipeline. The studies should either:  
6 (i) show that such simulated outage does not result in customer outages; or  
7 (ii) include operating plans to minimize any resulting customer outages.  
8 The Applicant shall provide a copy of the study results to Staff of the  
9 Commission and file them with Docket Control as part of the Applicant's  
10 annual compliance certification letter.

11 18. The Applicant shall submit a compliance certification letter annually,  
12 identifying progress made with respect to each condition contained in this Certificate,  
13 including which conditions have been met. The letter shall be submitted to  
14 Commission's Docket Control commencing on December 1, 2023. Attached to each  
15 certification letter shall be documentation explaining how compliance with each  
16 condition was achieved. Copies of each letter, along with the corresponding  
17 documentation, shall be submitted to the Arizona Attorney General's Office. With  
18 respect to the Interconnection Project, the requirement for the compliance letter shall  
19 expire on the date the Interconnection Project is placed into operation. Notification of  
20 such filing with Docket Control shall be made to ASLD, BLM, the Board of Supervisors  
21 for Yuma, all parties to this Docket, and all parties who made a limited appearance in  
22 this Docket.

23 19. The Applicant shall provide a copy of this Certificate to ASLD, BLM, and  
24 the Board of Supervisors for Yuma County.

25 20. Any transfer or assignment of this Certificate shall require the assignee or  
26 successor to assume, in writing, all responsibilities of the Applicant listed in this  
27 Certificate and its conditions as required by A.R.S. § 40-360.08(A) and R14-3-213(F) of  
28 the Arizona Administrative Code.

1       21. In the event the Applicant, its assignee, or successor, seeks to modify the  
2 Certificate terms at the Commission, it shall provide copies of such request to ASLD,  
3 BLM, the Board of Supervisors for Yuma County, all parties to this Docket, and all  
4 parties who made a limited appearance in this Docket.

5       22. The Certificate Conditions shall be binding on the Applicant, its  
6 successors, assignee(s) and transferees and any affiliates, agents, or lessees of the  
7 Applicant who have a contractual relationship with the Applicant concerning the  
8 construction, operation, maintenance or reclamation of the Interconnection Project. The  
9 Applicant shall provide in any agreement(s) or lease(s) pertaining to the Interconnection  
10 Project that the contracting parties and/or lessee(s) shall be responsible for compliance  
11 with the Conditions set forth herein, and the Applicant's responsibilities with respect to  
12 compliance with such Conditions shall not cease or be abated by reason of the fact that  
13 the Applicant is not in control of or responsible for operation and maintenance of the  
14 Interconnection Project facilities.

15                   **FINDINGS OF FACT AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

16       This Certificate incorporates the following Findings of Fact and Conclusions of  
17 Law:

18       1. The Interconnection Project including the amendment of CEC 135 aids the  
19 state and the southwest region of the United States in meeting the need for an adequate,  
20 economical, and reliable supply of renewable electric power.

21       2. The Interconnection Project, including the amendment of CEC 135, aids  
22 the state, preserving a safe and reliable electric transmission system.

23       3. During the course of the hearing, the Committee considered evidence on  
24 the environmental compatibility on the Interconnection Project as required by A.R.S. §  
25 40-360 *et seq.* and A.R.S. § 40-252.

26       4. The Interconnection Project, including the amendment of CEC 135, when  
27 combined with the conditions contained in this Certificate effectively minimize the  
28 impact of the Interconnection Project on the environment and ecology of the state.



1 Pursuant to A.A.C. R14-3-204, the  
2 Original and 25 copies were filed  
this 17<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2023 with:

3 Utilities Division - Docket Control  
4 Arizona Corporation Commission  
1200 West Washington St.  
5 Phoenix, Arizona 85007

6 Copies of the above mailed/mailed  
this 17<sup>th</sup> day of February 2023 to:

7 Robin Mitchell  
8 Director & Chief Counsel - Legal  
Arizona Corporation Commission  
9 1200 W. Washington Street  
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admin@glennie-reporting.com  
26 *Court Reporter*

27 /s/   
28 \_\_\_\_\_

# EXHIBIT A

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**PROVING GROUND 500KV INTERCONNECTION TRANSMISSION LINE  
PROJECT**

