

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION
OF CG APACHE COUNTY WIND LLC AND
CG APACHE COUNTY SOLAR LLC, IN
CONFORMANCE WITH THE
REQUIREMENTS OF ARIZONA REVISED
STATUTES §§ 40-360, ET SEQ., FOR A
CERTIFICATE OF ENVIRONMENTAL
COMPATIBILITY 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.

DOCKET NO.
L-21365A-25-0198-00250
L-21364A-25-0198-00250

Case No. 250

**COMMITTEE DECISION ON
REMAND**

On September 5, 2025, CG Apache County Wind LLC and CG Apache County Solar LLC (“Applicants”) filed an Application for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility (“Certificate”) authorizing the construction of the Lava Run Interconnection Project (“Project”) – an approximately 27-mile long, 345-kilovolt alternating current transmission line – with Docket Control of the Arizona Corporation Commission (“Commission”). A copy of the Application was transmitted to Adam Stafford, designee of the Attorney General of Arizona, Kristin Mayes, as Chairman (“Chairman”) and Presiding Officer of the Arizona Power Plant and Transmission Line Siting Committee (“Committee”).

Pursuant to notice given as provided by law, the Committee held a public hearing on October 20 through October 23, 2025, in Pinetop, 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 in the above-captioned case.

At the conclusion of the hearing, the Committee, after considering the (i) Application, (ii) evidence, testimony, and exhibits presented by the Applicants, (iii)

1 limited appearance statements, and (iv) comments of the public, and being advised of the
2 legal requirements of A.R.S. §§ 40-360 through 40-360.13, upon motion duly made and
3 seconded, voted 8 to 2 to grant the Applicants, their successors and assigns, a Certificate
4 for construction of the Project. On October 30, 2025, the Chairman filed the Certificate
5 with Docket Control of the Commission.

6 On December 10, 2025, the Commission issued Decision No. 81582 remanding
7 this matter to the Committee for another hearing to receive additional public, county, and
8 municipal input into the record.

9 Pursuant to notice given as provided by law, the Committee held the hearing on
10 remand from February 9 through February 10, 2026, at the Commission in Phoenix,
11 Arizona, in conformance with the requirements of Decision No. 81582 and A.R.S §§ 40-
12 360, *et seq.*, for the purpose of receiving additional evidence on county and municipal land
13 use concerns, plans, and impacts in Apache County.

14 The following members and designees of members of the Committee were present
15 at the hearing on remand for the evidentiary presentations, public comment, and for the
16 deliberations:

17	Adam Stafford	Chairman, Designee for Arizona Attorney General Kris
18		Mayes
19	Michael Comstock	Designee of the Chairman of the Commission
20	Nicole Hill	Designee for Director, Governor's Energy Office
21	Leonard Drago	Designee for Director, Arizona Department of
22		Environmental Quality ("ADEQ")
23	Clint Chandler	Designee for Director, Arizona Department of Water
24		Resources ("ADWR")
25	Sal DiCiccio	Appointed Member, representing cities and towns
26	Gabby Saucedo Mercer	Appointed Member, representing the general public
27	David Kryder	Appointed Member, representing agricultural interests

1 Douglas Fant Appointed Member, representing the general public

2 Roman Fontes Appointed Member, representing counties

3 Margaret "Toby" Little Appointed Member, representing the general public

4 Applicants were represented by Matt Derstine of Snell & Wilmer, LLP. The
5 following parties were granted intervention pursuant to A.R.S. § 40-360.05: Apache
6 County, represented by Chris Resare, and Michael Anable. The Town of Springerville and
7 the Apache Natural Resource Conservation District made a limited appearance pursuant
8 to A.R.S. § 40-360.05(B). The Town of Eagar, Linda Weiland, and Monica Boening made
9 an additional limited appearance pursuant to A.R.S. § 40-360.05(B).

10 At the conclusion of the hearing on remand, the Committee, after considering the
11 (i) Application, (ii) evidence, testimony, and exhibits presented by the parties, (iii) limited
12 appearance statements, and (iv) comments of the public, and being advised of the legal
13 requirements of A.R.S. §§ 40-360 through 40-360.13, upon motion duly made and
14 seconded, voted 8 to 2, with one abstention, to resubmit this Certificate to the Commission
15 for its review and approval.

