

1 BEFORE THE ARIZONA POWER PLANT LSC-230

2 AND TRANSMISSION LINE SITING COMMITTEE

3

4 IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION) Docket No.
 OF ARIZONA ELECTRIC POWER) L-0000A-22-0102-00203
 5 COOPERATIVE, INC., OR ITS)
 ASSIGNEES, IN CONFORMANCE WITH) LS CASE NO. 203
 6 THE REQUIREMENTS OF A.R.S.)
 § 40-360, et seq., FOR A)
 7 CERTIFICATE OF ENVIRONMENTAL)
 COMPATIBILITY AUTHORIZING THE)
 8 SAGUARO TO MARANA 115KV)
 TRANSMISSION LINE PROJECT)
 9 _____)

10

At: Tucson, Arizona

11

Date: June 6, 2022

12

Filed: June 10, 2022

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14 REPORTER'S TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

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VOLUME I
(Pages 1 through 180)

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1 VOLUME I June 6, 2022 Pages 1 to 180
 2 VOLUME II June 7, 2022 Pages 181 to 235

3

4

INDEX TO PROCEEDINGS

5	ITEM	PAGE
6	Opening Statement of Ms. Grabel	20
7	Presentation of Virtual Tour	62
8	Public Comment Session	178
9	Closing Statement of Ms. Grabel	210
10	Deliberations	217
11	Vote	233

12

13

INDEX TO THE TOUR

14	STOP	PAGE
15	1	188
	5	191
16	6	195
	7	197
17	9	198
	12	205

18

19

20

INDEX TO EXAMINATIONS

21	WITNESSES	PAGE
22	KEVIN BARNES, CHRISTOPHER LINDSEY	
23	Direct Examination by Ms. Grabel	29

24

25

1 INDEX TO EXAMINATIONS (Cont'd)

2 WITNESSES PAGE

3 RANDALL SIMPSON

4 Direct Examination by Ms. Grabel(Virtual Tour) 62
 5 Direct Examination by Ms. Grabel 87

6 TRAVIS LEVITT

7 Direct Examination by Mr. Ancharksi 142

8

9

10 INDEX TO EXHIBITS

11 NO. DESCRIPTION IDENTIFIED ADMITTED

12 AEPCO-1

13 Application for Certificate 30 210
 14 Of Environmental Compatibility
 For AEPCO (Saguaro to Marana)

15 AEPCO-2

16 Map of Proposed Project 30 210

17 AEPCO-3

18 Testimony Summary of Kevin 31 210
 19 Barnes (Project Overview)

20 AEPCO-4

21 Witness Presentation of Kevin 31 210
 22 Barnes (Project Overview)

23 AEPCO-5

24 AEPCO Ten-Year Plans 35 210

25 AEPCO-6

26 TEP Ten-Year Plan for 2022 37 210
 (Jan. 31, 2022)

27 AEPCO-7

28 Trico Electric Cooperative 38 210
 Letter of Support

29

1 INDEX TO EXHIBITS (Cont'd)				
2	NO.	DESCRIPTION	IDENTIFIED	ADMITTED
3	AEPCO-8	Exhibits Regarding Notice	41	210
4		Requirements (A-K)		
5	AEPCO-9	Receipt of Filing Fee	43	210
6				
7	AEPCO-10	Virtual Tour	62	210
8	AEPCO-11	Tour Itinerary/Script/Protocol	140	210
9				
10	AEPCO-12	Testimony Summary of Randall	87	210
11		Simpson (Technical Component/Need/ Environmental)		
12	AEPCO-13	Witness Presentation of Randall	88	210
13		Simpson (Technical Component/Need/ Environmental)		
14				
15	AEPCO-14	Testimony Summary of Travis Levitt	144	210
16		(Public Outreach)		
17	AEPCO-15	Witness Presentation of Travis	144	210
18		Levitt (Public Outreach)		
19	AEPCO-16	Summary of Public Outreach	144	210
20	AEPCO-17	Proposed Certificate of	25	210
21		Environmental Compatibility		
22	AEPCO-18	Letter from the Arizona	176	210
23		Corporation Commission dated		
24		May 31st, 2022.		
25				

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

INDEX TO EXHIBITS (Cont'd)

NO.	DESCRIPTION	IDENTIFIED	ADMITTED
TEP-1	Testimony Summary of Christopher Lindsey	46	210
TEP-2	Witness Presentation of Christopher Lindsey	46	210
CHMN-1	Edited draft of CEC	210	For Reference
CHMN-2	Final form of CEC	210	For Reference

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 at Northwest Fire Department Training Facility.
5 5125 West Camino de Fuego, Tucson, Arizona, commencing at
6 1:00 p.m. on the 6th day of June, 2022.

7

8 BEFORE: PAUL A. KATZ, Chairman

9 JAMES PALMER, Agriculture Interests
10 MARY HAMWAY, Incorporated Cities and Towns
11 RICK GRINNELL, Counties
12 KARL GENTLES, General Public
13 (via videoconference)
14 JACK HAENICHEN, General Public
15 MARGARET "TOBY" LITTLE, PE, General Public
16 (via videoconference)
17 DAVID FRENCH, Arizona Department of Water Resources
18 (via videoconference)

19 APPEARANCES:

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21 For the Applicant:
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24 Mr. Elias J. Ancharski
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ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION
Mr. Stephen Emedi
(via videoconference)
1200 West Washington Street
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

1 CHMN. KATZ: Good morning. Good afternoon,
2 whatever time of day it is. Everybody welcome. Testing
3 1, 2, 3, 4.

4 Do you need me to keep talking?

5 MR. BUJARSKI: No. If you could ask them to
6 respond if they heard you.

7 CHMN. KATZ: The virtual folks?

8 MR. BUJARSKI: Yes.

9 CHMN. KATZ: I -- can you folks that are
10 appearing virtually, our Committee Members, can you hear
11 us, or can you hear me?

12 MEMBER LITTLE: I can hear you. This is Member
13 Little.

14 CHMN. KATZ: Okay. And I think we also have
15 Mr. French appearing virtually. And I -- I'm not sure
16 who else.

17 MEMBER HAMWAY: Is there --

18 CHMN. KATZ: Can you hear me now, David?

19 MR. BUJARSKI: Apparently not.

20 CHMN. KATZ: You're muted.

21 MEMBER FRENCH: I'm unmuted now. Sorry. You're
22 coming through, but it's very quiet.

23 CHMN. KATZ: Testing 1, 2, 3, 4.

24 Member Little could hear me, but I don't know if
25 you can.

1 MEMBER LITTLE: I can hear you. I agree with
2 David. He is much louder than you are.

3 MR. BUJARSKI: Okay. You could try again.

4 CHMN. KATZ: What about now?

5 MEMBER LITTLE: It's better.

6 CHMN. KATZ: Better for you, Member Little?

7 MEMBER LITTLE: Yes. Thank you.

8 CHMN. KATZ: Is anybody else appearing
9 virtually?

10 MR. EMEDI: Good afternoon, Chairman Katz. This
11 is Steven Emedi from the Legal Division of the
12 Corporation Commission. I am -- I'm here virtually
13 today.

14 CHMN. KATZ: And I understand that you may need
15 to run into the open meeting, but we just wanted to have
16 somebody available, you or somebody monitoring.

17 The last hearing, Zach wasn't immediately
18 available, and we had a question coming up regarding
19 confidentiality of records and needed someone that had
20 that knowledge to help us. So I appreciate your -- the
21 Commission and your cooperation in this matter. Thank
22 you very much.

23 MR. EMEDI: It's my pleasure. Thank you,
24 Chairman.

25 CHMN. KATZ: And the one thing I want to let

1 everybody know is that Cathy is our court reporter today.
2 She is new at this and doesn't necessarily recognize us
3 by face. And we have the nametags out. But if any of
4 our Committee Members have a question, there's one of two
5 ways to deal with it. You can either ask, Mr. Chairman,
6 I have a question, and then I'll say, yes, Member Little
7 or, yes, Mr. Palmer, or Member Palmer. If not, you can
8 just state your name if you speak up. But we need you to
9 tell our court reporter who is speaking till she gets to
10 know some of us. So please do that.

11 The thing I will do is we've already
12 acknowledged -- are we -- have we been on the record,
13 Cathy, or not?

14 MR. BUJARSKI: No.

15 THE COURT REPORTER: Yes.

16 CHMN. KATZ: We've already acknowledged -- I
17 think we're on the court reporter's record.

18 MR. BUJARSKI: Okay.

19 CHMN. KATZ: Member Little/Member French are
20 appearing virtually. Steven Emedi from the Corporation
21 Commission is appearing virtually.

22 And starting to my far left, I would ask the
23 Members of the Committee who are here in person.

24 MEMBER HAENICHEN: It won't stay on.

25 CHMN. KATZ: It stays on. Just talk.

1 MR. BUJARSKI: Just talk.

2 MEMBER HAENICHEN: Oh, okay.

3 MR. BUJARSKI: You have to get 4 to 6 inches of
4 it. When it lights up green, that means you're
5 broadcasting.

6 MEMBER HAENICHEN: And this is for the court
7 reporter. My name doesn't look like it, but it's
8 pronounced Haenichen.

9 CHMN. KATZ: I guess we can go the other way.

10 MEMBER HAMWAY: Mary Hamway. Oops. There we
11 go. Mary Hamway. Mary Hamway representing cities and
12 towns.

13 MEMBER PALMER: Jim Palmer representing
14 agriculture.

15 MEMBER GRINNELL: Rick Grinnell representing
16 counties.

17 CHMN. KATZ: And it's now about ten minutes
18 after 1:00. We'll probably take a break at about 2:30 or
19 thereabouts. If our court reporter needs a break sooner,
20 she'll let us know. But I don't want to have any session
21 go more than about 90 minutes for the rest of us and for
22 the sake of the court reporter's hands.

23 And I will now ask counsel, who is present for
24 both the applicant and the intervenor, if she would, to
25 please identify herself for the record.

1 MS. GRABEL: Thank you, Chair. Oops.

2 Thank you, Chairman Katz. Meghan Grabel of the
3 law firm Osborn Maledon on behalf of Arizona Electric
4 Power Cooperative as well as potential intervenor Tucson
5 Electric Power Company. And with me from my firm is
6 Elias Ancharski.

7 CHMN. KATZ: Okay. And I will ask you, we had a
8 prehearing conference, so I'm aware of the fact that you
9 filed a motion on behalf of Tucson Electric Power, or
10 TEP, to intervene. And since we have identified that
11 issue, why is it that Tucson Electric Power wishes to
12 intervene?

13 And once that is stated, I'll -- I'll have our
14 Members vote as to whether or not to allow the
15 intervention.

16 MS. GRABEL: Thank you, Chairman Katz.

17 Tucson Electric Power Company is a partner in
18 this project, although they are not constructing it.
19 Therefore, AEPCO -- I'll refer to Arizona Electric Power
20 Cooperative as AEPCO. They are constructing it, so they
21 are the sole applicant needing the CEC. Tucson Electric
22 Power Company has a very strong interest in this -- this
23 CEC because they will own one of the two circuits on a
24 portion of this line.

25 CHMN. KATZ: Okay. And there's no conflict

1 between TEP and the applicant; correct?

2 MS. GRABEL: That's correct, Chairman Katz.

3 CHMN. KATZ: I would then ask our Committee
4 Members or a Committee Member, if he or she would, to
5 move to allow the intervention or to not do it.

6 MEMBER HAENICHEN: I move to allow the
7 intervention.

8 MEMBER PALMER: I'll second it.

9 CHMN. KATZ: All in favor.

10 (A chorus of "ayes.")

