

1 BEFORE THE ARIZONA POWER PLANT LS-433
2 AND TRANSMISSION LINE SITING COMMITTEE
3

4 IN THE MATTER OF THE) DOCKET NO.
5 APPLICATION OF CG APACHE COUNTY) L-21364A-25-0198-00250
6 WIND LLC AND CG APACHE COUNTY)
7 SOLAR LLC, IN CONFORMANCE WITH) LS CASE NO. 250
8 THE REQUIREMENTS OF ARIZONA)
9 REVISED STATUTES §§ 40-360, ET)
10 SEQ., FOR A CERTIFICATE OF)
11 ENVIRONMENTAL COMPATIBILITY)
12 AUTHORIZING THE CONSTRUCTION OF)
THE LAVA RUN INTERCONNECTION)
PROJECT, A 345-KILOVOLT (KV))
ALTERNATING CURRENT GENERATION)
TIE TRANSMISSION LINE, WITH)
ASSOCIATED INTERCONNECTION)
FACILITIES, WITHIN APACHE)
COUNTY, ARIZONA.)
_____)

13 At: Phoenix, Arizona
14 Date: September 2, 2025
15 Filed: September 11, 2025
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17 REPORTER'S TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS
18 (Pages 1 through 16)
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1 BE IT REMEMBERED that the above-entitled and
2 numbered matter came on regularly to be heard before the
3 Arizona Power Plant and Transmission Line Siting
4 Committee, commencing at 11:04 a.m. on September 2, 2025,
5 with all participants appearing via videoconference.

6

7 BEFORE: Adam Stafford, Chairman

8

9 APPEARANCES:

10 For the Applicant:

11 Matt Derstine
12 SNELL & WILMER
13 One East Washington Street
 Suite 2700
 Phoenix, Arizona 85004

14 ALSO PRESENT:

15 Donna Powers, Senior Legal Counsel
 Henry Woltag, Senior Director of Development
16 Lance Olenius, Manager of Environmental Affairs
 Mariana Ambrose, Associate, Development Team
17 Colin Agner, SWCA, Lead Project Manager
 Erica Fraley, SWCA, Associate Project Environmental
18 Planner
 Jeremy Casteel, SWCA, Lead Environmental Planner
19 Gourjia Odisho, Snell & Wilmer, Paralegal
 Tod Brewer, Assistant to Chairman Stafford
20 Tara Thomas, Glennie Reporting Services

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1 CHMN STAFFORD: Let's go on the record.

2 Now is the time set for the prefiling
3 conference for Lava Run -- Project.

4 Let's start with appearances.

5 Mr. Derstine.

6 MR. DERSTINE: Good morning, Chairman.

7 Matt Derstine, Snell & Wilmer, appearing on behalf of the
8 two applicants who are seeking the CEC for the Lava Run
9 Interconnection Project. It's the ConnectGen -- CG
10 Apache County Wind, LLC, and CG Apache County Solar, LLC,
11 are the two applicants.

12 CHMN STAFFORD: Okay. Now, there's been
13 some public interest in this case, hasn't there?

14 MR. DERSTINE: Certainly has with regard to
15 the wind project. You're right.

16 CHMN STAFFORD: Okay. Let's see. We've
17 got four exhibits. You want to go through these real
18 quickly?

19 MR. DERSTINE: Sure.

20 Exhibit 1 is, I think, the legend shows CEC
21 corridor. That's the gen-tie line, approximately
22 29 miles with the requested corridor shown on that map
23 with the interconnection at the Springerville Substation.

24 Exhibit 2 is our proposed form of CEC.

25 CHMN STAFFORD: Notice of hearing?

1 MR. DERSTINE: I'm sorry?

2 CHMN STAFFORD: Notice of hearing, you
3 mean?

4 MR. DERSTINE: Notice of hearing, yeah.
5 I'm eager to get you my proposed CEC too.
6 Yeah.

7 The notice of hearing. On that, we are
8 working up against our publication deadlines and are
9 hoping to get a signed notice of hearing from you today,
10 if possible. That's Exhibit 2.

