

**PROVING GROUND 500KV INTERCONNECTION
TRANSMISSION LINE PROJECT
DOCKET NO. L-00000D-23-0011-00214**



SUMMARY OF PUBLIC OUTREACH EFFORTS

In accordance with paragraph 16 from the Chairman's procedural order, dated January 10, 2023, the following exhibit summarizes all public outreach efforts concerning the Application.

Arizona Public Service Company (APS or Applicant) and SWCA Environmental Consultants (SWCA) conducted a multi-faceted public and agency involvement program for the Proving Ground 500 kilovolt (kV) Interconnection Transmission Line Project (the Interconnection Project) CEC Application. The purpose of the outreach program was to ensure that local jurisdictions, relevant agencies, community residents, and other stakeholders were informed of the Project and provided with opportunities to relay information or potential concerns about the Project.

The outreach program involved the following means of communication:

- Newsletter mailings
- Newspaper advertisements
- Social media advertisements
- In-person open house
- Project webpages (one webpage developed and maintained by Strata Clean Energy and SWCA and a second by APS)
- Project email address and voicemail
- Notice of hearing signs
- Public viewing locations for the CEC application

Project Newsletter

The Interconnection Project team mailed a newsletter on November 17, 2021 to property owners within two (2) miles of the Interconnection Project and representatives of relevant agencies/organizations. The purpose of the November 2021 newsletter was to (1) introduce and describe the Solar Project (including the Interconnection Project), (2) invite recipients to attend an in-person open house to learn more about and comment on the Solar Project and the Interconnection Project, and (3) identify additional opportunities to provide comments. These opportunities included a website address, a mailing address, an email address, and a voicemail number. Recipients were asked to submit comments by December 15, 2021. The November 2021 newsletter also included a "Project Overview" map, which focused on the 500kV interconnection facilities (i.e., the step-up substation, Interconnection Project, and Hoodoo Wash Switchyard). Details of the in-person open house advertised in the November 2021 newsletter are included below. A copy of the November 2021 newsletter is included with the Application as Exhibit J-1.

The Interconnection Project team conducted a second phase of public outreach in August 2022. As part of the second phase of public outreach, an additional newsletter was mailed to property owners and the agencies/organizations within two (2) miles of the Interconnection Project and key stakeholders. The purpose of the August 2022 newsletter was to introduce APS's involvement with the Interconnection Project and request comments on the Interconnection Project. The newsletter included a web address to the project-specific website, a link to a web address to an APS webpage developed for the Interconnection Project and contact information for key members of the Interconnection Project team. The August 2022 newsletter also included an updated "Project Overview" map, which focused on the 500kV interconnection facilities, including the finalized approach for the Interconnection Project. A copy of the August 2022 newsletter is included as Exhibit J-2.

The Applicant mailed a third newsletter on January 12, 2023 to announce the location, date, and time of the Interconnection Project’s Siting Committee hearings. See the “Notice of Hearing Distribution” section, below, for further information.

Website

The Interconnection Project team created and maintained a website dedicated to the Interconnection Project (swcavirtualpublicinvolvement.com/proving-ground) to provide stakeholders with current information about the Interconnection Project. The website was initially launched ahead of the December 2021 open house. The website included basic project information (including a discussion of site selection factors, permitting requirements, and the development schedule), visual simulations showing the Interconnection Project from vantage points on Palomas Road, a comment submittal form, and contact information for key members of the Interconnection Project team. The website allowed interested parties to visit and review the materials at their convenience. A copy of the website information is included in the Application as Exhibits J-6a through J-6h.

As noted above, the Interconnection Project team conducted a second phase of public outreach in August 2022. As part of the second phase of public outreach, the Interconnection Project team updated the website, and announced website updates in the above-described “Second Newsletter.” The website updates included a current description of the Interconnection Project, an explanation of APS’s involvement with the Interconnection Project, a map showing the updated interconnection approach for the Interconnection Project, and a pre-recorded overview presentation. The overview presentation involved a PowerPoint slide deck with a pre-recorded narration for each slide. A copy of the overview presentation slide deck is included in the Application as Exhibits J-7a through J-7c.

In August 2022, APS also created a webpage for the Interconnection Project (aps.com/provingground). The APS webpage contained the same information as provided on the above-described website. A copy of the website information is included in the Application Exhibits J-8a through J-8d.