16
17 DATED this 17th day of February, 2026.

18 THE ARIZONA POWER PLANT AND
19 TRANSMISSION LINE SITING COMMITTEE

20
21 

22
23 By: _____
24 Adam Stafford, Chairman

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

ORIGINAL of the foregoing e-filed
this 17th day of February, 2026, with

Utilities Division-Docket Control
ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION
1200 West Washington Street
Phoenix, AZ 85007

COPY of the foregoing e-mailed/mailed
this 17th day of February, 2026, to:

Legal Division
ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION
1200 W. Washington Street
Phoenix, AZ 85007
legaldiv@azcc.gov

Utilities Division
ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION
1200 West Washington Street
Phoenix, AZ 85007
utildivservicebyemail@azcc.gov

Glennie Reporting Services, LLC
1555 East Orangewood
Phoenix, AZ 85020
admin@glennie-reporting.com

J. Matthew Derstine
Snell & Wilmer, L.L.P.
One East Washington Street
Suite 2700
Phoenix, AZ 85004
mderstine@swlaw.com
Counsel for Applicant CG Apache County Wind LLC
and CG Apache County Solar LLC

Apache County
Ryan Patterson, Manager
75 West Cleveland,
St. Johns, AZ 85936
Town of Eagar
Brannon Eagar, Town Manager
22 W. 2nd St. PO Box 1300
Eagar, AZ 85925

Brett Rigg
The Rigg Law Firm
377 E. White Mountain Blvd.
Pinetop, AZ 85935
Attorney for the Town of Eagar

1
2 Town of Springerville
3 Tim Rasmussen, Town Manager
4 418 E Main Street,
5 Springerville, AZ 85938

6 Arizona Department of Transportation
7 Priscilla Thompson, Assistant District Engineer, South Central District
8 1221 S. Second Avenue
9 Tucson, AZ 85713

10 Arizona Department of Transportation
11 Nicholas Edwards, PE
12 North/South Project Manager - MPD
13 1611 W. Jackson
14 MD310B
15 Phoenix, AZ 85007

16 Arizona State Land Department
17 Ruben Ojeda, Assistant Director
18 Real Estate Division
19 1110 W. Washington Street,
20 Phoenix, AZ 85007

21 Karen Glennon
22 kgofaz@gmail.com

23 Linda Weiland
24 LindaWeiland85603@gmail.com

25 Michael Anable
26 manable@flc.phxcoxmail.com

27 Monica Boehning
28 mobo58wind@gmail.com

By: T. Brewer
CEC 250

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION
OF CG APACHE COUNTY WIND LLC AND
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REQUIREMENTS OF ARIZONA REVISED
STATUTES §§ 40-360, ET SEQ., FOR A
CERTIFICATE OF ENVIRONMENTAL
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DOCKET NO.
L-21365A-25-0198-00250
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Case No. 250

**CERTIFICATE OF
ENVIRONMENTAL
COMPATIBILITY**

A. INTRODUCTION

Pursuant to notice given as provided by law, the Arizona Power Plant and Transmission Line Siting Committee ("Committee") held public hearings on October 20 through October 23, 2025, in Pinetop, 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 of CG Apache County Wind LLC and CG Apache County Solar LLC ("Applicants") 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 for the deliberations:

Adam Stafford	Chairman, Designee for Arizona Attorney General Kris Mayes
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Michael Comstock	Designee of the Chairman, Arizona Corporation Commission ("Commission")
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1	Nicole Hill	Designee for Director, Governor's Energy Office
2		
3	Leonard Drago	Designee for Director, Arizona Department of Environmental Quality ("ADEQ")
4		
5	David French	Designee for Director, Arizona Department of Water Resources ("ADWR")
6		
7	Sal DiCiccio	Appointed Member, representing cities and towns
8		
9	Gabby Saucedo Mercer	Appointed Member, representing the general public
10		
11	David Kryder	Appointed Member, representing agricultural interests
12		
13	Douglas Fant	Appointed Member, representing the general public
14		
15	Roman Fontes	Appointed Member, representing counties

16 Applicants were represented by Matt Derstine of Snell & Wilmer, LLP. No parties
17 requested intervention pursuant to A.R.S. § 40-360.05. The Town of Eagar, Linda
18 Weiland, Karen Glennon, Michael Anable, and Monica Boening made a limited
19 appearance pursuant to A.R.S. § 40-360.05(B).