**APPLICATION FOR CERTIFICATE OF  
ENVIRONMENTAL COMPATIBILITY  
DOCKET NO. L-00000D-23-0011-00214**

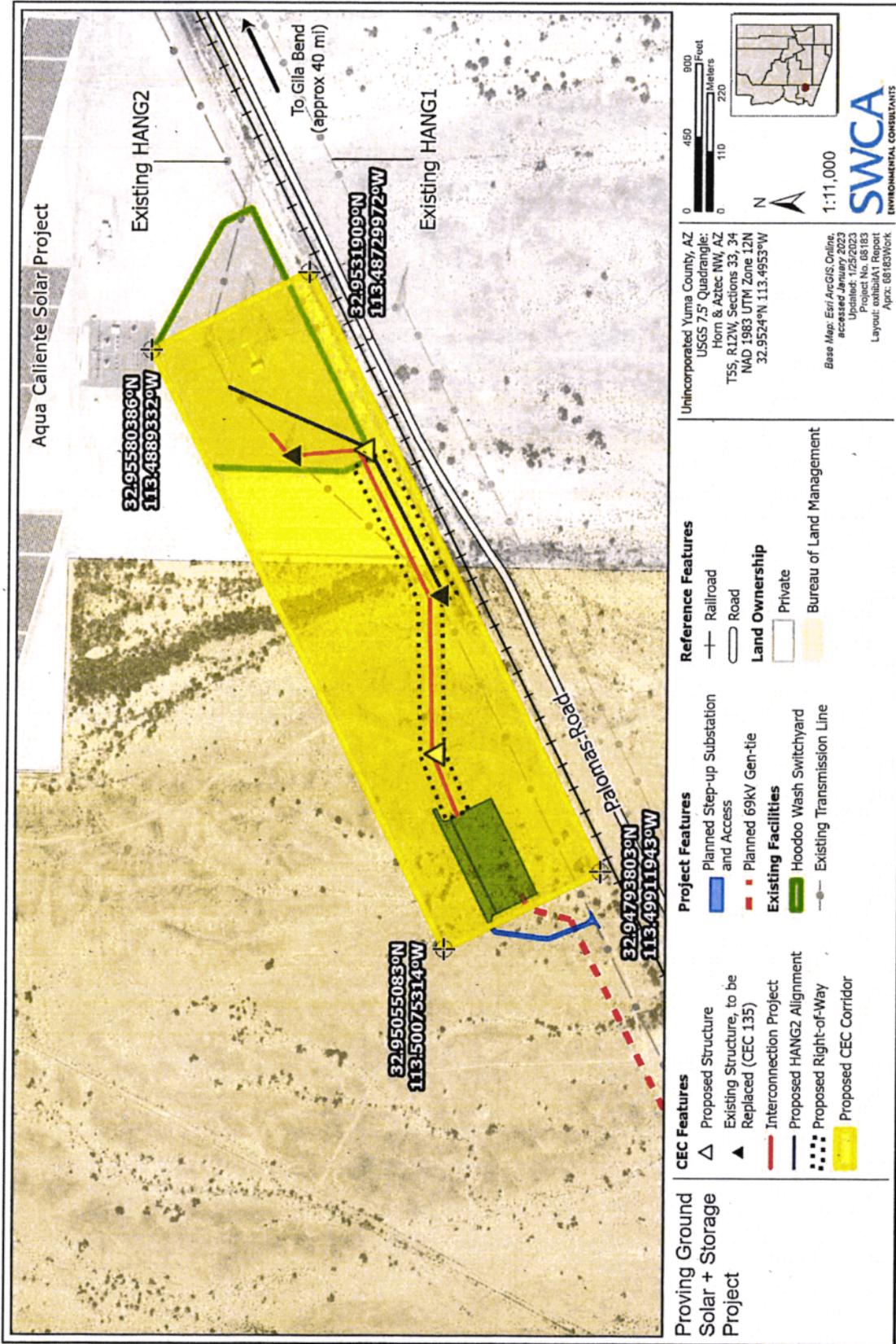
## **CEC CORRIDOR DESCRIPTION**

The rectangular CEC corridor is oriented northeast-southwest, with dimensions of 4,100 feet by 1,075 feet. Specifically, the perimeter of the requested corridor has the following characteristics, with the latitude and longitude of individual points expressed in decimal degrees:

- Beginning at coordinates (32.94793803 degrees north, 113.49911943 degrees west), immediately north of the Union Pacific Railroad Company right-of-way, proceeding northeast, parallel to and north of the railroad right-of-way, to the coordinates (32.9531909 degrees north, 113.48729972 degrees west).
- Thence proceeding north-northwest to the northern most point of the APS Hoodoo Wash Switchyard at the coordinates (32.95580386 degrees north, 113.4889332 degrees west).
- Thence proceeding southwest to the coordinates (32.95055083 degrees north, 113.50075314 west).
- Thence proceeding south-southeast to the coordinates (32.94793803 degrees north, 113.49911943 degrees west), and Point of Beginning.

DOCKET NO. L-00000D-23-0011-00214

CEC Corridor Description



CEC Corridor