11 CHMN. KATZ: Anyone opposed?

12 Hearing no further statements or objections, we
13 will allow that intervention to take place.

14 Our hearing is starting today on the 6th of
15 June, a Monday. And my understanding is if we take a
16 tour, it'll probably take about a half a day. So we
17 probably won't finish up until about noon on Wednesday.
18 If we don't take the tour, we will probably finish
19 sometime late tomorrow afternoon. But I have to leave it
20 to the Committee to make up their mind what we want to
21 do.

22 Let me just ask you, Ms. Grabel, whether or not
23 you feel that a tour would be helpful or productive in
24 allowing the Committee Members, at least those who are
25 here in person, to better understand the route and any

1 impacts that these lines might have.

2 MS. GRABEL: Thank you, Chairman Katz, Committee
3 Members.

4 I conferred with our client. We think it's
5 always interesting to take the tour. This is a
6 relatively small project compared to others. It's
7 eight miles. We have no opposition. And we think we
8 have a virtual tour that does a pretty good job of
9 representing the landscape.

10 That said, if it's the Committee's interest in
11 taking the tour, we'll absolutely accommodate that. We
12 do have a van that we can -- can -- can drive the line
13 with. So it's up to you. We would like to know sooner
14 rather than later, though, so we can let our
15 transportation folks know.

16 MEMBER HAENICHEN: Let's decide it right now.

17 CHMN. KATZ: That's what we're going to do. And
18 I don't know if we want our virtual people to have a vote
19 because they're not going to taking the tour anyhow.

20 MEMBER HAENICHEN: No.

21 CHMN. KATZ: So just those who are physically
22 present here should be voting on this.

23 Do we have a motion to either take a tour or not
24 take a tour?

25 MEMBER HAENICHEN: I move we take a tour.

1 MEMBER PALMER: I'll second that.

2 CHMN. KATZ: Let's just do a roll call. I know
3 that, Mr. Haenichen --

4 MEMBER HAENICHEN: I'm in favor.

5 CHMN. KATZ: I am assuming Mr. Palmer is in
6 favor?

7 MEMBER PALMER: I am in favor as well.

8 CHMN. KATZ: Ms. Hamway?

9 MEMBER HAMWAY: I am in favor.

10 CHMN. KATZ: And Mr. Grinnell?

11 MEMBER GRINNELL: It's up to the Committee,
12 Mr. Chairman. I don't care either way. I know the area.
13 I've been here before.

14 CHMN. KATZ: I should keep my mouth shut. I
15 don't think it's necessary, but I'll defer to the good,
16 solid judgement of our Committee Members and we'll take
17 the tour. What about 9:00?

18 MEMBER GRINNELL: Point of order, Mr. Chairman.

19 CHMN. KATZ: Yes, sir.

20 MEMBER GRINNELL: We still need to have -- of
21 the quorum, we still need to have --

22 CHMN. KATZ: Okay.

23 MEMBER GRINNELL: -- five votes, six votes in
24 affirmative for the tour.

25 CHMN. KATZ: I guess I'll have to allow, then,

1 our virtual people to vote one way or the other.

2 MEMBER HAENICHEN: Yeah.

3 CHMN. KATZ: Member Little, are you in favor of
4 the tour even -- or Member French, either one of you?

5 MEMBER FRENCH: I'm in favor of taking a tour.

6 CHMN. KATZ: Okay.

7 THE COURT REPORTER: Who was that?

8 MEMBER LITTLE: I feel the same way the majority
9 of the Members vote.

10 CHMN. KATZ: Okay. That was Member Little, and
11 before that it was Member French.

12 MEMBER FRENCH: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

13 CHMN. KATZ: It looks like we'll be taking that
14 tour.

15 Where will we be leaving from? Here or from the
16 hotel?

17 MS. GRABEL: We do have the route tour
18 itinerary, AEPCO Exhibit Number 11, and I believe it says
19 that the pickup location is here.

20 CHMN. KATZ: Okay. And that'll be what, at
21 10:00 o'clock?

22 MS. GRABEL: 9:00 a.m. Yes.

23 MEMBER HAENICHEN: On Wednesday?

24 CHMN. KATZ: Tomorrow morning. And the other
25 thing is, if it helps at all, I know that there may be

1 breakfast served here, but I also know that all of us
2 Committee Members that are staying at the hotel also have
3 breakfast. And we'll have to figure out whether we want
4 to do that before coming over here and whether or not we
5 want to carpool, but we'll address those issues later.

6 And we do have public comment at 5:30. I think
7 one of the signs maybe indicated 6:00 o'clock but that
8 got corrected.

9 Fill us all in, if you would, Ms. Grabel. We've
10 already discussed it you and I.

11 MS. GRABEL: Certainly. Thank you,
12 Chairman Katz.

13 Yes, the Notice of -- of Hearing that was
14 published and sent to the affected jurisdictions, those
15 were all accurate with respect to the start time of
16 public comment of 5:30. We did notice as we were pulling
17 the exhibits together that the five signs along the
18 eight-mile route had the time incorrectly labeled at
19 6:00 o'clock. As soon as we noticed that, we went and we
20 fixed it. That was Friday.

21 So if you look on the notice signs, the time's
22 actually quite small. I doubt that anyone driving by
23 would see it and that would be the reason for coming.
24 But I did want to let you know that did happen. We did
25 correct it. And the general notifications, especially

1 that that was made in the Arizona Daily Star, did have
2 the time accurately depicted.

3 And we do have pictures that we will enter into
4 as an exhibit later that shows the corrected signage.

5 CHMN. KATZ: Okay. We'll cross that bridge when
6 we come to it, but we'll have -- we'll begin public
7 comment, if any, at 5:30, and if there are any government
8 representatives.

9 And the affected jurisdictions are Marana and
10 Pima County; is that correct?

11 MS. GRABEL: Yes, sir, as well as the Arizona
12 State Land Department.

13 CHMN. KATZ: Okay. And I'm not expecting
14 anybody from the Land Department to be present, but if
15 they are, they're more than welcome. And if we do have
16 any representatives of either of the political
17 subdivisions, they'll be given a priority in speaking
18 with us first. And if nobody appears, we'll call it a
19 day.

20 Anyway, let me then ask you, how many witnesses
21 are we currently going to be calling? Are we going to be
22 doing multiple panels or one panel of witnesses? How are
23 we going to proceed?

24 MS. GRABEL: We have essentially three panels of
25 four witnesses, Chairman. So the first panel is two

1 individuals, Kevin Barnes and Chris -- Christopher
2 Lindsey. Mr. Barnes is from AEPCO; Mr. Lindsey is from
3 TEP. They'll talk about the project and the project
4 need. I'll get into this in my opening statement too.

5 CHMN. KATZ: Okay.

6 MS. GRABEL: The second panel is an
7 environmental panel of one, Mr. Randall Simpson from
8 Burns & McDonnell. And then the final panel is exclusive
9 to the issue of public outreach, and that is Travis
10 Levitt also from Burns & McDonnell.

11 CHMN. KATZ: Sounds good.

12 Why don't you go ahead and then make your --

13 MEMBER HAENICHEN: Mr. Chairman?

14 CHMN. KATZ: Yes, sir.

15 MEMBER HAENICHEN: Back to the tour. If I might
16 suggest we don't start from here but, rather, from the
17 hotel, because that's where we'll all be. And why come
18 over here and then go out?

19 CHMN. KATZ: I don't care. Either way we want
20 to do it.

21 MEMBER HAENICHEN: Let's decide it right now.

22 MEMBER HAMWAY: Hotel.

23 CHMN. KATZ: Okay.

24 MEMBER FRENCH: Hotel.

25 MEMBER HAMWAY: Leave it to me.

1 MS. GRABEL: Chairman Katz, Members of the
2 Committee, if we do do that, we'll end here, and we'll
3 lack transportation back to the hotel at the end. I
4 think that's why we typically start at the hearing venue.

5 MEMBER HAMWAY: Hearing venue.

6 CHMN. KATZ: Okay.

7 MEMBER PALMER: Precisely.

8 CHMN. KATZ: We'll start from the hearing venue.

9 MS. GRABEL: Okay.

10 CHMN. KATZ: But we can all -- Committee Members
11 that are staying at the hotel, we can all discuss whether
12 we want to carpool here tomorrow morning.

13 MEMBER HAENICHEN: I don't want to drive here.

14 CHMN. KATZ: Okay. Well, I have room in my
15 vehicle, and we'll figure out how we want to do that
16 tomorrow.

17 And whenever you are ready, you may address us
18 with your opening remarks.

19 MS. GRABEL: Thank you, Chairman, Committee
20 Members.

21 Do you have my PowerPoint put up?

22 Again, my name is Meghan Grabel of the law firm
23 Osborn Maledon, and I represent Arizona Electric Power
24 Cooperative, the applicant for a Certificate of
25 Environmental Compatibility, or a CEC, to authorize the

1 construction of a transmission facility that has two
2 parts. The first is a double-circuit 115 and 138kV
3 transmission line that will be jointly owned by AEPCO and
4 Tucson Electric Power Company, which I'll refer to as
5 TEP; and, second, a single-circuit transmission line
6 emanating from the double-circuit line to be owned and
7 operated by AEPCO alone.

8 You'll hear the proposed project referred to as
9 the Saguaro to Marana transmission project, or simply the
10 project. With me from my firm, as I indicated, is my
11 colleague, Eli Ancharski.

12 CHMN. KATZ: What was the voltage again for the
13 second line?

14 MS. GRABEL: For the single circle?

15 CHMN. KATZ: Yes, the single circuit.

16 MS. GRABEL: 115kV.

17 CHMN. KATZ: And the other line is what?

18 MS. GRABEL: It is a double-circuit 115kV that
19 continues AEPCO's ownership. And then TEP's portion of
20 that project is a 138kV portion.

21 CHMN. KATZ: Okay.

22 Any time you're ready. Go ahead.

23 MS. GRABEL: Okay. So, again, by way of a brief
24 summary, the project consists of the construction of a
25 new transmission line between the planned Trico Electric

1 Cooperative, Adonis Substation -- which if you all have
2 the laminated placemats in front of you, you'll see --
3 that's AEPCO Exhibit Number 2. It's depicted on the
4 right side of that placemat. And the existing AEPCO
5 Marana Substation near Marana, Arizona, which is on the
6 left side of that placement map.

7 The project in its entirety will be constructed
8 by AEPCO and consists of the two separate transmission
9 line configurations I just mentioned; one, a
10 double-circuit portion owned by AEPCO and TEP, and the
11 other a single 115kV line solely owned by AEPCO.

12 In the future, TEP will connect its 138kV
13 circuit to one of TEP's existing 138kV circuit -- quad
14 circuits. That's adjacent to the planned Adonis
15 Substation, which will be the subject of a future
16 application.

17 That's a lot of work.

18 There you go.

19 So this map, which you will see often is
20 identical to the laminated placemats in front of you,
21 which are marked as AEPCO Exhibit 2. And you can see the
22 green line -- let me do this really well. The green line
23 on this map represents the proposed location of the
24 Saguaro to Marana project.

25 As you'll note on the left side of the map,

1 starting at the Marana Substation, so right about there,
2 the project continues through the project area to the TEP
3 siting area right here along North Wentz Road. From
4 there, continuing east, the transmission line morphs into
5 the 115kV and 138kV transmission facility extending to
6 the proposed Adonis Substation. And that's the hashed
7 portion of the line. This project is located entirely in
8 Pima County near the Town of Marana.

9 Over the next couple of days you'll hear a great
10 deal of testimony regarding how the Saguardo to Marana
11 project meets Arizona's need for an adequate, economic,
12 and reliable supply of power. From AEPCO's perspective,
13 the main purpose of the project is to continue providing
14 reliable service to Trico Electric Cooperative's rapidly
15 growing load in the service territory north of Marana.
16 Trico is a member of AEPCO and relies on AEPCO to provide
17 transmission services to help meet Trico's customers
18 needs.