20 At the conclusion of the hearing, the Committee, after considering the (i)
21 Application, (ii) evidence, testimony, and exhibits presented by the Applicants, (iii)
22 limited appearance statements, and (iv) comments of the public, and being advised of the
23 legal requirements of A.R.S. §§ 40-360 through 40-360.13, upon motion duly made and
24 seconded, voted 8 to 2 to grant the Applicants, their successors and assigns, this Certificate
25 for construction of a section of the Lava Run Interconnection Project ("Project") as
26 described below.

1 **B. PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

2 The Project consists of a new, approximately 27-mile long 345-kilovolt (“kV”)
3 alternating current transmission line. The Project will connect the planned Lava Run Wind
4 Project, a proposed 500-megawatt (“MW”) wind facility (“Wind Facility”), and the Lava
5 Run Solar Project, a proposed 450-MW solar facility (“Solar Facility”) with an on-site 450-
6 MW battery energy storage system (“BESS”), to Tucson Electric Power Company’s
7 (“TEP”) Springerville 345-kV Substation. The Wind Facility, Solar Facility, and BESS
8 are non-jurisdictional projects that are not covered by this Certificate.

9 The Project will be located on Arizona State Trust land administered by the Arizona
10 State Land Department (“ASLD”) and two privately owned parcels in unincorporated
11 Apache County, Arizona.

12 The Project originates at “Substation 1” at the Wind Facility and extends eastward
13 until it reaches the point of interconnection at the Springerville Substation following the
14 route shown on the map attached hereto as **Exhibit A** and described on **Exhibit A-1**.

15 The Project will be constructed as a single-circuit 345kV transmission line for
16 approximately 24 miles from Substation 1 to Substation 3. From Substation 3 to the point
17 of interconnection at the Springerville Substation, the Project will be constructed as a
18 double-circuit 345kV transmission line.

19 The Project corridor varies between 500 to 700 feet in width to allow for
20 engineering design flexibility along the proposed route, with a corridor of approximately
21 3,200 feet wide around the Springerville Substation to allow for various interconnection
22 options into the Substation, all as shown on **Exhibit A**. The final right-of-way (“ROW”)
23 width for the Project will be up to 200 feet.

24 The Applicants anticipate that structures for the Project will be spaced up to 1,200
25 feet apart, depending on structure type, terrain, turns, and other factors. The transmission
26 structures for the Project will not exceed 180 feet tall; transmission structures will be made
27 of galvanized or weathering steel and will be self-supporting. The structure types for the
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1 Project may include tangent monopoles, angle monopoles, and dead-end monopoles.
2 Representative diagrams of the anticipated transmission structures are included in Exhibit
3 G to the Application.

4 **CONDITIONS**

5 This Certificate is granted upon the following conditions:

6 1. The authorization to construct the Project shall expire ten (10) years from
7 the date this Certificate is approved by the Commission, with or without modification.
8 Construction of the Project shall be complete, such that the Project is in service within this
9 ten-year timeframe. However, prior to the expiration of the time period, the Applicants
10 may request that the Commission extend the time limitation.

11 2. In the event that the Project requires an extension of the term of this
12 Certificate prior to completion of construction, the Applicants shall file such time
13 extension request at least one hundred and eighty (180) days prior to the expiration of the
14 Certificate. The Applicants shall use reasonable means to promptly notify Apache County,
15 the Town of Springerville, Arizona Department of Transportation ("ADOT"), and ASLD,
16 and all landowners and residents within a one (1) mile radius of the centerline of the
17 Project, all persons who made public comment at this proceeding who provided a mailing
18 or email address, all persons who made a limited appearance, and all parties to this
19 proceeding. The notification provided will include the request and the date, time, and place
20 of the hearing or open meetings during which the Commission will consider the request
21 for extension. Notification shall be no more than three (3) business days after the
22 Applicants are made aware of the hearing date or the open meeting date.