Newspaper Advertisements

The Interconnection Project team placed a legal advertisement in the *Yuma Sun*, a newspaper of general circulation in the vicinity of the Interconnection Project on December 1, 2021. The *Yuma Sun* is a newspaper of general circulation in Yuma County, including the Dateland area near the Interconnection Project. The *Yuma Sun* circulates approximately 10,000 newspapers per day; legal advertisements are published in their print and online editions. The purpose of the newspaper advertisement was to announce the Interconnection Project, provide notice of the in-person public open house (scheduled for December 8, 2021), provide opportunities for public comment, and provide key contact information for the Interconnection Project team. The newspaper advertisement also included a website address where additional information about the Interconnection Project was available. A copy of the advertisement is included in the Application as Exhibit J-3.

In-Person Open House

The Interconnection Project team hosted an in-person open house for the Interconnection Project on December 8, 2021, in Dateland, Arizona. The meeting used an informal “open house” style format, allowing community members to attend at their convenience, review displays, and speak with members of the Interconnection Project team. An official sign-in sheet was available to record attendees.

Materials provided at the open house included a set of 12 posters and an informational handout, both of which presented the same information (see Exhibit J-4 of the Application). That information included a description of the Interconnection Project, a summary of the Arizona Corporation Commission’s CEC

process, photographic simulations for the Interconnection Project from two locations on Palomas Road, the project website address, and contact information for submitting questions and comments. Comment forms and pre-addressed envelopes were also available. Two members of the public attended the open house, and both inquired about potential employment opportunities associated with the project.

Dedicated Project Telephone number and Email Address

The Interconnection Project team created a dedicated voicemail (928-202-4621) and email address (provinggroundsolar@swca.com) for the Interconnection Project. The voicemail recording included basic information and invited interested parties to leave comments or questions. The telephone number was provided in the above-described newsletter mailings, newspaper advertisement, and the Project website.

The Interconnection Project team implemented a procedure to distribute voicemails and emails to an appropriate person and promptly reply to comments, questions, or concerns.

Notice of Hearing Distribution

The CEC Application was filed with the ACC on January 5, 2023. In accordance with the ACC administrative rule R14-3-208 and the Chairman’s procedural order, dated January 10, 2023, the Applicant completed the following activities to distribute the Notice of Hearing and make the community aware of the Project and its CEC hearings.

Newspaper Publications

The Applicant published the Notice of Hearing twice in the *Yuma Sun*. The *Yuma Sun* is a newspaper of general circulation in Yuma County, including the Dateland area near the Interconnection Project. The *Yuma Sun* circulates approximately 10,000 newspapers per day; legal advertisements are published in their print and online editions. The advertisement included event details for the hearing, a web address for a Project-specific website, and public comment information. The Notice of Hearing was published in the *Yuma Sun* on January 12 and January 13, 2023. A tear sheet of the Notice of Hearing in the *Yuma Sun* will be included with the witness presentation during hearings.

Public Hearing Signs

Public hearing signs displaying the Notice of Hearing for the Project were placed in four locations in the vicinity of the Interconnection Project. Public hearing signs were installed on January 18, 2023. The signs included the hearing date, time, and location, public comment opportunities, and a Project Overview map. Given the remote location of the Project, public hearing signs were installed near the Dateland Elementary School and near the intersection of Palomas Road and County 64th Street, in addition to two locations adjacent to the Interconnection Project, to help increase awareness of the hearings where more potentially interested people might see the signs.

Pre-Hearing Newsletter

The Applicant mailed a third newsletter on January 12, 2023, that described the Project and announced the location, date, and time of the Project’s Siting Committee hearings. The Project team mailed Notice of Hearing newsletters to property owners within two (2) miles of the Project area and relevant agency representatives and public officials.

The purpose of this third newsletter was to provide notice of the hearing (scheduled to begin February 13, 2023), provide public comment information, and provide key contact information for the Project team. The letter also included a brief description of the Project, an overview of the hearing process, and a “Project Overview” map.

Social Media Advertisements

In accordance with the Chairman’s procedural order, paragraph 3, the Applicant ran social media advertisements noticing the CEC hearings. Specifically, the Project team ran a Facebook advertisement displaying information about the upcoming hearings on the Interconnection Project from January 17 to January 23, 2023. The Facebook advertisement included event details for the hearing. A screen capture of the Facebook advertisement will be included with the witness presentation at hearings. Individuals who clicked the link were directed to the Interconnection Project website. The Project website included the full Notice of Hearing.

Public viewing locations for the CEC Application

The CEC application was placed in publicly accessible locations for interested parties to review. Specifically, the CEC application was mailed to the following locations on January 10, 2023:

- Dateland Elementary School/Library, 1300 South Avenue 64 East, Dateland, AZ 85333
- Wellton Public Library, 28790 San Jose Avenue, Wellton, AZ 85356
- Foothills Library, 13226 East South Frontage Road, Yuma AZ 85367, and
- Gila Bend Library 777 N. Logan Ave., Gila Bend, AZ 85337. The CEC application was mailed to each library on January 10, 2023.