19 At present, a single radially fed 46kV
20 substation known as Thornydale serves this area. There
21 is a significant need for the reliable expansion of
22 service in the Trico service territory, which includes
23 the construction of the new Adonis Substation. This CEC,
24 if granted, would facilitate the construction of the
25 substation as well as the new 115kV transmission line.

1 Additionally, the proposed project will add
2 transmission capacity on the AEPCO transmission system to
3 support the development of future energy generation
4 projects.

5 From TEP's perspective, the new 138kV
6 transmission line brings TEP one step closer to creating
7 a loop that will support existing and future customers by
8 improving reliability with a looped source, improving
9 service voltage to customers, increasing system capacity,
10 and supporting additional distributed generation
11 connections. The project also facilitates the
12 replacement of the aging radial 46kV system that
13 presently serves Marana, which is either at or near
14 capacity and, therefore, aligns with TEP's long-term
15 plans to retire the lower voltage 46kV system in urban
16 environments.

17 The final step towards completing that
18 transmission loop is a second line from the Marana area
19 substation back to the existing Tortolita to North Loop
20 138kV corridor, and that's a project that will be before
21 this Committee in sufficient time for it to be back
22 online no later than 2026.

23 Importantly, the collaboration between TEP and
24 AEPCO and the colocation of these utilities' assets will
25 minimize environmental impacts and provide efficiencies

1 in the permitting processes required to build the
2 facilities. Without the partnership between these two
3 utilities, a third transmission line would need to be
4 built. So the double-circuit line here will reduce
5 project costs ultimately benefitting ratepayers.

6 In sum, the evidence will show that the project
7 improves the efficiency and reliability of the electric
8 grid in Arizona and enhances Arizona's access to economic
9 generation resources, which can help keep Arizona utility
10 ratepayers' costs low.

11 So on to some housekeeping items.

12 Each of the Committee Members present today I
13 think should have brought with you the binder that was
14 provided of the exhibits and the materials that the AEPCO
15 team and the TEP team intends to use throughout the
16 hearing. At the front of the binder is a list of the
17 exhibits that we'll review over the next couple of days.
18 And you should also have a flash drive that includes all
19 of these exhibits as well as the virtual tour that you
20 will see later today.

21 Exhibit AEPCO-17 is the proposed form of CEC
22 that we'll review at the close of the hearing. And as
23 required by the Procedural Order, it contains references
24 to case numbers from which the conditions that are
25 included in that proposed CEC were taken.

1 So what are we going to be doing over the next
2 couple of days? We intend to present witnesses in three
3 panels. On the first panel, we will hear from Mr. Kevin
4 Barnes, the environmental permitting and land services
5 manager at AEPCO, who will provide an overview of the
6 project and the applicant and testimony regarding
7 compliance with statutory notice requirements as well as
8 the technical aspects of the project.

9 Second, you'll hear from Mr. Christopher
10 Lindsey, the director of transmission and distribution
11 planning for Tucson Electric Power Company. He will
12 provide an overview of TEP, TEP's role on the proposed
13 project, the project benefits, and the collaboration
14 between TEP and AEPCO.

15 Mr. Barnes will then be joined by Mr. Randy
16 Simpson, a senior manager -- senior project manager with
17 Burns & McDonnell, who will provide the virtual tour in
18 this case. Mr. Simpson will really provide the virtual
19 tour, and Mr. Barnes will be available to answer any
20 questions you have.

21 We'll then have a second panel to discuss the
22 environmental aspects of the project, a second panel of
23 one individual, Mr. Simpson, who will discuss the
24 characteristics of the project site and the environmental
25 and cultural aspects of the projects with a focus on the

1 factors that the Committee's required to consider under
2 Arizona Revised Statute Section 40-360.06.

3 And, finally, we'll hear from Mr. Travis Levitt.
4 He is a senior public involvement specialist with Burns &
5 McDonnell who will provide a detailed overview of the
6 stakeholder engagement process related to this project.

7 Oopsie. Go back.

8 Oopsie. Why don't you put that on the record.

9 Sorry.

10 So, finally, we believe that at the close of the
11 proceeding you will conclude that the evidence shows that
12 the Saguaro to Marana project will help meet Arizona's
13 need for an adequate, economical, and reliable supply of
14 power with minimal impacts to the environment and ecology
15 of the state.

16 With that, we are ready to move on to our first
17 panel.

18 MEMBER GRINNELL: Mr. Chairman?

19 CHMN. KATZ: Yes, sir.

20 MEMBER GRINNELL: Question. Counsel, AEPCO is
21 the primary responsible entity that is coordinating the
22 other TEP, Trico; is that correct?

23 MS. GRABEL: Yes. So Arizona Electric Power
24 Cooperative is -- is the project sponsor. They are
25 constructing the project. They've done the design for

1 their other portion of the line. The Trico is their
2 member, and so they will deliver transmission services to
3 Trico, which is a distribution cooperative. And TEP is
4 partnering them on the double-circuit portion because the
5 138kV portion of that line serves into TEP's system.

6 MEMBER GRINNELL: So AEPCO will be the primary
7 organization, or whatever, to accept all liability and
8 then subrogate any issues further down the road?

9 MS. GRABEL: So they will be -- I don't want to
10 say that they're accepting all liability, but they are
11 the applicant for the CEC, and that is the document
12 needed to construct the facility. So they will be the
13 one constructing the transmission facilities.

14 Does that answer your question?

15 MEMBER GRINNELL: Yeah.

16 MS. GRABEL: Okay.

17 CHMN. KATZ: If we're ready to begin, let me
18 just ask Mr. Lindsey and Mr. Barnes if you gentlemen
19 prefer an oath or an affirmation. We can do either. And
20 you don't have to agree with one another either. But I
21 just would like to know how you'd like to proceed?

22 MR. BARNES: Both myself and Mr. Lindsey would
23 like an affirmation.

24 CHMN. KATZ: Okay. I don't need you to stand,
25 but if you'd raise your right hand.

1 KEVIN BARNES, CHRISTOPHER LINDSEY,
2 a witness as a panel on behalf of the Applicant, having
3 been affirmed by the chairman to speak the truth and
4 nothing but the truth, were examined and testified as
5 follows:

6

7 CHMN. KATZ: That's fine.

8 Any time you're ready --

9 CHAIRMAN HAMWAY: Oh, are you going to do all
10 three?

11 CHMN. KATZ: I can do everybody, but we'll wait
12 till we get to our next panel.

13 MS. GRABEL: Sure. Thank you, Chairman Katz.

14

15 DIRECT EXAMINATION

16 BY MS. GRABEL:

17 Q. Mr. Barnes, are you ready?

18 A. (MR. BARNES) Yes, I am.

19 Q. Okay. Please state your name and business
20 address for the record.

21 A. (MR. BARNES) My name is Kevin Barnes. My
22 business address is 1000 South Highway 80, Benson,
23 Arizona, 85602.

24 Q. By whom are you employed and in what capacity?

25 A. (MR. BARNES) I'm the environmental permitting

1 and land services manager at the Arizona Electric Power
2 Cooperative.

3 Q. What is your role in this matter?

4 A. (MR. BARNES) My role in this matter was to
5 supervise the preparation of the CEC application and
6 exhibits and coordinate with internal engineering staff
7 to confirm technical aspects of the project.

8 Q. You have before you a book of exhibits?

9 Do you see that?

10 A. (MR. BARNES) I do.

11 Q. Will you please look at Exhibit AEPCO-1, which
12 is the CEC application that was submitted in this matter.

13 A. (MR. BARNES) Okay.

14 Q. Have you seen this document before?

15 A. (MR. BARNES) I have.

16 Q. Was it prepared by you or under your direction
17 and control?

18 A. (MR. BARNES) It was.

19 Q. Are the statements contained in AEPCO-1 true and
20 correct to the best of your knowledge?

21 A. (MR. BARNES) They are.

22 Q. Thank you.

23 And please turn to Exhibit AEPCO-2, which is a
24 map of the project site. And it's the same map that is
25 on the laminated placemats that the Committee Members

1 have before them.

2 A. (MR. BARNES) That's correct.

3 Q. Was this map prepared by you or under your
4 direction and control?

5 A. (MR. BARNES) It was.

6 Q. Are you familiar with the proposed route in this
7 case?

8 A. (MR. BARNES) I am.

9 Q. Does this map accurately depict the proposed
10 project and other items that are contained in the map's
11 legend?

12 A. (MR. BARNES) It does.

13 Q. Please now turn to Exhibit AEPCO-3, which is the
14 testimony summary of Kevin Barnes.

15 A. (MR. BARNES) Okay.

16 Q. Have you seen this document before?

17 A. (MR. BARNES) I have.

18 Q. And was it prepared by you or under your
19 direction and control?

20 A. (MR. BARNES) It was.

21 Q. Does Exhibit AEPCO-3 accurately summarize the
22 testimony you will present to the Committee today?

23 A. (MR. BARNES) It does.

24 Q. Please now turn to Exhibit AEPCO-4, which is the
25 witness presentation of Kevin Barnes.

1 Have you seen this document?

2 A. (MR. BARNES) I have.

3 Q. Was it prepared by you or under your direction
4 and control?

5 A. (MR. BARNES) It was.

6 Q. Is the information contained in this
7 presentation true and correct to the best of your
8 knowledge?

9 A. (MR. BARNES) It is.

10 Q. Do you have any corrections you would like to
11 make to your presentation?

12 A. (MR. BARNES) We do have one correction we need
13 to make, but I propose we do that when we get to that
14 appropriate slide.

15 Q. And is that the correction to the Notice of
16 Hearing signage that we discussed at the beginning of the
17 hearing today?

18 A. (MR. BARNES) It is.

19 Q. Thank you.

20 So with that, I probably am going to interrupt
21 your presentation a couple of times to lay a foundation
22 for additional exhibits, but please continue with your
23 remarks.

24 A. (MR. BARNES) Chairman Katz, Committee Members,
25 like Ms. Grabel indicated, my name is Kevin Barnes. I'm

1 the environmental permitting and land services manager at
2 Arizona Electric Cooperative.

3 My education is I have a bachelor's degree in
4 wildlife and fishery science from the University of
5 Arizona. I have just over 14 years of experience in the
6 utility industry, all under the employment of Arizona
7 Electric Power Cooperative.

8 My primary role in this project was to supervise
9 the preparation of the CEC application and supporting
10 exhibits. Additionally, I coordinated with engineering
11 staff to confirm technical aspects of the project.

12 I think my testimony will cover a brief overview
13 of Arizona Electric Power Cooperative, or from here on
14 out AEPCO. I'll describe the project. I'll talk to the
15 purpose and need of the project. I will summarize the
16 CEC notice requirements. And, lastly, I'll cover a few
17 technical aspects of the projects and the cost of the
18 project.

19 So what is AEPCO? AEPCO is a not-for-profit
20 generation of transmission cooperative. We're owned by
21 our member distribution cooperatives. Our generation
22 plant is in Cochise, Arizona, and our corporate
23 headquarters is in Benson, Arizona. AEPCO has five
24 Arizona Class A members that are also not-for-profit
25 distribution cooperatives. Those distribution

1 cooperatives deliver power at retail to several areas in
2 the rural part of the state.

3 It's important to note that AEPCO is a rural
4 utility services borrower. That nexus with federal
5 funding requires all AEPCO projects to comply with the
6 Environmental Policy Act. I mentioned our five Class A
7 members. They're Trico Electric Cooperative, Sulphur
8 Springs Valley Electric Cooperative, Duncan Valley
9 Electric Cooperative, Graham County Electric Cooperative,
10 and Mohave Electric Cooperative.