23 3. During the development, construction, operation, maintenance, and
24 reclamation of the Project, the Applicants shall comply with all existing applicable air and
25 water pollution control standards and regulations, and with all existing applicable statutes,
26 ordinances, master plans, and regulations of any governmental entity having jurisdiction
27 including, but not limited to, the United States of America, the State of Arizona, Apache
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County, and their agencies and subdivisions including, but not limited to, the following:

- A. All applicable land use regulations;
- B. All applicable zoning stipulations and conditions including, but not limited to, landscaping and dust control requirements;
- C. All applicable water use, discharge and/or disposal requirements of the ADWR and ADEQ;
- D. All applicable noise control standards; and
- E. All applicable regulations governing storage and handling of hazardous chemicals and petroleum products.

4. The Applicants shall obtain all approvals and permits necessary to construct, operate, and maintain the Project required by any governmental entity having jurisdiction including, but not limited to, the United States of America, the State of Arizona, Apache County, and their agencies and subdivisions.

5. The Applicants shall comply with Arizona Game and Fish Department (“AGFD”) guidelines for handling protected animal species, should any be encountered during construction and operation of the Project, and shall consult with AGFD or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, as appropriate, on other issues concerning wildlife. The Applicants shall follow the biological resource minimization measures relevant to the Certificate as shown in **Exhibit B**.

6. The Applicants shall design the Project’s interconnection facilities to incorporate reasonable measures to minimize electrocution of and impacts to avian species in accordance with the Applicants’ avian protection program. Such measures 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 and shall include the use of bird diverters where the Project crosses the Little Colorado River and Coyote Creek.

1 7. The issuance of a Certificate by the Commission is a state action pursuant
2 to A.R.S. §§ 41-861 through 41-864, also known as the State Historic Preservation Act
3 (“State Act”). The Applicants shall consult with the Arizona State Historic Preservation
4 Office (“SHPO”) regarding the Project and its impact on historic properties. Construction
5 shall not commence until SHPO has had an opportunity to review and comment in
6 accordance with the State Act. The Applicants shall, in cooperation with the landowner,
7 complete a Class III cultural inventory of the portion of the Project corridor that has not
8 been previously surveyed to modern standards. If any historic property will be
9 substantially altered or demolished as a result of the construction or operation of the
10 Project, the Applicants shall take timely steps to make appropriate documentary
11 recordation in accordance with the standards established by SHPO.

12 8. If any archaeological, paleontological, or historical site or a significant
13 cultural object is discovered on state, county, or municipal land during the construction or
14 operation of the Project, the Applicants or their authorized representative shall promptly
15 report the discovery to the Director of the Arizona State Museum (“ASM”), and in
16 consultation with the Director, shall immediately take all reasonable steps to secure and
17 maintain the preservation of the discovery as required by A.R.S. § 41-844.

18 9. If human remains and/or funerary objects are encountered during the course
19 of any ground-disturbing activities related to the construction of the Project, the
20 Applicants shall cease work on the affected area of the Project and notify the Director of
21 the ASM as required by A.R.S. § 41-865 for private land, or as required by A.R.S. § 41-
22 844 for state, county, or municipal lands.

23 10. The Applicants shall comply with the notice and salvage requirements of
24 the Arizona Native Plant Law (A.R.S. §§ 3-901 *et seq.*) and shall, to the extent feasible,
25 minimize the destruction of native plants during the construction and operation of the
26 Project.

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

14 12. Within one hundred twenty (120) days of the Commission's decision
15 approving this Certificate, the Applicants shall post signs in or near public ROWs, to the
16 extent authorized by law, reasonably adjacent to the Project giving notice of the Project.
17 Such signage shall be no smaller than a roadway sign. The sign shall advise:

- 18 A. The future site of the Project;
- 19 B. A phone number and website for public information regarding the Project;
- 20 and
- 21 C. Refer the public to the Docket;

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

24 The Applicants shall make every reasonable effort to communicate the decision
25 either approving or disapproving the Certificate in digital media.

26 13. Upon approval of this Certificate by the Commission, the Applicants shall
27 provide Apache County, ADOT, ASLD, and known builders and developers who are
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1 building upon or developing land within one (1) miles of the centerline of the Project with
2 a written description, including the approximate height and width measurements of all
3 structure types of the Project. The written description shall identify the location of the
4 Project and contain a pictorial depiction of the facilities being constructed. The Applicants
5 shall also encourage the developers and builders to include this information in their
6 disclosure statements. Upon approval of this Certificate by the Commission, the
7 Applicants may commence construction of the Project.