Website Updates

After filing the CEC Application, the Project webpages were updated with a new section specifically dedicated to providing information about the upcoming hearings. Specifically, documents including the Application, the Notice of Hearing, pre-filing conference transcripts and exhibits were posted in this section of the Project website the website. Information for remote participation in the CEC hearings (e.g., Zoom links, Vimeo links, dial-in numbers) was posted to the website as it was available. In addition, the Project team added a Spanish-translated version of the CEC Hearings.

Public Comments

Throughout the public involvement program, the Interconnection Project team solicited comments from the public. As of January 2023, the Interconnection Project team has not received any public comments.

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

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



Line Siting Committee Route Tour Itinerary

The route tour will begin at the Yuma Four Points by Sheraton hotel, located at 2030 South Avenue 3 East, Yuma, AZ 85365. A chartered bus provided by APS will transport attendees. The attached route tour map shows the route tour path and route stops that will be reviewed. A map of the route tour is included on the following page.

Start of Tour: February 14, 2023

**Yuma Four Points by Sheraton
2030 South Avenue 3 East
Yuma, AZ 85365**

Route Stop #1- Palomas Road south of Planned Step-Up Substation (32.948089, -113.496753)

From the Yuma Four Points by Sheraton, the tour will head northeast out of the parking lot towards South Avenue 3 East for 0.1 mile. The tour will then turn south and travel along South Avenue 3 East for 0.2 mile. The tour will then turn east to merge onto I-8 East for 63.1 miles. The tour will take exit 67 and then turn north onto Avenue 64 East. The tour will travel along Avenue 64 East for 8.9 miles and then turn northeast onto Palomas Road for 2.9 miles before stopping on the south side of Palomas Road.

Route Stop #2: Palomas Road south of the Hoodoo Wash Switchyard (32.952428, -113.487747)

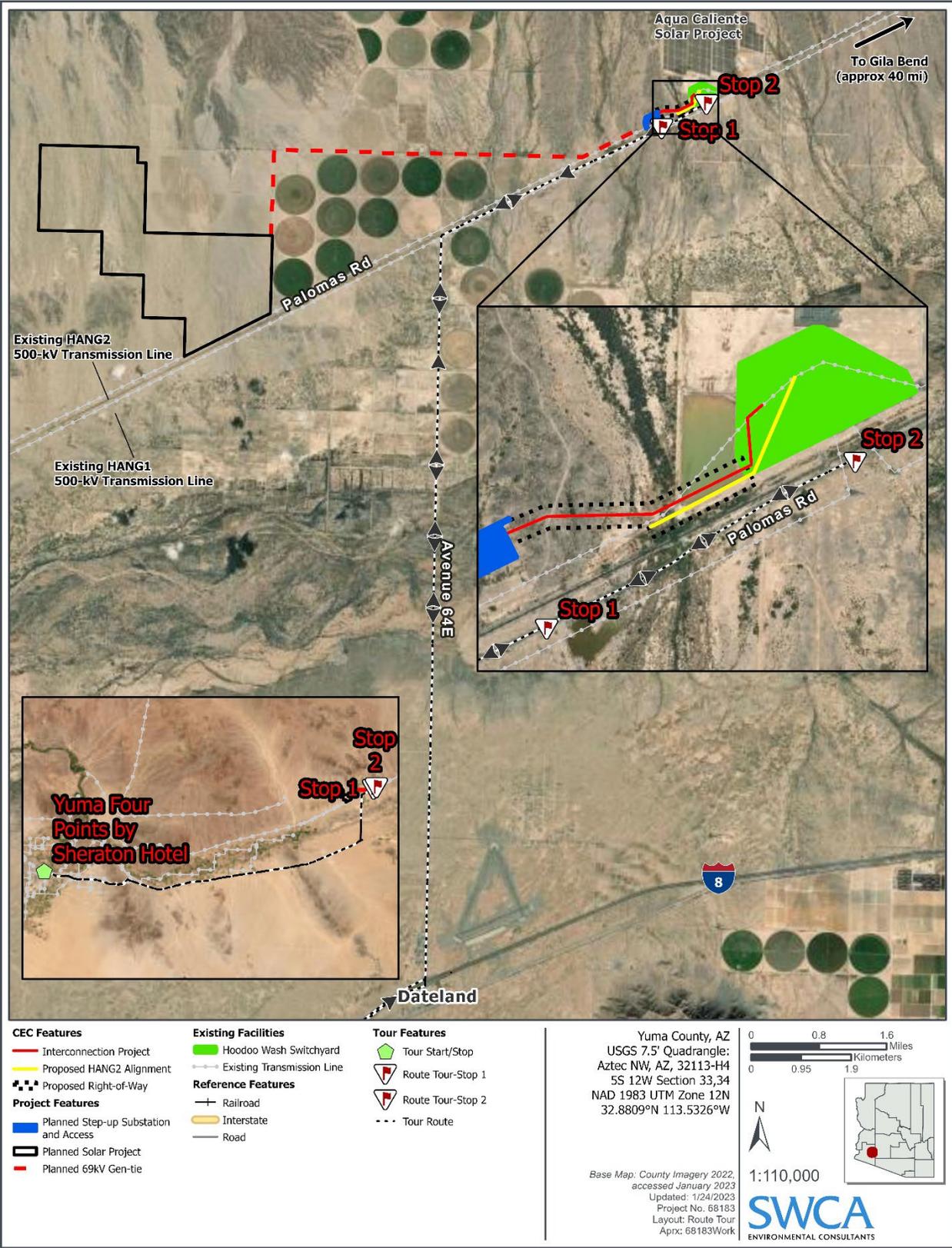
From route stop #1, the route will head northeast on Palomas Road for 0.6 mile before stopping on the south side of Palomas Road, just outside of the APS Hoodoo Wash Switchyard.