11 We're a relatively small generation and
12 transmission cooperative. We maintain and operate just
13 over 620 miles of high-voltage lines ranging from 69kV to
14 345kV. In addition to our transmission system, we
15 operate and maintain 27 substations.

16 So the project before you today consists of
17 construction and operation of a new transmission line
18 between the planned Trico Adonis Substation and the
19 existing AEPCO Marana Station in Marana, Arizona. The
20 project consists of two separate configurations. One
21 portion of the double circuit is a 115/138kV
22 double-circuit transmission line that will be jointly
23 owned by AEPCO and TEP. The other portion of the project
24 is a single-circuit 115kV transmission line, and that
25 will be solely owned by AEPCO.

1 In compliance with Arizona Revised Statutes,
2 both AEPCO and TEP have filed Ten-Year Plans each year
3 from the inception of the statutory requirement until
4 2022. I think it's important to note here that although
5 this is the first time the Committee's seen this project,
6 iterations of this project have been in the planning
7 process for many years. In fact, the Adonis Substation
8 was a permitted and shuttle-ready project back in 2010,
9 but based on market conditions and the Great Recession,
10 that project was delayed. And so it's -- it's back.

11 Q. Mr. Barnes, before you continue, will you please
12 turn to Exhibit AEPCO-5. And AEPCO-5 is in two parts.
13 We have a part A and a part B; is that correct?

14 A. (MR. BARNES) Yes.

15 Q. Will you please identify part A and part B for
16 the record.

17 A. (MR. BARNES) Exhibit AEPCO-5A, AEPCO Ten-Year
18 Plan for 2022. Exhibit AEPCO-5B, AEPCO Ten-Year Plan for
19 2021.

20 Q. Was AEPCO-5, including both of its subparts,
21 prepared by you or under your direction and control?

22 A. (MR. BARNES) Yes.

23 Q. Thank you.

24 And you noted that this has been -- the project
25 has been in the works for more than a decade; is that

1 correct?

2 A. (MR. BARNES) Correct. Or versions of this
3 project.

4 Q. Has it's been in your Ten-Year Plans for the,
5 you know, decades prior to these two, 5A and 5B?

6 A. (MR. BARNES) Yes.

7 Q. Thank you.

8 And I will reserve AEPCO-6 for Mr. Lindsey,
9 because it was a TEP Ten-Year Plan. So please continue.

10 A. (MR. BARNES) A little bit more about the
11 project. The transmission line originates at Trico's
12 planned Adonis Substation. The location of the planned
13 Adonis Station enables AEPCO to connect to an existing
14 transmission line, then interconnect to Arizona Public
15 Services Company's existing Saguaro Substation.

16 I'm going to talk a little bit more about that
17 particular line in a future slide, but that substation's
18 located approximately seven miles northwest of the
19 planned Adonis Substation.

20 So the project as proposed is a double-circuit
21 115/138 transmission line, and it would proceed west
22 approximately four miles across Interstate 10, continuing
23 to the intersection of Marana and Wentz Roads. At the
24 intersection of Marana and Wentz Roads, the 138 line will
25 be terminated for future use by TEP once they've

1 identified a location for a new substation at their
2 planning.

3 From the intersection of Marana Road and
4 Wentz Roads, the line will proceed another four miles as
5 a single-circuit 115 transmission line to the existing
6 AEPCO Marana Substation.

7 So this is the map. Like Ms. Grabel said,
8 you're going to see a lot in the next couple of days, but
9 what I wanted to point out is this blue line that goes
10 past Adonis up to Saguaro Substation, AEPCO's plan is to
11 interconnect that existing currently de-energized lines
12 to Saguaro and Adonis. So that's important because the
13 Adonis Substation's on a little bit faster time frame
14 than the proposed project in front of you. It's proposed
15 to be in service June of 2023. So that substation will
16 be serviced through the Saguaro Substation on a radial
17 feed until the project before you gets approved, and then
18 it will provide redundancy.

19 A little bit more about the project. It's
20 anticipated to be constructed primarily of
21 self-weathering steel monopoles approximately 65 to
22 120 feet in height with typical span links between 500
23 and 600 feet, within rights-of-ways up to about 120 feet
24 wide. The proposed transmission line crosses multiple
25 jurisdictions and landowners, including private, Arizona

1 State Land Department, Town of Marana, CAP, or Central
2 Arizona Project, and Pima County.

3 So the purpose of this project is to increase
4 reliability and serve customers' growing energy needs in
5 the surrounding area of Marana. AEPCO proposes to do
6 this by connecting the Trico Adonis Substation, the
7 existing AEPCO Marana Substation, and the APS Saguaro
8 Substation.

9 AEPCO's member Trico Electric Cooperative has
10 submitted a letter of support for this project. In
11 addition, the project will also add additional
12 transmission capacity on AEPCO's transmission system to
13 support any development of future energy projects.

14 Q. Before you proceed, Mr. Barnes, you noted that
15 Trico has submitted a letter of support for this project;
16 is that correct?

17 A. (MR. BARNES) Correct.

18 Q. If you could please turn to Exhibit AEPCO-7.
19 Do you have that in front of you?

20 A. (MR. BARNES) I do.

21 Q. What is AEPCO-7?

22 A. (MR. BARNES) Actually, I went past it. One
23 second.

24 Exhibit AEPCO-7 is Trico Electric Cooperative's
25 letter of support.

1 Q. Thank you very much.

2 And were you responsible for preparing this
3 exhibit?

4 A. (MR. BARNES) Yes.

5 Q. Okay. Thank you. Please continue.

6 A. (MR. BARNES) So just to review the hearing
7 schedule process, per Arizona statutes, the Notice of
8 Hearing was published twice within ten days of filing the
9 CEC. They were published in the Arizona Daily Star.
10 Additionally, we posted the Notice of Hearing on our
11 project website, www.AZGTSaguaroMarana.com. We also
12 posted five notification signs notifying the public of
13 the hearing along the route. Those locations were
14 pre-approved during our pre-filing location with -- or
15 hearing with the -- with the Chairman.

16 Q. And, Mr. Barnes, is the Arizona Daily Star a
17 newspaper of general circulation?

18 A. (MR. BARNES) It is.

19 Q. Thank you.

20 A. (MR. BARNES) So this map just depicts where
21 those signs were located. Again, we had five along the
22 eight-mile route.

23 This is our public -- Notice of Public Hearing
24 sign. And I believe this is where the correction needs
25 to be made, Ms. Grabel.

1 When the signs were originally installed, they
2 had the time of the hearing at 6:00 p.m., which was
3 incorrect. That notice -- that hearing -- or that public
4 comment period actually opens at 5:30.

5 Q. Thank you.

6 And I believe you should have in front of, and
7 the Committee Members have just been handed, an exhibit
8 that's been marked AEPCO-8K.

9 Does AEPCO-8K, it show a picture of the sign
10 after it has been corrected to show the correct 5:30 p.m.
11 start time?

12 A. (MR. BARNES) It does.

13 Q. And were those signs updated at your direction?

14 A. (MR. BARNES) They were.

15 Q. And was that photograph taken at your direction?

16 A. (MR. BARNES) They were.

17 Q. Are the contents true and correct to the best of
18 your knowledge?

19 A. (MR. BARNES) They are.

20 Q. Thank you.

21 When did we make that correction?

22 A. (MR. BARNES) On Friday afternoon.

23 Q. Thank you. Please continue.

24 A. (MR. BARNES) So these are the pictures of the
25 signs as originally installed, again, with the

1 noncorrected time of the public comment period.

2 So in addition to the signs, regulations require
3 AEPCO post copies of the CEC application for public
4 viewing. We had those at four repositories based on our
5 pre-approved locations on the pre-filing hearing we had
6 with the Chairman. They included the Arizona Corporation
7 Commission Docket Control, Pima County Board of
8 Supervisors office, the Marana Municipal Complex, and the
9 Wheeler Taft Abbett Senior Library. We also posted that
10 at the project website.

11 Also pursuant to regulation, AEPCO provided a
12 Notice of Service to Affected Jurisdictions via certified
13 mail to the Town of Marana, Pima County, and the Arizona
14 State Land Department.

15 Q. Thank you, Mr. Barnes.

16 Before we continue on the technical aspects, I
17 just want to put into the record AEPCO-8, which
18 essentially is hard -- hard copy of what we've just
19 looked at on your presentation.

20 So if you could just pull up AEPCO-8, which is
21 in subparts A through J, and quickly run through A
22 through J and identify for the Committee and for the
23 record what each of those exhibits contains.

24 A. (MR. BARNES) Exhibit AEPCO-8A is our Notice of
25 Hearing.

1 Exhibit AEPCO-8B is affidavits of publication
2 and tear sheets from the Arizona Daily Star.

3 Exhibit AEPCO-8C is the Notice of Hearing sign
4 locations.

5 Exhibit AEPCO-8D, photographs of sign placement.

6 Exhibit AEPCO-8E, examples of sign contents.

7 Exhibit AEPCO-8F, Notice of Service to Affected
8 Jurisdictions.

9 Exhibit AEPCO-8G, return receipt of affected
10 jurisdiction.

11 Exhibit AEPCO-8H, letter to Pima County
12 regarding documents for public viewing.

13 Exhibit AEPCO-8I, letter to library regarding
14 documents for public viewing.

15 Exhibit AEPCO-8J, letter to municipal complex
16 regarding documents for public viewing.

17 Q. Thank you, Mr. Barnes.

18 And those latter three exhibits, the letters
19 regarding the documents for public viewing, were those
20 transmittal letters demonstrating that we have sent the
21 application to be left for public viewing in the areas
22 agreed to at the pre-filing conference?

23 A. (MR. BARNES) Correct.

24 Q. Thank you.

25 And before you continue, one more compliance

1 item. If you could turn to Exhibit AEPCO-9, please.
2 That is the receipt of a filing fee in this matter;
3 correct?

4 A. (MR. BARNES) Correct.

5 Q. Have you seen this document before?

6 A. (MR. BARNES) I have.

7 Q. Was this receipt from the Arizona Corporation
8 Commission to confirm payment by AEPCO of the appropriate
9 application filing fee?

10 A. (MR. BARNES) It is.

11 Q. Did you direct the payment of the filing fee?

12 A. (MR. BARNES) I did.

13 Q. All right. Thank you. Please continue.

14 A. (MR. BARNES) So just to cover a few technical
15 aspects of the project, like I said before, the line is
16 approximately eight miles long. Four miles of that will
17 be double-circuit 115 to 138 -- and 138kV, and four miles
18 will be single-circuit 115kV. Structures will be between
19 65 and 120 feet in height. Average band distances will
20 be between 500 and 600 feet. The conductor will be 954
21 Cardinal ACSS, or aluminum conductor steel supported.

22 The next four slides just have -- are typical
23 renderings of the structures we'll be using. This first
24 one is a 115/138 double-circuit tangent structure with a
25 maximum height of 95 feet. This is a representation of a

1 115/138kV double-circuit dead-end structure with a
2 maximum height of 120 feet.

3 This is a 115kV single-circuit tangent
4 structure.

5 And, lastly, this is a 115kV single-circuit
6 dead-end structure.

7 A little bit about the project cost. Total
8 right-of-way cost is anticipated to be just over a
9 million dollars, total construction costs just under
10 \$8 million, for a total of just under \$9 million.

11 So in closing, the colocation of TEP and AEPCO
12 assets will minimize environmental impacts and provide
13 efficiencies in the permitting process required to build
14 these facilities. Mr. Simpson's testimony will provide
15 more light on that.