8 14. The Applicants shall use non-specular conductor and non-reflective surfaces
9 for the transmission line structures on the Project.

10 15. The Applicants shall be responsible for arranging that all field personnel
11 involved in the Project receive training as to proper ingress, egress, and on-site working
12 protocols for environmentally sensitive areas and activities, in addition, Applicants shall
13 train field personnel concerning safe interactions with hunters and hunting activities prior
14 to and during construction. Contractors employing such field personnel shall maintain
15 records documenting that the personnel have received such training.

16 16. The Applicants shall follow the most current Western Electricity
17 Coordinating Council ("WECC") and North American Electric Reliability Corporation
18 ("NERC") planning standards, as approved by the Federal Energy Regulatory
19 Commission ("FERC"), National Electrical Safety Code ("NESC") standards, and Federal
20 Aviation Administration ("FAA") regulations.

21 17. The Applicants will provide Commission Staff with a copy of the remaining
22 system impact study for interconnection at Springerville Substation and the
23 Interconnection Agreements for all phases of the Wind Facility and the Solar Facility
24 when they are executed and approved by Applicants and TEP, which will be provided
25 under the existing Protective Agreement with Commission Staff, and Applicants shall
26 comply with all requirements contained in the Interconnection Agreements.

27 18. The Applicants shall participate in good faith in state and regional
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transmission study forums to coordinate transmission expansion plans related to the Project and to resolve transmission constraints in a timely manner.

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

A. Ensure grounding and cathodic protection studies are performed to show that the Project's location parallel to and within one hundred (100) feet of such pipeline results in no material adverse impacts to the pipeline or to public safety when both the pipeline and the Project are in operation. The Applicants shall take appropriate steps to ensure that any material adverse impacts are mitigated. The Applicants shall provide to Staff of the Commission, and file with Docket Control, a copy of the studies performed and additional mitigation, if any, that was implemented as part of their annual compliance-certification letter; and

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

20. The designation of the corridor in this Certificate, as shown in **Exhibit A**, does not authorize ROWs greater than 200 feet wide. The maximum height of the structures shall not exceed 180 feet.

21. The Applicants shall submit a compliance certification letter annually, identifying progress made with respect to the current status of each condition contained in this Certificate. The letter shall be submitted to the Commission's Docket Control

commencing on December 1, 2026. Attached to each certification letter shall be documentation explaining how compliance with each condition was achieved. Copies of each letter, along with the corresponding documentation, shall be submitted to the Arizona Attorney General's Office. With respect to the Project, the requirement for the compliance letter shall expire on the date the Project is placed into operation. Notification of such filing with Docket Control shall be made to Apache County, the Town of Springerville, ADOT, ASLD, all parties to this Docket, and all persons who made a limited appearance in this Docket.

22. The Applicants shall provide a copy of this Certificate to Apache County, the Town of Eager, the Town of Springerville, ADOT, and ASLD.

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

24. In the event the Applicants, their assignee, or successor, seeks to modify the Certificate terms at the Commission, they shall provide copies of such request to Apache County, the Town of Springerville, ADOT, ASLD, all parties to this Docket, and all persons who made a limited appearance in this Docket.

25. The Certificate Conditions shall be binding on Applicants, their successors, assignee(s) and transferees, and any affiliates, agents, or lessees of the Applicants who have a contractual relationship with the Applicants concerning the construction, operation, maintenance, or reclamation of the Project. The Applicants shall provide in any agreement(s) or lease(s) pertaining to the Project that the contracting parties and/or lessee(s) shall be responsible for compliance with the Conditions set forth herein, and the Applicants' responsibilities with respect to compliance with such Conditions shall not cease or be abated by reason of the fact that the Applicants are not in control of or responsible for the operation and maintenance of the Project facilities.

1 **FINDINGS OF FACT AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

2 This Certificate incorporates the following Findings of Fact and Conclusions of
3 Law:

4 1. The Project aids the State and the Southwest Region of the United States in
5 meeting the need for an adequate, economical, and reliable supply of electric power.