Return to the Yuma Four Points by Sheraton

From route stop #2, the tour will turn around and travel southwest on Palomas Road for 3.5 miles and then turn south onto Avenue 64 East. The tour will travel 8.8 miles along Avenue 64 East before turning west to merge onto I-8 West toward San Diego. The tour will then travel 63.1 miles along I-8 West. Next the tour will take exit 3 toward South Avenue 3 East for 0.4 mile. The tour will then turn north onto South Avenue 3 East for 0.08 mile before turning west onto East 24th Street. After 0.2 mile, the tour will turn north into the parking lot and return to the Yuma Four Points by Sheraton.

The anticipated total tour time is approximately 2.75 hours.

Line Siting Committee Route Tour Itinerary



Route Tour Map

1 Linda J. Benally
2 Pinnacle West Capital Corporation
3 400 North 5th Street, MS 8695
4 Phoenix, Arizona 85004
5 Tel: (602) 250-3630
6 Tel: (602) 250-3626
7 Email: Linda.Benally@pinnaclewest.com



8 J. Matthew Derstine
9 SNELL & WILMER L.L.P.
10 One East Washington Street, Suite 2700
11 Phoenix, Arizona 85004
12 Tel: (602) 382-6342
13 Email: mderstine@swlaw.com

14 Attorneys for Arizona Public Service Company

15 **BEFORE THE ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION**

16 COMMISSIONERS

17 JIM O’CONNOR, Chairman
18 LEA MÁRQUEZ PETERSON
19 ANNA TOVAR
20 NICK MYERS
21 KEVIN THOMPSON

22 IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION
23 OF ARIZONA PUBLIC SERVICE
24 COMPANY, IN CONFORMANCE WITH
25 THE REQUIREMENTS OF ARIZONA
26 REVISED STATUTES 40-360, ET SEQ.,
27 FOR A CERTIFICATE OF
28 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

**ARIZONA PUBLIC SERVICE
COMPANY’S NOTICE OF FILING
WITNESS SUMMARIES AND
PROPOSED CERTIFICATE OF
ENVIRONMENTAL
COMPATIBILITY**

1 Pursuant to Paragraph 13 of Chairman Katz’s Procedural Order dated January 10,
2 2023 (Procedural Order), Arizona Public Service Company (APS), through undersigned
3 counsel, hereby provides witness summaries for Dean Hazle, Collin Ramsey, Jill Grams
4 and Jason Spitzkoff. The summaries are attached hereto as Exhibit A. Pursuant to
5 Paragraphs 13 and 20 of the Procedural Order, APS has identified the following
6 witnesses that APS intends to present as a panel at the hearing:
7

Witness	Exhibit No.
Dean Hazle	APS-2
Collin Ramsey	APS-3
Jill Grams	APS-4

8
9
10
11
12 Pursuant to Paragraph 22 of the Procedural Order, APS hereby provides the
13 proposed Certificate of Environmental Compatibility, attached hereto as Exhibit B.
14

15 DATED this 3rd day of February, 2023.

16
17 By: /s/ Linda J. Benally
18 Linda J. Benally
19 Pinnacle West Capital Corporation
20 400 North 5th Street, MS 8695
Phoenix, Arizona 85004

21 AND

22
23 By: /s/ J. Matthew Derstine
24 J. Matthew Derstine
25 Snell & Wilmer L.L.P.
26 One East Washington Street, Suite 2700
27 Phoenix, Arizona 85004

28 *Attorneys for Arizona Public Service Company*

CERTIFICATION OF MAILING

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28

ORIGINAL and 25 copies were filed
This 3rd day of February, 2023 with:

ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION
Hearing Division — Docket Control
1200 West Washington St.
Phoenix, AZ 85007

COPIES of the foregoing emailed this
3rd day of February, 2023 to:

Paul Katz, Chairman
Arizona Power Plant and Transmission Line Siting Committee
Office of the Arizona Attorney General Mark Brnovich
2005 N. Central Ave.
Phoenix, AZ 85004-2926

Robin Mitchell
Director & Chief Counsel - Legal
Arizona Corporation Commission
1200 W. Washington Street
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

Elijah Abinah, Director
Utilities Division
Arizona Corporation Commission
1200 West Washington Street
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

Lisa Glennie
Glennie Reporting Services, LLC
1555 East Oranewood
Phoenix, Arizona 85020

/s/ _____

Exhibit A

**PROVING GROUND 500KV INTERCONNECTION
TRANSMISSION LINE PROJECT
DOCKET NO. L-00000D-23-0011-00214**

WITNESS SUMMARY
of
DEAN HAZLE

February 3, 2023

Mr. Hazle is an Environmental Planner and Project Manager at SWCA Environmental Consultants (SWCA), the environmental consulting firm retained by Strata Clean Energy and Arizona Public Service Company (APS) for the Proving Ground 500kV Interconnection Transmission Line Project (Project). Mr. Hazle's testimony will include a discussion of the environmental studies conducted by SWCA in support of the application for a certificate of environmental compatibility and the results of those studies and a virtual flyover tour of the Project. Mr. Hazle will also testify concerning various aspects of the public engagement and stakeholder outreach performed for the Project.

**PROVING GROUND 500KV INTERCONNECTION
TRANSMISSION LINE PROJECT
DOCKET NO. L-00000D-23-0011-00214**

WITNESS SUMMARY
of
COLLIN RAMSEY

February 3, 2023

Mr. Ramsey is a Senior Development Manager at Strata Clean Energy, LLC (Strata) the original developer of the Proving Ground 500kV Interconnection Transmission Line Project (Project).

Mr. Ramsey will testify concerning the location, history, purpose and need, description, route and corridor of the Project. He will also testify concerning the federal permitting that was performed for the Project.

Mr. Ramsey may also provide testimony concerning notice issues including publication of the notice of hearing, posting of signs, delivery of the application to libraries, and the project web site as well as public outreach efforts that included an in-person open house, virtual open house, newsletters, and use of social media.

Mr. Ramsey may also provide testimony concerning stakeholder outreach efforts and the federal permitting process for the Project.

**PROVING GROUND 500KV INTERCONNECTION
TRANSMISSION LINE PROJECT
DOCKET NO. L-00000D-23-0011-00214**

WITNESS SUMMARY
of
JILL GRAMS

February 3, 2023

Ms. Grams is the Northern Arizona Senior Director and Project Manager at SWCA Environmental Consultants (SWCA), the environmental consulting firm retained by Strata Clean Energy and Arizona Public Service Company (APS) for the Proving Ground 500kV Interconnection Transmission Line Project (Project). She served as the Environmental Manager for the Project.

Ms. Grams' testimony will include a discussion of the environmental studies conducted by SWCA in support of the application for a certificate of environmental compatibility and the results of those studies. Ms. Grams will present the findings and conclusions with respect to the environmental compatibility of the Project.

**PROVING GROUND 500KV INTERCONNECTION
TRANSMISSION LINE PROJECT
DOCKET NO. L-00000D-23-0011-00214**

WITNESS SUMMARY
of
JASON SPITZKOFF

February 3, 2023

Mr. Spitzkoff is the Manager for Transmission Planning and Engineering, Transmission Contracts and Services, and Facility Siting for Arizona Public Service Company (APS). In this role, he has overseen and directed the analysis of interconnection options at the Hoodoo Wash Switchyard.

If Mr. Spitzkoff is called to testify, he will testify concerning the interconnection process, the structures that APS plans to use for the project, and the co-location of the new 500kV line with the existing 500 kV line covered by CEC Case No. 135.

Mr. Spitzkoff is also prepared to testify in response to Committee questions that are best answered by a representative of APS.