16 The project results in increased system
17 reliability for AEPCO and Trico, and eventually TEP. To
18 date, there's been very little opposition to the project
19 expressed by the public, contacted agencies, or
20 jurisdictions.

21 AEPCO respectfully requests that the Committee
22 issue a recommendation to the Commission to approve a CEC
23 for this project and that the Commission approve such
24 recommendation pursuant to Arizona law.

25 With that, I will take any questions.

1 CHMN. KATZ: Mr. Palmer?

2 MEMBER PALMER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

3 This is just curiosity, and perhaps I missed it.
4 I'm not sure if I did. My apologies.

5 So seldom do we see transmission lines that are
6 not higher than 230, 340, 500kV lines. I'm assuming this
7 115/130, is that a result of the system they're
8 interconnecting with?

9 MR. BARNES: It is. AEPCO's typical voltage in
10 this area is 115, and TEP's also 138.

11 MEMBER PALMER: Thank you.

12 CHMN. KATZ: Any other Committee Members have
13 any questions?

14 You may proceed.

15 MS. GRABEL: Thank you, Chairman Katz. Thank
16 you, Mr. Barnes.

17 Are you ready, Mr. Lindsey?

18 A. (MR. LINDSEY) Yes, I'm ready, Ms. Grabel.

19 Q. Please state your name and business address for
20 the record.

21 A. (MR. LINDSEY) My name is Chris Lindsey, and my
22 business address is 4350 East Irvington Road, Tucson,
23 Arizona 85714.

24 Q. By whom are you employed and in what capacity?

25 A. (MR. LINDSEY) I'm employed by Tucson Electric

1 Power, and I'm the director of our transmission and
2 distribution planning department.

3 Q. What is your role in this matter?

4 A. (MR. LINDSEY) I'm representing TEP as an
5 intervenor in support of the project and the application.

6 Q. You have before you several exhibits. Do you
7 see those?

8 A. (MR. LINDSEY) Yes, I do.

9 Q. If you would please turn to Exhibit TEP-1, which
10 is the testimony summary of Chris Lindsey.

11 Do you have that?

12 A. (MR. LINDSEY) I have that.

13 Q. Have you seen this document before?

14 A. (MR. LINDSEY) Yes, I have.

15 Q. Was it prepared by you or under your direction
16 and control?

17 A. (MR. LINDSEY) Yes, it was.

18 Q. And does the summary accurately convey the
19 testimony that you will present to the Committee today?

20 A. (MR. LINDSEY) Yes, it does.

21 Q. And please turn to Exhibit TEP-2, which is the
22 witness presentation of Chris Lindsey.

23 A. (MR. LINDSEY) Okay.

24 Q. Have you seen this document before?

25 A. (MR. LINDSEY) Yes, I have.

1 Q. Was it prepared by you or under your direction
2 and control?

3 A. (MR. LINDSEY) Yes, it was.

4 Q. Is the information contained in the presentation
5 true and correct to the best of your knowledge?

6 A. (MR. LINDSEY) Yes, it is.

7 Q. Do you have any corrections you'd like to make
8 to your presentation?

9 A. (MR. LINDSEY) No, I do not.

10 Q. Okay. Please begin.

11 A. (MR. LINDSEY) Thank you, Ms. Grabel.

12 Chairman Katz --

13 CHMN. KATZ: Yes, sir.

14 A. (MR. LINDSEY) -- Committee Members, as
15 mentioned, my name is Chris Lindsey. I'm the director of
16 our TEP planning department. I have a Bachelor's of
17 Science degree from the University of Arizona in
18 electrical engineering. I'm also a registered
19 professional engineer in the state of Arizona. And I've
20 been employed at TEP for just over 15 years. Most all of
21 that time has been spent in the planning -- system
22 planning department. I've held several positions and
23 including my most current role as director since 2018.

24 So here's a quick overview of the testimony I
25 plan to provide today. I'll touch base on TEP, some

1 high-level -- high-level information for TEP, the project
2 purpose and need. And you may hear me call this the
3 Marana area substation For TEP. I'll show some -- I'll
4 get to the detail in a few here, but it's a bit
5 confusing.

6 AEPCO has an existing Marana Substation that
7 Mr. Barnes talked about and shows up in these maps. We
8 also have plans for a Marana Substation, but we're going
9 to be changing that name as soon as we identify the
10 specific substation location. So I'll be referring to
11 that as Marana area sub. If there's any questions about
12 that, feel free to ask. It's been a bit of a confusing
13 point for us over the years.

14 Also touch base here today on the studies we've
15 been conducting in this area that justify the substation
16 and transmission line, talk a little bit about our
17 opportunity to partner with AEPCO, and, finally, provide
18 some conclusions and next steps for TEP.

19 Okay. So talking a little bit about TEP, as you
20 can see on this map here, our service territory is
21 identified in the -- the blue or purple outlined area.
22 It encompasses roughly 1155 square miles. Within that
23 service territory, we serve over 1 million -- a
24 population of over 1 million, roughly, 450,000 customers
25 within that population. 2427-megawatts of peak load,

1 which is summer -- a peak we set last summer. And within
2 this area, we've highlighted our existing 138kV system as
3 we were talking about extending that into the Marana
4 service -- service territory.

5 You can see -- I'll try to highlight it here
6 with the button. We've marked our potential substation
7 area with the star in the upper left-hand side of the
8 map. That's our -- what we'll refer to as our load
9 center for the future Marana area substation.

10 MEMBER GRINNELL: Mr. Chairman?

11 CHMN. KATZ: Yes, Member Grinnell.

12 MEMBER GRINNELL: Your additional substation,
13 that is not part of this CEC, though. Am I correct?

14 MR. LINDSEY: That is correct. It's not.

15 Okay. Moving on to the -- the purpose and need
16 of our future project here.

17 The new 138kV Marana area substation and loop
18 transmission line will support existing and future
19 customers. A number of those benefits are outlined here.
20 So this new substation will -- will drastically improve
21 system reliability in the area by providing a looped
22 source, and I'll talk about that on the next slide to
23 show the detail. Improved service voltage to our
24 customers. So existing service today during the summer
25 when we have peak loads, we have some low-voltage issues

1 that we're -- that we're dealing with, and we're actually
2 installing -- in the process of installing some temporary
3 mobile substation equipment in the area. That's
4 scheduled to be online next summer to support the load.

5 But we also have a large saturation of
6 distributed generation in this area. So there's some
7 larger commercial facilities and a large number of
8 residential rooftop solar systems that during the
9 shorter months, so light loading, spring and fall
10 periods, overgenerate and backfeed onto our system
11 causing high-voltage issues. So it's not just a -- a
12 single season that we're concerned with in this area.
13 And this substation will help us resolve both peak
14 loading issues as well as accommodate existing and future
15 distributed generation by providing a more robust source
16 into the area.

17 In addition to that, this will provide another
18 interconnection point to our 138kV facilities. There's
19 been a fair amount of interest in the past for developers
20 to build large-scale PV generation in the area, and we
21 don't really have adequate facilities to support that.
22 And so it -- it offers a -- a future point of
23 interconnection into our system which will benefit that
24 development.

25 So I'm going to move on to the next slide here

1 that shows a similar map that you've seen and is on
2 the -- on the map in front of you, but it shows a little
3 more detail. This is specific to the TEP system.

4 So do we have the little green thing? I can use
5 the Zoom thing. Okay.

6 So you can see our service territory, and what
7 we're considering our substation service area here is
8 identified in the red dash. And you've seen the -- the
9 green new proposed transmission line running through the
10 area. Also identified, our substation siting area. So
11 this is where we're looking to construct our future
12 Marana area substation.

13 And just adjacent to that is that star we talked
14 about just a few slides ago. That's our -- our area --
15 or our -- what do we call it? This is our load center
16 for our future substation. So if you do a -- a load
17 serving study for this entire service territory, that
18 load center pops up right there where that star is
19 located. By developing a substation in this area, it
20 brings a lot of efficiencies locating it just adjacent to
21 that load center.

22 You can also see our existing 46kV
23 infrastructure that serves the area today. As Ms. Grabel
24 mentioned, we're looking to retire these facilities with
25 this project. The existing area that you see here in red

1 is presently served by this single lateral seven and a
2 half substation, which is sourced out of our North Loop
3 sub, which is just off the map along this radial 46kV
4 line.

5 So by -- by constructing a new substation that
6 has additional capacity -- right now -- where's the green
7 thing, if we have it? Okay.

8 And I'm -- I guess the folks on Zoom won't be
9 able to see this, but following the new proposed line
10 here, we can interconnect, oh, and intercept one of our
11 existing Tortolita to North Loop 138kV lines. So
12 along -- I'll try to do them both here so everybody's
13 getting the picture.

14 Along this corridor, we have four existing 138kV
15 transmission lines, and the project will be intercepting
16 one of those lines to loop in to this substation, which,
17 again, is -- is proposed. We still have not acquired the
18 land for this substation, and that's -- that's why we're
19 simply looking to extend our transmission here for now.
20 Once we finalize that acquisition, which we're getting
21 close to, we'll be looking to site a line -- do this
22 twice, -- site a -- continue the loop here and site the
23 line back to the corridor.

24 So what we need to do is intercept one of these
25 existing, like I mentioned, and loop through back down

1 the North Loop. So that'll create that looped service to
2 our future sub. I'll get it to highlight. Okay. So our
3 new line will come around into the substation and back
4 out to the corridor.

5 Now, we have not started that siting process, so
6 we don't have a route identified. Once we do acquire
7 this land, that's when we're going to start that process.
8 But we have had some preliminary conversations with the
9 Town of Marana over the years. They're aware of what
10 we're looking to do here for the substation, and they did
11 provide some verbal feedback that when we do get ready to
12 site that line back to the corridor, to look at
13 considering some of our existing 46kV alignment and
14 infrastructure to get back to the corridor.

15 CHMN. KATZ: Yes, Mr. Haenichen.

16 MEMBER HAENICHEN: I'm a little bit confused.
17 You work for TEP?

18 MR. LINDSEY: Yes, sir.

19 MEMBER HAENICHEN: Okay. That's why you kept
20 saying "our substation."

21 Okay. Thank you. Okay. Go ahead.

22 MR. LINDSEY: Okay. So I think that covers the
23 details for us here on the TEP side of things. And --
24 and as Ms. Grabel mentioned earlier, with the
25 construction of this substation here, we're going to be

1 able to retire our -- our older 46kV substation and --
2 and in line.

3 MEMBER GRINNELL: Mr. Chairman?

4 CHMN. KATZ: Yes, Mr. Grinnell.

5 MEMBER GRINNELL: Mr. Lindsey, when do you
6 expect to come back to the Committee with your updated
7 information and application?

8 MR. LINDSEY: I got everybody's name written
9 down because I can't see anything.

10 Committee Member Grinnell, we are -- it's all
11 going to be based on acquiring that substation parcel.
12 Like I mentioned, we're very close to -- to that point.
13 But we are anticipating likely coming -- or starting this
14 process in 2023. So starting the public outreach and the
15 analysis early part of next year and being in front of
16 the Committee next year, in '23, in anticipation of a
17 project in-service date in '25 or '26.

18 MEMBER GRINNELL: Thank you.

19 MR. LINDSEY: It's not wanting to go next. If
20 you don't mind moving it forward a few slides.

21 Okay. We just wanted to offer -- or provide a
22 quick recap on the project studies we've conducted in
23 this area. We initially identified the need for this
24 area, for this Marana area substation, as far back as
25 20- -- 2007, about 15 years ago. The -- the need was

1 identified pre-recession. There's a -- there's been
2 projected load growth, both residential, commercial,
3 industrial, in this area for some time. The recession
4 did slow that development down and has required us to
5 defer to the project, but the development's back.