6 2. When constructed in compliance with the conditions imposed in this
7 Certificate, the Project aids the State, preserving a safe and reliable electric transmission
8 system.

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

11 4. The Project and the conditions placed on the Project in this Certificate
12 effectively minimize the impact of the Project on the environment and ecology of the State.

13 5. The Conditions placed on the Project in this Certificate resolve matters
14 concerning balancing the need for the Project with its impact on the environment and
15 ecology of the State arising during the course of the proceedings and, as such, serve as
16 findings and conclusions on such matters.

17 6. The Project is in the public interest because the Project's contribution to
18 meeting the need for an adequate, economical, and reliable supply of electric power
19 outweighs the minimized impact of the Project on the environment and ecology of the
20 State.

21
22 DATED this 30th day of October, 2025.

23 THE ARIZONA POWER PLANT AND
24 TRANSMISSION LINE SITING COMMITTEE

25 

26
27 By: _____
28 Adam Stafford, Chairman

1 Original e-filed this 30th day of October, 2025 with:

2 Docket Control
3 Arizona Corporation Commission
4 1200 W. Washington Street
Phoenix, AZ 85007

5 Copy of the above was e-mailed
6 this 30th day of October, 2025 to:

7 Legal Division
8 ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION
9 1200 W. Washington Street
Phoenix, AZ 85007
10 legaldiv@azcc.gov

11 Utilities Division
12 ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION
13 1200 West Washington Street
Phoenix, AZ 85007
utildivservicebyemail@azcc.gov

14 Glennie Reporting Services, LLC
15 1555 East Orangewood
Phoenix, AZ 85020
16 admin@glennie-reporting.com

17 J. Matthew Derstine
18 Snell & Wilmer, L.L.P.
19 One East Washington Street
Suite 2700
Phoenix, AZ 85004
20 mderstine@swlaw.com
21 Counsel for Applicant CG Apache County Wind LLC
22 and CG Apache County Solar LLC

23 Apache County
24 Ryan Patterson, Manager
25 75 West Cleveland,
St. Johns, AZ 85936

26 Town Of Eagar
27 Brannon Eagar, Town Manager
28 22 W. 2nd St. PO Box 1300
Eagar, AZ 85925

1 Town of Springerville
2 Tim Rasmussen, Town Manager
3 418 E Main Street,
4 Springerville, AZ 85938

5 Arizona Department of Transportation
6 Priscilla Thompson, Assistant District Engineer, South Central District
7 1221 S. Second Avenue
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10 Nicholas Edwards, PE
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12 1611 W. Jackson
13 MD310B
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15 Arizona State Land Department
16 Ruben Ojeda, Assistant Director
17 Real Estate Division
18 1110 W. Washington Street,
19 Phoenix, AZ 85007

20 By: T. Brewer
21 CEC 250
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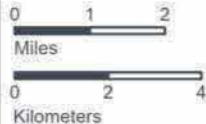
LAVA RUN INTERCONNECTION PROJECT - EXHIBIT A

CEC Features

- Requested CEC Corridor
- Interconnection Project

Reference Features

- Tucson Electric Power
- (TEP) Springerville Generating Station
- Substation
- Existing 345-kV Transmission Line*
- Railways
- Highways
- Roads
- River or Creek