11 Exhibit 3 is our public notification
12 boundary map. It shows the study area, which is the
13 smaller or the dotted line that surrounds the gen-tie
14 line route and corridor, and then the larger area is our
15 larger public notification area. The study area boundary
16 was one mile, and I believe our notification area went
17 out approximately five miles.

18 CHMN STAFFORD: Okay. Then I see 4 is the
19 sign locations.

20 MR. DERSTINE: Right. We've selected five
21 sign locations. We're as close as we can get to the
22 interconnection point at the Springerville Substation.
23 That sign Number 5, as I understand it, is at the
24 entrance, and so that's, one, as close as we can get and
25 probably has the most traffic in relation to the

1 interconnection point.

2 CHMN STAFFORD: Okay. All right. The
3 Prefiling Exhibits 1 through 4 are admitted.

4 (Prefiling Exhibits 1 through 4 were
5 admitted.)

6 CHMN STAFFORD: So we have someone else
7 joined.

8 MR. DERSTINE: And I'm happy to go through
9 that list of appearances if you'd like, if that makes it
10 easier for the court reporter.

11 CHMN STAFFORD: Okay. So, yeah, we got an
12 R113535, but I don't see them on here anymore.

13 MS. POWERS: I renamed myself, sir. I'm
14 Donna Powers. I'm in-house counsel with Repsol and I
15 renamed myself from R113535.

16 CHMN STAFFORD: Okay.

17 MS. POWERS: It just popped up that way.
18 I've never seen that before.

19 CHMN STAFFORD: Yes, Mr. Derstine, let's go
20 ahead and take us through who's attending the conference
21 with you.

22 MR. DERSTINE: Okay. On behalf of the
23 applicants, we have Ms. Donna Powers, Senior Legal
24 Counsel, who just identified herself. Henry Woltag,
25 Senior Director of Development. I might mispronounce

1 your last name Lance, but Lance Olenius, Manager of
2 Environmental Affairs. And Mariana Ambrose is an
3 associate in the development team.

4 And then on behalf of SWCA, who's the
5 environmental consultant for this project, we have Tom
6 Koronkiewicz, Senior Project Manager; Colin Agner, Lead
7 Project Manager; Jeremy Casteel, Lead Environmental
8 Planner; and Erica Fraley, Associate Project
9 Environmental Planner.

10 Do you need spellings on any of those?

11 CHMN STAFFORD: I'll defer to the court
12 reporter. Jennifer?

13 THE COURT REPORTER: Yes, there was one you
14 mentioned that I don't see here. That's the only one I
15 need a spelling.

16 MR. CASTEEL: I don't believe Tom is on the
17 call, and that's probably the name that you need. So I
18 can spell it for you.

19 THE COURT REPORTER: Please.

20 MR. CASTEEL: T-o-m
21 K-o-r-o-n-k-i-e-w-i-c-z.

22 THE COURT REPORTER: Thank you.

23 CHMN STAFFORD: Thank you.

24 All right. So for the publication, what
25 are the -- your publication dates going to be?

1 MR. DERSTINE: I think we're looking at 9-9
2 and 9-11 in the White Mountain Independent.

3 CHMN STAFFORD: And the hearing date would
4 be August -- October 20 through the 24th; correct?

5 MR. DERSTINE: Correct.

6 CHMN STAFFORD: And what are the affected
7 jurisdictions?

8 MR. DERSTINE: Let's see, the -- we've got
9 several. So affected jurisdictions are Apache County,
10 Town of Springerville, Town of Eagar, Town of St. Johns,
11 Arizona Department of Transportation, and Arizona State
12 Land Department.

13 CHMN STAFFORD: We've got Apache County,
14 the towns Springerville, Eagar, and St. Johns, and
15 Arizona State Land Department. Was there one more?