6 We -- we're -- we have some existing system
7 issues we're managing. We're also, like I mentioned
8 earlier, installing some temporary substation equipment
9 to help support that in anticipation of this new project
10 getting built. We also, as far back as 2007, have
11 detailed this project in some fashion in our Ten-Year
12 Plans. It's -- it's likely had a few different names.
13 We've evaluated different ways to interconnect this
14 substation, but generally speaking, we've referred to
15 this as the Tortolita to Marana -- which, again, that
16 Marana Substation name will change. So next time we're
17 in front of the Committee we'll likely have a real
18 substation name -- to North Loop.

19 We also identified this -- a need for new
20 facilities in this area in our 2008 load saturation
21 study. So that study looked at full build-out of all
22 existing parcels. And when we look at the future
23 potential for load growth in this area at full build-out,
24 it's -- it's significant and most definitely justifies a
25 new substation and transmission line.

1 We updated and refreshed that study in 2018, and
2 it, again, identified the need for a future 138kV
3 substation with more capacity. And we also finalized and
4 updated that area study I mentioned that identified --
5 and I'll point to it off -- off the map here. I can
6 actually go back a few here -- identified this as that
7 load center.

8 So we are -- continue to identify the need for a
9 different -- additional infrastructure to provide
10 reliable service to this area.

11 MEMBER HAENICHEN: Mr. Chairman?

12 CHMN. KATZ: Yes, Member Haenichen.

13 MEMBER HAENICHEN: What is the voltage of the
14 existing TEP lateral substation?

15 MR. LINDSEY: Let's see. Committee Member
16 Haenichen, our existing lateral seven-and-a-half
17 substation located right here is a 46kV high-side, 13.8kV
18 distribution substation.

19 MEMBER HAENICHEN: Okay. So that's how you're
20 getting the additional capacity, is raising the voltage;
21 right?

22 MR. LINDSEY: Yes, sir. So we will be
23 increasing the voltage to 138kV on the source side. As
24 well as comparison from a substation equipment
25 standpoint, there's one 25MVA transformer that exists

1 here at lateral seven and a half. This new substation
2 will be sized to accommodate up to three 75MVA
3 transformers.

4 Now, one -- if we ever see that, that's in the
5 future, but initially we'll be installing two to give us
6 multiple sources on -- on both the transmission and
7 substation transformer -- transformer perspective. It
8 allows us to conduct maintenance much easier. It won't
9 be interrupting customers or deal with unplanned outages
10 at many levels.

11 MEMBER HAENICHEN: Thank you.

12 BY MS. GRABEL:

13 Q. Mr. Lindsey, before you progress to the next
14 slide, can you please take a look really quickly at
15 AEPCO's Exhibit Number 6, which I put in the binder for
16 you.

17 A. (MR. LINDSEY) Let me just look at it here.

18 Q. And you mentioned here on slide 11 that the --
19 this project, from TEP's perspective, has been in your
20 Ten-Year Plan since 2007; is that correct?

21 A. (MR. LINDSEY) Yes, that's correct.

22 Q. Please identify for the record AEPCO Exhibit
23 Number 6.

24 A. (MR. LINDSEY) Okay. This is the TEP Ten-Year
25 Plan filed January 31st, 2022. It covers years 2022 to

1 2031.

2 Q. Has TEP filed similar Ten-Year Plans containing
3 this project since 2007?

4 A. (MR. LINDSEY) Yes, we have.

5 Q. Thank you.

6 A. (MR. LINDSEY) Okay. So a couple -- a couple
7 highlights to mention here on the opportunity to partner
8 with AEPCO. So both Mr. Barnes and I have talked about
9 some of these details on the project. This
10 double-circuit transmission line between AEPCO via --
11 between the AEPCO Adonis and TEP Marana area substation
12 reduces the impact to the Town of Marana and surrounding
13 areas. By double-circuiting, this -- this specific route
14 here, we eliminate the need for additional transmission
15 lines. Ultimately I -- or ideally I would say -- and
16 I'll jump back. Here.

17 Ideally when we construct our transmission
18 system, we're talking about reliability and redundancy,
19 and to loop in and -- from our existing line in and out
20 of this Marana area substation takes two lines. And, you
21 know, there's several options to consider if we were
22 looking at this, constructing this project on our own.

23 You may think building on a common pole line
24 would most definitely have less impact on the town from
25 an infrastructure perspective, but it doesn't offer the

1 same reliability as separating these lines on -- on
2 separate pole lines.

3 So this line will run into the Town area and
4 is -- is susceptible to unplanned outages, like car hits
5 or pole hits by vehicles. And that may require us to
6 make repairs, which would likely require us to
7 de-energize one of these lines. So by siting
8 double-circuit here with AEPCO, we get one of the sources
9 on this pole line, and then our future line, like we
10 talked about, that will exit the Town and reconnect, it
11 will be on an entirely separate pole line offering that
12 reliability we're looking -- looking for for the Town.

13 A couple other things to mention. As mentioned
14 previously, this double circuit will reduce the overall
15 project -- project costs for AEPCO as well as TEP and our
16 various ratepayers. And the partnership builds on past
17 project successes.

18 So we've had -- we've worked with AEPCO in the
19 past on several projects and -- and had very good luck
20 partnering with them, and so this just builds on that --
21 on that history.

22 Okay. In conclusion, the project will improve
23 reliability and capacity in this area of our service
24 territory, it will support additional distributed
25 degeneration connections, it will support future utility

1 scale generation development, and as mentioned,
2 partnering with AEPCO will reduce the overall cost and
3 environmental impacts.

4 MEMBER HAENICHEN: Mr. Chairman?

5 CHMN. KATZ: Mr. Haenichen.

6 MEMBER HAENICHEN: There's a question for you,
7 Mr. Lindsey. Does -- to your knowledge, does AEPCO have
8 any generation?

9 MR. LINDSEY: Committee Member Haenichen, I -- I
10 believe they're a T -- a G&T Cooperative, so I believe
11 they have generation, but I don't know the specific
12 details.

13 MEMBER HAENICHEN: Thank you.

14 MR. LINDSEY: Okay. So next steps.

15 Like I've mentioned, finalizing the TEP Marana
16 area substation location, this is the top of our list
17 right now. We're working very hard with -- and I will
18 jump back one more time here for the Zoom.

19 We're working very hard to finalize that land
20 acquisition in this blue substation siting area to
21 support the future substation. And once we get that land
22 acquisition complete, we'll be starting our -- our CEC
23 process and looking to obtain a CEC to complete the 138kV
24 loop into the area substation back to the existing
25 Tortolita to North Loop corridor as mentioned. And we

1 plan to be back in front of the Committee with sufficient
2 time to support an in-service date of the substation in
3 2025 or 2026.

4 Be happy to take any other questions.

5 CHMN. KATZ: Anything from any of our other
6 Committee Members?

7 Ms. Grabel.

8 MS. GRABEL: Okay. Thank you. Thank you,
9 Mr. Lindsey.

10 I think we're ready for our virtual tour, which
11 we could probably do before the 2:30 break, if you'd like
12 to proceed that way.

13 CHMN. KATZ: We can go up to -- even up 2:40 or
14 so, so --

15 MS. GRABEL: Okay. Excellent.

16 So kind of manning our virtual tour is going to
17 be Mr. Randall Simpson from Burns & McDonnell. So I will
18 ask the court reporter -- or Mr. Chairman, please, to
19 swear in Mr. Simpson.

20 CHMN. KATZ: Would you prefer an oath or an
21 affirmation?

22 MR. SIMPSON: Oath, please.

23 CHMN. KATZ: Do you swear -- raise your right
24 hand, please.

25 ///

1 RANDALL SIMPSON,
2 a witness on behalf of the Applicant, having
3 been duly sworn by the Chairman to speak the truth and
4 nothing but the truth, was examined and testified as
5 follows:

6

7 CHMN. KATZ: You may proceed.

8 MS. GRABEL: Thank you.

9

10 DIRECT EXAMINATION

11 BY MS. GRABEL:

12 Q. Mr. Simpson, please state your name and business
13 address for the record.

14 A. (MR. SIMPSON) My name is Randall Simpson. My
15 business address is 1850 North Central Avenue, Suite 800,
16 Phoenix, Arizona, 85004.

17 Q. By whom are you employed and in what capacity?

18 A. (MR. SIMPSON) I'm employed with Burns &
19 McDonnell. We are an engineering consulting firm. And
20 my job title is senior project manager, and I work
21 primarily in the consulting field for energy
22 infrastructure projects.

23 Q. You have before you a book of the exhibits that
24 we're using in this proceeding. If you could, please,
25 turn to AEPCO-10.

1 A. (MR. SIMPSON) Yes.

2 Q. So AEPCO-10 is sort of a placeholder for the
3 virtual tour in this matter, which was contained on thumb
4 drives that were presented to the committee and available
5 to the project website; is that correct?

6 A. (MR. SIMPSON) Yes, it is.

7 Q. For the virtual tour, was it prepared by you or
8 under your direction and control?

9 A. (MR. SIMPSON) Yes, it was.

10 Q. How was the tour prepared?

11 A. (MR. SIMPSON) We prepared the tour using a
12 combination of video technology, current aerial imagery,
13 and some software programs that allow us to bring this
14 data together and produce a video that runs concurrently
15 from the eastern portion of the study area near the
16 planned Adonis Substation to the west towards Marana.

17 And I can provide more details on some of those
18 materials if needed, but it's fairly conventional
19 software and materials that have -- that are used for
20 these types of projects.

21 Q. Have you visited the location that the tour --
22 the virtual tour depicts?

23 A. (MR. SIMPSON) Yes. I've been in the field on
24 several occasions, and some of the imagery that I've
25 taken photographs are integrated into this virtual tour

1 to give the -- the Committee and participants a pretty
2 good ground-level perspective of what they may see in the
3 project area.

4 Q. And do you believe then that the tour -- the
5 virtual tour represents a realistic view of the landscape
6 surrounding the CEC application?

7 A. (MR. SIMPSON) Yes, it does.

8 Q. Please begin the virtual tour.

9 A. (MR. SIMPSON) Thank you.

10 So, as I mentioned, we're going to have a video
11 tour that runs six and a half minutes. I'm going to make
12 a couple of pauses here and there. But the project area
13 that is going to show on the screen is the same project
14 area that's depicted in the CEC application. It
15 represents about 43 square miles, approximately two miles
16 around each of the proposed route alternative.

17 What you'll note on the video is the green line
18 represents the centerline of the proposed route as well
19 as the 300-foot wide corridor that we are seeking. The
20 applicant is, as I mentioned, planning on connecting from
21 the planned Adonis Substation, which is in the eastern
22 portion of the project area, transitioning to the west
23 towards the Marana Substation.

24 So the first place we're going to stop is
25 actually at the planned Adonis Substation location. And

1 I just want to highlight a couple things that might be a
2 little bit hard to see in the photo. But the corridor
3 that Mr. Barnes and Mr. Lindsey have referenced where
4 there's existing transmission lines are located on this
5 southwestern side of -- of the planned Adonis Substation.

6 So this view is at North Owl Head Ranch Road,
7 and I'm looking towards the southeast. And this desert
8 scrub area would be the future location for the Adonis
9 Substation which will butt up against the existing
10 transmission line corridor.

11 So as we continue westward along Owl -- Owl Head
12 Ranch Road, you'll see one of the things that -- that's
13 unique about this route is we are located on existing
14 roadways for the entire length of the project. And so
15 this roadway that we're following provides really good
16 access to get into the project area for construction.
17 And you can see how wide that road is and how well
18 maintained it is.