*2023 Western Electricity Coordinating Council Map of Principal Transmission

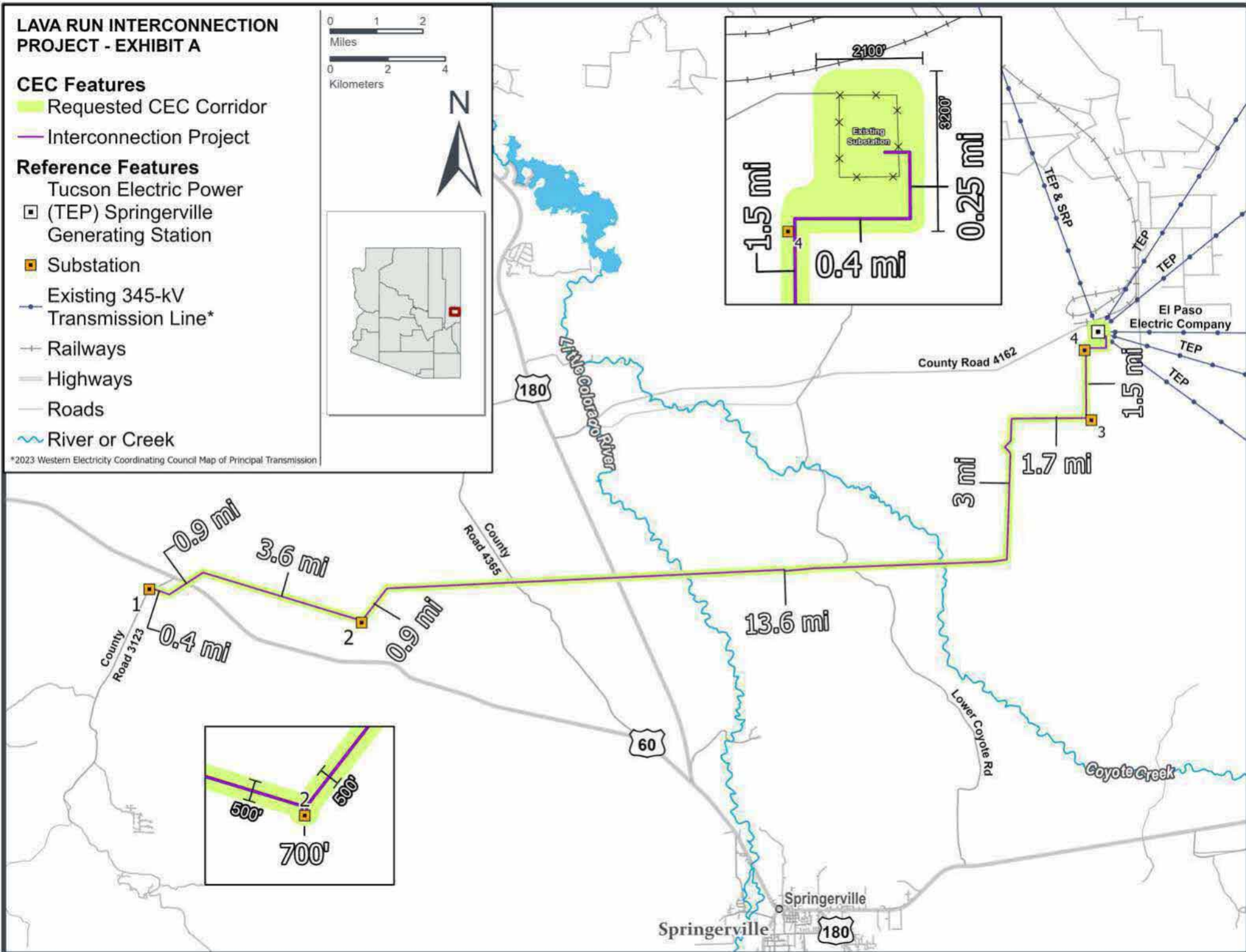


EXHIBIT A-1

ROUTE DESCRIPTION

The Route for the Project originates at Project Substation 1 (Wind 1) and travels approximately 0.4 mile southeast, then 0.9 mile northeast, crossing U.S. Route (U.S.) 60.

From there, it continues 3.6 miles southeast to Project Substation 2 (Wind 2), followed by another 0.9 mile northeast. The Gen-Tie then extends approximately 13.6 miles east, crossing U.S. 180, before turning 3 miles north. It proceeds 1.7 miles east to reach Project Substation 3 (Solar 1).

From Substation 3 to Project Substation 4 (Solar 2), the Gen-Tie will utilize double-circuit 345 kV structures. One circuit will transmit output from the solar projects, and the other will carry output from the wind projects. This double-circuit segment continues 1.5 miles north to Substation 4, where the solar circuit from Substation 3 will be looped in to deliver solar output at this location.

The Gen-Tie then continues on double-circuit structures for approximately 0.4 mile east and 0.25 mile north, terminating at the Springerville 345 kV Substation. At this final point, the solar and wind circuits will each connect to separate terminals, allowing for independent metering of output from CG Apache County Solar LLC and CG Apache County Wind LLC.