16 MR. DERSTINE: ADOT, Department of
17 Transportation.

18 CHMN STAFFORD: Thank you. All right. So
19 we set -- the hearing's going to be scheduled for
20 October 20 through 24th. And it will take place at?

21 MR. DERSTINE: At the Hon-Dah Casino.

22 CHMN STAFFORD: In Pinetop, okay.

23 MR. DERSTINE: Yes.

24 CHMN STAFFORD: And you'll have the lodging
25 for out-of-town committee members?

1 MR. DERSTINE: Yes.

2 CHMN STAFFORD: Okay. Now, for a tour for
3 this, this is -- looking at the map. How much of the
4 route is accessible?

5 MR. DERSTINE: I'll let maybe one of the --
6 Colin or Jeremy from SWCA, can you -- maybe can speak to
7 that.

8 But my understanding is that there's going
9 to be large sections of this that, you know, we may not
10 be able to get that close to.

11 But give the Chairman a better
12 understanding of how much we can see from a route tour.

13 MR. CASTEEL: This is Jeremy Casteel, SWCA.
14 I can speak to it.

15 I'd say that Matt is correct. There's a
16 lot of chunks that are relatively just inaccessible
17 because there's no roads. But there are two highways
18 that do cross -- that the transmission line does cross,
19 so we can have those as a point. There might be one
20 other, say, dirt road, unpaved, that may be accessible.
21 We need to look into that a little bit more. But, yeah,
22 it's relatively nonaccessible.

23 CHMN STAFFORD: All right. You've got some
24 time to do that. I think the plan is to have a plan for
25 a tour by the time of the prehearing conference. So

1 should be able to -- then again, you know, you need to
2 have a plan for the tour, but we may end up not taking it
3 depending what the appetite of the committee members are
4 for that. If we do the tour, it will be on that Tuesday
5 after we start the hearing.

6 Tod, what is the -- what do we have set for
7 the prehearing conference date?

8 MR. DERSTINE: Gourjia, can you pull that
9 up?

10 MR. BREWER: This will be set for October
11 the 14th at two o'clock, Mr. Chairman.

12 CHMN STAFFORD: Okay. Excellent.

13 Okay. And there's no litigation currently
14 surrounding the project; correct?

15 MR. DERSTINE: There is not, no. I think
16 your question at the outset, obviously the wind project
17 has received a fair amount of attention and some local
18 opposition, Face- -- generated opposition groups on
19 Facebook, et cetera. We had recently held an open house,
20 in-person open house, for the gen-tie project for this
21 matter, and we had -- it was very sparsely attended. So
22 oftentimes those projects that are opposed, a lot of
23 folks still show up for the transmission portion to voice
24 their opposition. We didn't see that here. Whether that
25 means that we're not going to receive a lot of

1 opposition -- we're not aware of any intervenors at this
2 time, and we'll just have to see how things go in the way
3 of public interest and potential intervenors at the time
4 of the hearing.

5 CHMN STAFFORD: Right. I think we can
6 expect a fair amount of public comment at the hearing.

7 MR. DERSTINE: I think you're right.

8 CHMN STAFFORD: Okay. I think I received a
9 letter regarding this project that I have -- I guess I'll
10 file in the docket once the application itself is filed
11 so there's some place to put it.

12 MR. DERSTINE: Right.

13 CHMN STAFFORD: But I think that bodes well
14 for participation in the matter by the public.

15 MR. DERSTINE: Yeah, I wouldn't be
16 surprised.

17 CHMN STAFFORD: All right. So you'll have
18 the draft CEC for me by the time of the prehearing
19 conference.

20 Do you expect any public officials to want
21 to make public comment at the hearing?

22 MR. DERSTINE: I think it's possible. I
23 think -- well, yeah, so with regard to the wind project,
24 not this case but the wind project, the city or the towns
25 of Eagar and Springerville have -- I think the mayors or

1 city officials have penned letters expressing some
2 opposition to the wind project. Whether or not they plan
3 to attend, that remains to be seen. But I think it's
4 possible we could have some county or city or town
5 officials who show up.