19 One of the advantages of -- of a road like this
20 is going to be minimizing the environmental footprint and
21 the disturbance that might be required to build a line of
22 this nature. So, in essence, the line could be located
23 on either side of this road. Because the road is there,
24 we should be able to minimize how much vegetation or new
25 road is needed to construct the project.

1 So this is a -- a pretty good location from an
2 access standpoint. It helps lower the impacts to --
3 specifically to cultural resources and biological
4 resources. To some degree, visual as well.

5 So as we continue west along Owl Head Ranch
6 Road, we are going to come up on a point where the
7 CAP Canal Trail intersects with the -- the route. And so
8 the CAP Canal has a trail that runs along the eastern
9 side of it, and this particular area's a little ways away
10 from the CAP Canal. And the reason why is the trail has
11 to come out and around the flood control facility that's
12 built on the east side of the canal. So the -- this
13 trail comes a little bit to the east of the canal in this
14 location, but these gates are put here to restrict
15 certain access so vehicles and things of that nature
16 can't drive on the trail, but bikers, hikers, equestrian
17 would be able to travel on the trail.

18 So this is a county -- Pima County trail. And
19 we will have a perpendicular crossing of it fairly
20 minimal, but it is a feature located in the -- the
21 right-of-way.

22 The next location that we're going to stop.
23 Continuing along Owl Head Ranch Road we transition to
24 West Cochise Canyon Trail, about this location, so two
25 different roads there. But we get to the point where,

1 again, we intersect with the CAP Canal. You can see that
2 in the aerial imagery. It's a fairly prominent feature.

3 What you'll notice about the CAP Canal is
4 there's a bridge crossing to get over top of the canal.
5 You'll see in the far distance there's actually a -- a
6 pipe that crosses over top of the canal. This is to
7 convey floodwater from the eastern side of the canal over
8 top of the canal, and it discharges on the west side.
9 And so likely the -- the transmission line is going to be
10 somewhere between the bridge and that pipe crossing. And
11 the idea there is to have minimal effect on the actual
12 canal at all -- itself. And so we'll look to try to
13 optimize that and span that feature, and we'll work with
14 the CAP Canal when the final design is -- is coming
15 about.

16 Heading again westerly, we are now going to
17 travel by the San Lucas Community, which is located just
18 east of I-10 between the CAP Canal and I-10. And, again,
19 there's a defined sort of road corridor along the north
20 side of the subdivision. The area to the right is all
21 state land, so currently undeveloped, desert scrub land.
22 This is an area that potentially has plans for commercial
23 and residential development over the years to come but
24 doesn't have current plans for it right in this -- this
25 general area.

1 One thing you'll note is that subdivision wall
2 that's along the north side provides a pretty good buffer
3 between the -- the right-of-way we're anticipating to --
4 to construct within and the residential community.
5 You'll note also that that residential community is -- is
6 set a little bit below grade, so there is a fair amount
7 of visual protection that that wall also provides. And
8 later on when I do some of my other testimony will show
9 you the simulations, the visual simulations of those
10 conditions.

11 But with that being said, we're going to
12 continue east.

13 CHMN. KATZ: Hold on just a second. I think
14 Member Hamway has a question. And I might depending on
15 what she has.

16 MEMBER HAMWAY: Yes. Thank you.

17 Yes, Mr. Simpson. Yes, sorry.

18 Yes. Oh, wrong one.

19 Mr. Simpson, so what is -- what is your estimate
20 of how close the -- closest home will be to the line?

21 MR. SIMPSON: I may have Mr. Barnes answer that.
22 The corridor that's showing in the green on the image is
23 300 feet wide. So it starts at the south end of the
24 subdivision, and so it could be within that corridor
25 that -- that AEPCO is requesting.

1 I'll let Mr. Barnes explain some of the details
2 on that.

3 MEMBER HAMWAY: So are we -- sorry. Wrong
4 button.

5 Are we looking at the corridor where the line
6 will go? Is that what we're looking at?

7 MR. SIMPSON: We're approximately centered on
8 that corridor. We're probably a little bit bias maybe to
9 the south side, but 300 feet would start at the wall and
10 go north. So you're probably looking at the first 150 to
11 200 feet, and then it's going to go further out than that
12 ultimately.

13 MEMBER HAMWAY: So -- and these residents were
14 all noticed, and they understand that it's going to be
15 100 to 150 feet from their home?

16 MR. SIMPSON: Yeah. We had a -- and we'll get
17 into the details of that, but we had a pretty extensive
18 outreach program and mailings to that community. We did
19 get a couple of comments from that community.

20 I personally spoke to one of the residents when
21 I was doing some work out there and talked to them a
22 little bit about this alternative and as well as some
23 others we were considering at that time. We have not
24 heard a great deal from that community. We have not had
25 a lot of objections to anything that's been proposed, but

1 we have had some contact with them.

2 CHMN. KATZ: And let me just ask, this is the
3 only currently existing subdivision in which a line will
4 be of close proximity; is that correct?

5 MR. SIMPSON: Yeah. If you define subdivision
6 as kind of a master-planned community, that would fit
7 that definition there. There are some rural residences
8 in some subdivided land on the other end of the sub- --
9 project -- I'll talk a little bit about those -- but
10 they're -- they're a large lot. They're more sparse.
11 They're spread out a little bit more. But this would
12 be -- you know, as far as a developed community,
13 master-planned community would be the closest.

14 CHMN. KATZ: And the State Trust land is on the
15 other side of the fence, and that's later planned for
16 industrial? Or who owns that land?

17 MR. SIMPSON: Yeah, that is state land. I think
18 the fence line may represent the property boundary, but
19 that could be just where the rancher that leases that
20 state land chose to put it. So I can't be 100 percent
21 certain.

22 If you see that -- you see that fence line right
23 there --

24 CHMN. KATZ: Yes.

25 MR. SIMPSON: -- that kind of continues down the

1 way. I would say somewhere in that general area you're
2 going to find that state land property boundary.

3 Some of what I think is reserved here is there's
4 quite a bit of drainage that happens along this area, and
5 there's a wash that intersects with the community up
6 here. And so some of this -- this road here is used, I
7 think, to maintain that drainage ditch that goes through
8 the community and to, I think, help with make sure
9 there's, you know, appropriate drainage through the
10 community.

11 CHMN. KATZ: And the land to the right, and I
12 don't know if that's the south, that's not planned to be
13 residential; correct?

14 MR. SIMPSON: The San Lucas Community is --
15 we're looking due west, so the San Lucas Community is to
16 the south. The north area is general plans. So long
17 term, the County has plans -- excuse me -- Town of Marana
18 in their long-range plan shows that area for residential
19 development. But the only specific plan -- we'll talk
20 about this in my testimony. I'll show you on a map.
21 There is a -- an approved subdivision closer to the
22 interstate that has some commercial and residential
23 associated with it as well. I'll show you exactly
24 what -- where that is.

25 MEMBER GRINNELL: Mr. Chairman?

1 CHMN. KATZ: Yes, Mr. Grinnell.

2 MEMBER GRINNELL: Is this a floodplain, by any
3 chance?

4 MR. SIMPSON: I don't know if this specific area
5 where the photo is is in a floodplain, but when --
6 there's a drainage -- that pipe that I mentioned that
7 crosses the canal --

8 MEMBER GRINNELL: Right.

9 MR. SIMPSON: -- it drains over to the north of
10 where I'm looking right now and then it runs out to a
11 discharge basin that I believe has been developed
12 somewhat to retain water, and likely to retain water so
13 that it can flow through at a slower rate through the
14 community. And then that wash channel intersects about
15 midway through the subdivision, and then it passes
16 through the community to the south.

17 So I don't know if I would say this particular
18 area's a floodplain, but there is going to be a small
19 drainage that -- that needs to be crossed by this line.

20 MEMBER GRINNELL: Has Pima County Flood Control
21 addressed this concern or commented on this at all?

22 MR. SIMPSON: I don't think we heard specific
23 comments from them. We had some meetings -- and I don't
24 know, Kevin, if -- I can't remember. We talked about
25 floodplains on the -- on the Santa Cruz River. I don't

1 think there was ever discussion on this, if I remember
2 right.

3 MR. BARNES: There was not. All discussion was
4 specific to the Santa Cruz River crossing.

5 MEMBER GRINNELL: I'm just -- I've lived here a
6 long time. Sorry. I happen to know the area a little
7 bit, but I -- I'm just -- for some reason where that
8 canal is with the CAP Canal and then east -- and I could
9 be wrong here -- but I was under the impression that that
10 was always considered in a floodplain.

11 MR. SIMPSON: What is interesting is the CAP
12 Canal, they're -- and you can see it in that picture.

13 MEMBER GRINNELL: Right.

14 MR. SIMPSON: There is a large berm or flood
15 protection dike that has been built on the eastern side
16 to protect all that water that runs off from the
17 Tortolita Mountains this way. So this is actually
18 collected and moved through those pipes over top of the
19 canal and then discharged on the leeward side so that it
20 goes back into more of a natural drainage.

21 So, generally speaking, I think largely because
22 of how that was constructed, I don't think there's a lot
23 of flood concern right in this immediate area. I think
24 if you look at where it intersects and goes through the
25 community, that's where the channel is, and I think

1 that's where most of the water moves through now. And I
2 do think that that was done during the course of the
3 development of that community out of necessity.

4 MEMBER GRINNELL: Okay.

5 MEMBER HAMWAY: So why would the community build
6 below grade? Is that what you were just kind of talking
7 about?

8 MEMBER GRINNELL: Uh-huh.

9 MR. SIMPSON: Yeah. And I don't know. I would
10 say maybe it's not below grade, although it -- it has
11 been graded such that it is a little bit lower. When I
12 think of below grade, I think many, many feet. But it's
13 certainly -- there's an elevation difference there.

14 But I do believe, again, some of that was done
15 to make sure that -- that they could channel some of that
16 water around the -- the edge of the perimeter and get it
17 through the middle of the community without having to,
18 you know, re-channelize that whole central wash. And,
19 you know, it -- it's not clear to me, but there is a
20 little bit of a grade change there.

21 MEMBER HAMWAY: Okay.

22 MR. SIMPSON: So continuing to the west, and
23 then I'll just -- because that question was asked, I'll
24 take a quick pause here again and show you where that
25 drainage is -- is going.

1 So there was a discussion about the location of
2 the -- the pipe crossing over top of the canal. That's
3 the pipe right there. You can see the wash channel. It
4 intersects very close to the subdivision wall, then it
5 pushes back around, and then I believe it -- it goes into
6 this retention basin, and then at that point it is
7 conveyed through the -- the community at a -- I believe
8 what, you know, is probably a slower rate to accommodate
9 the -- the overall discharge.

10 But this was the area where I was saying, again,
11 there -- there is a drainage that we're going to have to
12 span over, and that has some bearing how the line will
13 get designed in that area.

14 MEMBER HAMWAY: Real quick before you leave
15 that. So right at the bottom of the screen, the -- the
16 open area, is that a retention basin?

17 MR. SIMPSON: Down.

18 MEMBER HAMWAY: Move over to the -- to my left.

19 Yeah, right there. Yep.

20 Come back.

21 MR. SIMPSON: Yeah.

22 MEMBER HAMWAY: Right there.

23 MR. SIMPSON: I don't know if I can answer that.
24 I didn't -- I did not investigate that area specifically
25 inside the community. I -- I spent a little more time

1 in -- in these cul-de-sacs and these pocket parks that
2 were along this edge. And I think they have some
3 retention capabilities in a couple of those areas, but I
4 don't know about this area, to be honest with you.