Exhibit B: Biological Minimization Measures for Lava Run CEC

- To minimize sedimentation of the Little Colorado River, the Applicants will use erosion control measures as part of a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP).
- Areas of temporary disturbance will be revegetated in accordance with the vegetation and habitat restoration plan that will be developed in coordination with the Apache Natural Resources Conservation District (ANRCD) and Arizona State Lands Department (ASLD).
- To minimize risk of collision and electrocution, the Applicants will construct the proposed transmission line following the guidelines outlined in *Suggested Practices For Avian Protection on Power Lines: State of the Art in 2024* (APLIC 2024) and *Reducing Avian Collisions with Power Lines: The State of the Art in 2012* (APLIC 2012), as applicable. Key avian-safe design elements identified by APLIC include installing line-marking devices (also known as diverters) in collision risk areas, removing ground wires, spacing energized and grounded parts appropriately, and capping energized parts. The Applicants will install bird diverters over the Little Colorado River crossing and Coyote Creek to further minimize the risk of avian collision, including by state species of greatest conservation need and Endangered Species Act (ESA)-listed bird species.
- If vegetation-disturbing activities are planned during the migratory bird nesting season (March–September for most bird species or January–June for raptors), preconstruction surveys for migratory bird nests by a qualified biologist will be conducted to reduce impacts to nesting birds and to comply with the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA).
- The Applicants have already conducted eagle nest surveys. The surveys indicated that no eagle nests will be disturbed (i.e., bald eagle nests are more than 660 feet and golden eagle nests are more than 1 mile from the Interconnection Project) (USFWS 2024c). In the event a new in-use eagle nest is found prior to or during construction within the species-specific recommended buffers, the Applicants will implement a temporal (and spatial) buffer during the eagle nesting season (February through July) or consider a nest disturbance permit (USFWS 2024c).
- To minimize impacts to pronghorn during fawning season (May to mid-June), construction schedule modifications will be implemented as feasible to reduce the amount of area disturbed at any given time.
- Fencing associated with the Interconnection Project will be minimized to the maximum extent practicable and will follow the recommendations in the AZGFD's *Wildlife Compatible Fencing Guidelines* (AZGFD 2011), as applicable and feasible.
- If trenching is required for Interconnection Project construction, the following measures will be implemented as feasible to minimize injury to wildlife: when trenches cannot be backfilled immediately, escape ramps, which can be short lateral trenches or wooden planks sloping to the surface, would be constructed at least every 90 meters; trench slopes could be

less than 45 degrees (1:1); and any trenches left open overnight would be inspected to remove wildlife prior to backfilling.

- To minimize habitat degradation and fragmentation by the number and extent of new roads, the Applicants will follow existing road alignments or existing two track paths as the preferred option. Areas of temporary disturbance created as part of the Interconnection Project will be revegetated in accordance with the vegetation/habitat restoration plan in coordination with ASLD and Apache NRCD.
- For personnel safety and wildlife welfare, if injured or otherwise at-risk wildlife is encountered, wildlife specialists will be notified to assist in relocating the wildlife as needed.
- To reduce the potential of negative effects to species through collisions, worker awareness trainings and low speed limits will be implemented.
- To minimize the introduction and spread of invasive species and noxious weeds, standard best management practices, such as cleaning vehicles and identifying known infestations, will be implemented during construction.
- No project disturbance will occur within Little Colorado River and its canyon or Coyote Creek.
 - Lighting will only be used where necessary and will utilize shielding and motion sensing as applicable.
 - Applicant will continue to work with AGFD for development of the post-construction monitoring plan and implementation, as well as for the Wildlife Conservation Strategy (WCS) and Bird and Bat Conservation Strategy (BBCS). The Applicant will conduct post-construction fatality monitoring on the Interconnection Project during peak spring and fall migration in the first year following project completion. The applicant will coordinate the monitoring methodology, implementation, and results with AGFD. The applicant will report ESA-listed species fatalities within 48 hours of the carcass discovery to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.
 - Applicant will notify AGFD of the anticipated construction schedule for the purpose of lessee/hunting notifications. Applicant will post signs during construction at site entrances directing hunters on safety precautions. By January 15th of each year of construction, the Applicant will meet with AGFD to provide information on construction schedule as known and as it relates to applicable hunting seasons.