6 CHMN STAFFORD: Okay. What's the permit
7 status for the project?

8 MR. DERSTINE: So I mentioned, or as
9 indicated in our information sheet, there's no federal
10 permitting nexus for this project which makes it maybe
11 unique in terms of these wind projects. All of it, or
12 the vast majority of it, is going to be on state land,
13 state land right-of-way.

14 But I'll let maybe Mr. Casteel or Mr. Agner
15 comment on what other -- other sorts of permits that are
16 required. Are we doing any -- any permits for crossing
17 streams or 404 permits, that sort of thing?

18 MR. CASTEEL: We would need permits to
19 cross ADOT right-of-way, and there will be state land
20 coordination. But beyond that, there's no -- there's no
21 other permitting that I'm aware of.

22 CHMN STAFFORD: Okay. None from the county
23 because the transmission line is an acceptable use under
24 the current zone or plan or whatever it is the county
25 has; right? Accepted use?

1 MR. CASTEEL: Uh-huh, yeah.

2 CHMN STAFFORD: I'm seeing nods. Okay.

3 MR. DERSTINE: Yeah, yes. The transmission
4 facilities on state trust land are accepted from the
5 zoning -- Apache County zoning code.

6 CHMN STAFFORD: Okay. And so I'm assuming
7 we have Peaks Audio for the hearing?

8 MR. DERSTINE: Yes.

9 CHMN STAFFORD: The standard setup for the
10 tablets and screens for the presentation?

11 MR. DERSTINE: We will.

12 CHMN STAFFORD: Okay. And so for this
13 line, I'm assuming -- so this is about 29 miles?

14 MR. DERSTINE: Yes.

15 CHMN STAFFORD: Okay. So the filing fee is
16 \$1,000; correct?

17 MR. DERSTINE: Correct.

18 CHMN STAFFORD: The Commission is obligated
19 by statute to pay the cost of reporting and transcribing
20 any application hearing as well as the actual and
21 necessary expenses incurred by the committee members in
22 connection with their participation in committee meetings
23 with that filing fee. Costs and fees exceeding the
24 amount of the applicant's fee may, with the applicant's
25 consent, be incurred by the committee and charged to the

1 applicant. Does the applicant consent to pay the
2 commission those costs in excess of the filing fee?

3 MR. DERSTINE: Yes.

4 CHMN STAFFORD: All right. So we'll do the
5 three-day turnaround for transcripts.

6 Anything else we need to cover?

7 MR. DERSTINE: I don't have anything on my
8 list. For the good of the -- of the order and the call,
9 is there anyone from either the applicants or SWCA, did
10 we miss anything? Anything you want to raise with the
11 Chairman?

12 (No audible response.)

13 CHMN STAFFORD: All right. What was the
14 anticipated filing date?

15 MR. DERSTINE: Looking at September 15. Do
16 I have that right, Team?

17 MR. CASTEEL: The 5th.

18 MR. DERSTINE: 5th, I'm sorry. Yeah. We'd
19 love to have the 15th, but we only have until the 5th.

20 CHMN STAFFORD: All right. And so you said
21 you'll need the notice of hearing ready to go to meet
22 your publication deadlines; correct?

23 MR. DERSTINE: That's right. We have to
24 have it delivered to the newspaper by the 5th. We'd like
25 to get it there sooner just to take away any risk of

1 missing our first publication window.

2 CHMN STAFFORD: Okay. Excellent. We'll
3 get that to you today, then.

4 MR. DERSTINE: Thank you.

5 CHMN STAFFORD: Thank you very much.
6 Anything else?

7 (No audible response.)

8 CHMN STAFFORD: We are adjourned.

9 (Proceedings concluded at 11:19 a.m.)

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