Exhibit B

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

3 IN THE MATTER OF THE
4 APPLICATION OF ARIZONA PUBLIC
5 SERVICE COMPANY, IN
6 CONFORMANCE WITH THE
7 REQUIREMENTS OF ARIZONA
8 REVISED STATUTES 40-360, ET SEQ.,
9 FOR A CERTIFICATE OF
10 ENVIRONMENTAL COMPATIBILITY
11 AUTHORIZING CONSTRUCTION OF
12 AN APPROXIMATELY 0.6 MILE 500
13 KILOVOLT (KV) INTERCONNECTION
14 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**

15
16 **A. INTRODUCTION.**

17 Pursuant to notice given as provided by law, the Arizona Power Plant and
18 Transmission Line Siting Committee (Committee) held a public hearing on February 13,
19 2023 through February __, 2023 in Yuma, Arizona, in conformance with the
20 requirements of Arizona Revised Statutes (A.R.S.) §§ 40.360, *et seq.*, for the purpose of
21 receiving evidence and deliberating on the application (Application) of Arizona Public
22 Service Company (APS or Applicant) for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility
23 (Certificate) in the above-captioned case.

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

27
28

1	Paul A. Katz	Chairman, Designee for Arizona Attorney General Kris Mayes
2	Gabriella 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	Karl Gentles	Appointed Member, representing the general public
11	Jack Haenichen	Appointed Member, representing the general public
12	Margaret “Toby” Little	Appointed Member, representing the general public
13		

14 The Applicant was represented by Linda J. Benally of Pinnacle West Capital
15 Corporation and J. Matthew Derstine of Snell & Wilmer, LLP.

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. §§ 40-
19 360 through 40-360.13, upon motion duly made and seconded, voted _____ to _____
20 [granting/denying] the Applicant, its successors and assignees, this Certificate for
21 construction of the 500kV interconnection line and the amendment of CEC 135¹ to allow
22 for a new type of transmission structure to facilitate interconnection (the Interconnection
23 Project) as described below.

26
27 ¹ On January 6, 2023, APS filed its Notice of Filing Application for a Certificate of Environmental
28 Compatibility for the Proving Ground 500kV Interconnection Transmission Line 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.² The Solar
5 Project is a renewable energy development that includes a planned 250 megawatt (MW)
6 solar photovoltaic (PV) facility with battery storage, 69kV lead lines, a step-up substation,
7 and the new 500kV generation intertie transmission line. The Interconnection Project will
8 extend approximately 3,000 feet from the Solar Project’s planned step-up substation to the
9 Hoodoo Wash Switchyard. The existing Hoodoo Wash Switchyard requires modification
10 or addition of equipment to allow for interconnection of the generation intertie, and this
11 work will be performed by APS in accordance with applicable utility standards.

12 A portion of the Interconnection Project will be co-located with the existing 500kV
13 Hassayampa-North Gila #2 transmission line (HANG2), which was authorized in
14 Decision No. 70127 and modified in Decision No. 74206 (CEC 135). In order to co-locate
15 a portion of the Interconnection Project with HANG2, an approximately 2,000-foot-long
16 segment of HANG2 will be repositioned within the original corridor and two single-circuit
17 structures will be replaced with two new double-circuit structures.

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

24 A map and corridor description are attached as **Exhibit A.**

25 **C. ADDITIONAL APPROVALS.**

26 The approval of the Interconnection Project under the terms of this Certificate and
27

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

1 as outlined above shall be deemed to amend Decision No. 70127 and Decision No. 74206
2 to specifically authorize the repositioning of a 2,000-foot-long segment of HANG2 within
3 the original corridor and the replacement of two single-circuit structures with two double-
4 circuit structures. In addition, APS is specifically authorized to co-locate the
5 Interconnection Project and HANG2 as necessary to facilitate the 500kV generation
6 intertie transmission line.

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 request
14 that the Commission extend the time limitation. **[CEC 210]**

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 such
17 time extension request at least one hundred and eighty (180) days prior to the expiration
18 of the Certificate. The Applicant shall use reasonable means to promptly notify the the
19 Arizona State Land Department (ASLD), the BLM, the Board of Supervisors for Yuma
20 County, all landowners and residents within a onefive (15) mile radius of the centerline of
21 the Interconnection Project, all persons who made public comment at this proceeding who
22 provided a mailing or email address, and all parties to this proceeding. The notification
23 provided will include the request and the date, time, and place of the hearing or open
24 meetings during which the Commission will consider the request for extension.
25 Notification shall be no more than three (3) business days after the Applicant is made
26 aware of the hearing date or the open meeting date. **[modified language from CEC 209]**

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. [CEC 210]

15 4. The Applicant shall obtain all approvals and permits necessary to construct,
16 operate and maintain the Interconnection Project required by any governmental entity
17 having jurisdiction including, but not limited to, the United States of America, the State
18 of Arizona, the Board of Supervisors for Yuma County, and their agencies and
19 subdivisions. [CEC 210]

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. [CEC 210]

25 6. The Applicant shall design the Interconnection Project's facilities to
26 incorporate reasonable measures to minimize electrocution of and impacts to avian species
27 in accordance with the Applicant's avian protection program. Such measures will be
28 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. [CEC 210]

1 7. The Applicant shall consult the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO)
2 with respect to cultural resources. If any archaeological, paleontological, or historical site
3 or a significant cultural object is discovered on state, county or municipal land during the
4 construction or operation of the Interconnection Project, the Applicant or its representative
5 in charge shall promptly report the discovery to the Director of the Arizona State Museum
6 (ASM), and in consultation with the Director, shall immediately take all reasonable steps
7 to secure and maintain the preservation of the discovery as required by A.R.S. § 41-844.
8 [CEC 210]

9 8. The Applicant shall comply with the notice and salvage requirements of the
10 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. [CEC 210]

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. [CEC 210]

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

1 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. [CEC 210]

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 giving
8 notice of the Interconnection Project. Such signage shall be no smaller than a roadway
9 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:
<https://edocket.azcc.gov/Search/Docket-Search>

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

16 The Applicant shall make every reasonable effort to communicate the decision
17 either approving or disapproving the Certificate in digital media. [modified language from
18 CEC 207]

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

1 commence construction of the Interconnection Project. [modified language from CEC
2 209]

3 13. The Applicant shall use non-specular conductor and non-reflective surfaces
4 for the transmission line structures on the Interconnection Project. [CEC 210]

5 14. Applicant shall be responsible for arranging that all field personnel involved
6 in the Interconnection Project receive training as to proper ingress, egress, and on-site
7 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. [CEC 210]

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. [CEC 210]

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 [CEC 210]

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

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

1 performed and additional mitigation, if any, that was implemented as part
2 of its annual compliance-certification letter; and

- 3 b. Ensure that studies are performed simulating an outage of the
4 Interconnection Project that may be caused by the collocation of the
5 Interconnection Project parallel to and within one hundred (100) feet of the
6 existing natural gas or hazardous liquid pipeline. The studies should either:
7 (i) show that such simulated outage does not result in customer outages; or
8 (ii) include operating plans to minimize any resulting customer outages. The
9 Applicant shall provide a copy of the study results to Staff of the
10 Commission and file them with Docket Control as part of the Applicant's
11 annual compliance certification letter. [\[CEC 210\]](#)

12 18. The Applicant shall submit a compliance certification letter annually,
13 identifying progress made with respect to each condition contained in this Certificate,
14 including which conditions have been met. The letter shall be submitted to Commission's
15 Docket Control commencing on December 1, 2023. Attached to each certification letter
16 shall be documentation explaining how compliance with each condition was achieved.
17 Copies of each letter, along with the corresponding documentation, shall be submitted to
18 the Arizona Attorney General's Office. With respect to the Interconnection Project, the
19 requirement for the compliance letter shall expire on the date the Interconnection Project
20 is placed into operation. Notification of such filing with Docket Control shall be made to
21 [ASLD, BLM, the Board of Supervisors for Yuma](#), all parties to this Docket, and all parties
22 who made a limited appearance in this Docket. [\[CEC 210\]](#)

23 19. The Applicant shall provide a copy of this Certificate to ASLD, [BLM, and](#)
24 [the Board of Supervisors for Yuma County](#). [\[CEC 210\]](#)

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. [\[CEC 210\]](#)

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 parties
4 who made a limited appearance in this Docket. [CEC 210]

5 22. The Certificate Conditions shall be binding on the Applicant, its successors,
6 assignee(s) and transferees and any affiliates, agents, or lessees of the Applicant who have
7 a contractual relationship with the Applicant concerning the construction, operation,
8 maintenance or reclamation of the Interconnection Project. The Applicant shall provide in
9 any agreement(s) or lease(s) pertaining to the Interconnection Project that the contracting
10 parties and/or lessee(s) shall be responsible for compliance with the Conditions set forth
11 herein, and the Applicant's responsibilities with respect to compliance with such
12 Conditions shall not cease or be abated by reason of the fact that the Applicant is not in
13 control of or responsible for operation and maintenance of the Interconnection Project
14 facilities. [CEC 210]

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 aids the state and the southwest region of the
19 United States in meeting the need for an adequate, economical, and reliable supply of
20 renewable electric power.

21 2. The Interconnection Project aids the state, preserving a safe and reliable
22 electric transmission system.

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

26 4. The Interconnection Project and the conditions placed on the
27 Interconnection Project in this Certificate effectively minimize the impact of the
28 Interconnection Project on the environment and ecology of the state.

1 Phoenix, Arizona 85007
2 RMitchell@azcc.gov

3 Elijah Abinah, Director
4 Utilities Division
5 Arizona Corporation Commission
6 1200 West Washington Street
7 Phoenix, Arizona 85007
8 eabinah@azcc.gov

9 Linda J. Benally
10 Pinnacle West Capital Corporation
11 400 North 5th Street, MS 8695
12 Phoenix, Arizona 85004
13 Linda.Benally@pinnaclewest.com
14 *Attorney for Applicant*

15 J. Matthew Derstine
16 SNELL & WILMER L.L.P.
17 One Arizona Center
18 400 East Van Buren Street
19 Phoenix, Arizona 85004
20 Tel: (602) 382-6342
21 mderstine@swlaw.com
22 *Attorney for Applicant*

23 Lisa L. Glennie
24 Glennie Reporting Services
25 1555 East Orangewood
26 Phoenix, Arizona 85020
27 admin@glennie-reporting.com
28 *Court Reporter*

/s/

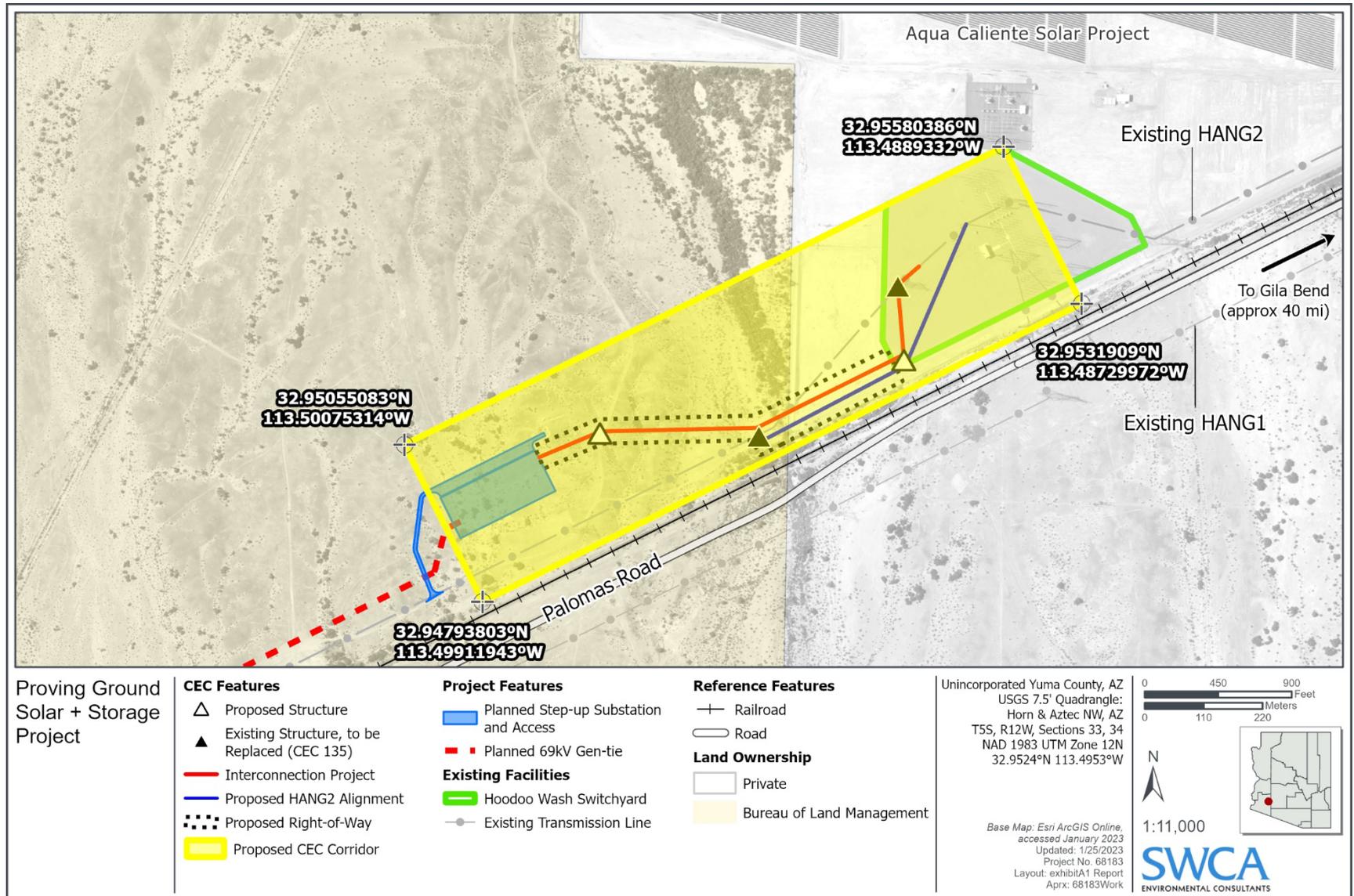
Exhibit A

**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.



CEC Corridor