5 MEMBER HAMWAY: Okay.

6 MR. SIMPSON: If we take the route tour, we can
7 perhaps take a -- a quick stop there. We have to drive
8 through that -- that community to get to where we're
9 going. That road that's curved will go right through
10 that area.

11 So continuing on to the west, we're now
12 approaching the crossing of Interstate 10. There was
13 another question about any master-planned communities.
14 And so in this general area, there are two approved
15 subdivisions. One that would occur in this area, most of
16 which the development is showing for commercial; and then
17 another one on the other side that is predominantly
18 residential.

19 But a couple things to note here. Not only are
20 we crossing Interstate 10 here, we have the Union Pacific
21 Railroad and the -- a gas -- natural gas pipeline owned
22 by Kinder Morgan and then a fiberoptic line in here, I
23 think, owned By U.S. Net, I think it is. And so there's
24 quite a few utilities, quite a -- a broad corridor there
25 that we'll be spanning over top of to get to the west

1 side of Interstate 10.

2 And the picture that you're about to see is now
3 taken on the west side of Interstate 10 along the
4 frontage road, and we're actually viewing to the
5 south/southeast in this location. And, again, the line
6 crossing would -- would expect to be right out in this --
7 this general vicinity kind of where the signage is. And
8 it'll be somewhat perpendicular, perhaps a little bit of
9 an angled across the freeway where it intersects. But
10 this will be something that we'll work closely with ADOT,
11 Union Pacific Railroad, and the gas pipeline owner and --
12 and the route line owners for that transition across the
13 freeway.

14 Continuing west along Sanders Road, we're now
15 transitioning to an area that's largely agricultural in
16 nature. This has been production agricultural land for
17 many years. You'll see different crops in different
18 patterns. But this area along West Sagebrush Road then
19 turns south along North Sanders Road and then it travels
20 for about a half mile until we get to West Marana Road.

21 And at this point we'll be heading due west into
22 the substation, the Marana Substation, but I wanted to
23 highlight again, in this picture we are looking north,
24 and you can see some of the development that's in this
25 agricultural area. You can see the -- the distribution

1 lines that are in this agricultural land. They're fairly
2 prolific out here. They serve industrial commercial load
3 growth in some areas, agricultural uses, like irrigation,
4 and then some were residential growth as well. There is
5 a farmstead -- excuse me -- residence located on the east
6 side of this road. Excuse me. The Sanders Road -- or,
7 excuse me -- Sanders Grove development that we talked
8 about is located on the eastern -- or, excuse me -- the
9 western side of -- of Sagebrush Road here in this area.

10 So, again, in the future, this area could
11 develop into a residential community. And we did hear
12 from that landowner. He did not outright object to this
13 route. We had other routes that went further north of
14 this that would have crossed different portions of that
15 community, and he did not want those routes because they
16 would have more directly affected the subdivision. This
17 one would be essentially on the edge or the perimeter of
18 it.

19 CHMN. KATZ: Let me just ask you. The folks
20 that are appearing virtually can't see the map on the
21 right, which is the same as the placemat. But where are
22 we at on that map?

23 In other words, virtual tour's on the left. On
24 the right screen, about what location are we at?

25 MR. SIMPSON: Yeah. So we -- we started here.

1 This was the subdivision where we had some discussion,
2 Interstate 10, and now we are just approaching the corner
3 where we turn and head west along West Marana Road.

4 So the next photo that I show you is going to
5 illustrate the area where Tucson Electric is planning to
6 build their substation.

7 CHMN. KATZ: Thank you.

8 MR. SIMPSON: So that Sanders Grove development
9 that Town of Marana has -- has approved is located in
10 this area, and the Villages at Tortolita is over along
11 this side of the freeway.

12 One of the things Town of Marana told us is in
13 order for those projects to move forward and to
14 accommodate ingress and egress from them, it sounds like
15 one of the things that needs to happen is interchange
16 improvements off of Interstate 10 to provide access to
17 those; and, therefore, they couldn't give us a timeline
18 of when that -- those developments would actually be
19 starting.

20 Theoretically they could start quickly, because
21 they do have some approvals, but they sound to me like
22 there was some transportation access and concerns and
23 issues they had to address before they could do that.

24 Turning to the west, we're going to travel now
25 along West Marana Road through predominantly agricultural

1 land, as I mentioned, and you are going to see a couple
2 areas where we have some farmsteads located adjacent to
3 the road, and in some areas you're going to have some
4 corrals and things of that nature.

5 Again, this is the area that Tucson Electric
6 would look to be siting their future substation. And
7 they are working, as Mr. Lindsey mentioned, with the
8 landowner in this area to figure out where the optimal
9 location is.

10 But, again, a couple things to note here is you
11 have a fairly established right-of-way. You have some
12 distribution power lines that occur throughout this
13 corridor. You have some agricultural infrastructure.
14 You can see the canal on the right side of the photo, but
15 for the most part this area now is fairly open as we
16 travel to the -- the Marana Substation to the west.

17 And I'll point out a couple of areas where,
18 again, we have a few residences as we travel along this
19 corridor.

20 CHMN. KATZ: Member Hamway.

21 MEMBER HAMWAY: What capacity is the existing
22 line that's there? Is that the 46kV line that's going to
23 be disappearing or --

24 MR. SIMPSON: I think that's a smaller
25 distribution line.

1 And Mr. Lindsey might have a better guess at
2 that, but I don't believe it's the 46 at all.

3 MEMBER HAMWAY: Okay. So I guess my question
4 is, it's staying or it will be upgraded?

5 MR. BARNES: It will depend on our final design,
6 Member Hamway. At the stage we are engineering we don't
7 know exactly where the line's going to be, on which side
8 of that centerline it's going to be built on. So I -- I
9 can't answer that question whether that distribution
10 line's going to stay there, and I don't know the voltage
11 of that line.

12 MEMBER HAMWAY: Whose is it?

13 MR. BARNES: My guess is that would be a Trico
14 line.

15 MEMBER HAMWAY: Okay.

16 CHMN. KATZ: Mr. Haenichen.

17 MEMBER HAENICHEN: What is the distribution
18 voltage in that area?

19 MR. BARNES: Member Haenichen, I'm not exactly
20 sure, but I can get you the answer very quickly.

21 Yeah. Is it 25?

22 MR. LINDSEY: Committee Member Haenichen, that
23 should be one of our 13.8kV distribution lines serving
24 that area. As Mr. Barnes points out, though, Trico may
25 have some distribution infrastructure. I can pull up our

1 maps as we continue and confirm, but we do have a
2 distribution in that area that would get basically
3 reconfigured and reused as part of the distribution in
4 the area with the new substation.

5 MEMBER HAENICHEN: Thank you.

6 MR. SIMPSON: So continuing west along
7 West Marana Road, again we're traveling through an area
8 that's largely agricultural. You'll note in a few
9 locations again we have some rural residences. There is
10 one area that there's a -- an automotive type shop
11 located along the south side of the road, again, fairly
12 open. There's some flexibility in which side of the road
13 you -- you can construct on. So, you know, I think
14 that's what the advantages of a -- of this 300-foot wide
15 corridor is going to minimize some of the impacts to
16 these adjacent landowners.

17 On this area, you have a couple of developments
18 again right off the roadways. Most of the buildings are
19 set back well off the road. In some cases there are
20 corrals and outstructures that might be built a little
21 closer to the road, but no permanent structures would
22 likely be displaced or anything of that nature.

23 So we're now approaching the crossing of the
24 Santa Cruz River. And we talked a little bit about, you
25 know, floodplains before. The Santa Cruz River does have

1 a broader floodplain. This particular crossing of a few
2 that we evaluated was the one that Pima County preferred,
3 and they preferred that because they felt like it was
4 going to have the least impact on the Santa Cruz
5 corridor, and that included some conservation lands that
6 the County has in that floodplain corridor at various
7 points along the river.

8 Again, it's -- it's a little hard to see, but
9 you can actually see utility features crossing on -- on
10 both sides of -- of the -- the road here. The main
11 concern here was some of the -- the vegetation removal
12 that may be required to provide clearance between the
13 conductor and the vegetation. Game & Fish is -- has
14 weighed in on this and did not express any significant
15 concerns with the crossing either. And I think, again,
16 it lends itself to good access. Therefore, of all the
17 crossings we looked at, we felt like this would have the
18 least amount of impact to that river corridor.

19 And then there's also the future trail corridor
20 that could get developed along the Santa Cruz River.
21 It's not developed yet here in this location.

22 MEMBER HAENICHEN: Is there always a river flow
23 in that Santa Cruz River?

24 CHMN. KATZ: No.

25 MR. SIMPSON: There's probably two parts to that

1 question and answer. There can be because there's some
2 discharge from an upstream water treatment plant. So I
3 could tell you, from my perspective having visited the
4 site numerous times over the course of 22 months, there
5 was always water in it. But I think largely that water
6 was treated effluent coming out of that discharge from
7 the -- the water treatment facility.

8 So I don't know in every stretch of the river it
9 may not appear that way, but some stretches there is --
10 in the study there is -- seemed like there's water there
11 fairly often.

12 MEMBER HAENICHEN: Thank you.

13 CHMN. KATZ: I think there's two more staffs.

14 But do you need a break, or should we go? Once
15 we finish the tour, we'll take a break.

16 Go ahead.

17 MR. SIMPSON: All right.

18 Continuing west again, we'll cross over top of
19 the Santa Cruz River here and then transition back into
20 another agricultural land area. And, again, it's pretty
21 wide open here, not a lot of land uses adjacent to the
22 road or anywhere.

23 You'll note in the picture coming up here some
24 additional distribution lines that -- that are in this
25 area. This is probably the -- the road that's traveled

1 the most. People use this to commute for some residences
2 far to the west all the way to the interstate here. So
3 I'd say this is an area that probably sees the most
4 traffic, but, you know, it's pretty wide open, pretty
5 slow moving in this area.

6 And now we're going to transition into the
7 Marana Substation. This jog follows a natural gas
8 pipeline corridor, and that corridor runs right adjacent
9 to the substation. It's a little bit hard to see, but
10 you can kind of see that -- that trail, that route right
11 here. That is essentially where the pipeline runs, right
12 up towards the edge of the substation.

13 As you can see, the substation's very well
14 established. There's a number of transmission lines
15 that -- that tie into the substation, and then you have
16 some communication facilities, in this case a cell tower
17 with a number of providers using that particular
18 structure as well. So this is a pretty -- pretty
19 dominant, you know, utility feature in the landscape
20 and -- and I think a pretty good connection point for
21 this project.

22 So in conclusion, you know, wide just over top
23 of the Marana Substation on the opposite side of the road
24 there are some large lot developments in the -- under the
25 jurisdiction of Pima County. So there are residences

1 across the street. We shouldn't have a lot of impact to
2 them due to the nature of the transmission lines that are
3 already in their frontage zone.

4 So that concludes the route tour. And I can
5 either revisit some of those areas or take any more
6 questions.

7 CHMN. KATZ: I think what we'll do is -- it's
8 about a quarter to 3:00. Maybe a couple minutes past.
9 I'd like to start at no later than 3:05, so please be
10 back here promptly. So we'll take a break. If you have
11 any questions to ask of Mr. Simpson regarding the tour,
12 we'll pick back up with that and then we'll move forward.
13 Thank you.

14 MS. GRABEL: Thank you.

15 (Recess from 2:46 p.m. to 3:07 p.m.)

16 CHMN. KATZ: If we could get seated. As soon as
17 everybody's in place, we're going to get started. Again,
18 please be seated.

19 Ms. Grabel.

20 MS. GRABEL: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

21 Chairman, Committee Members, if we're ready to
22 move forward, we will go with panel number 2, which is
23 Mr. Simpson.

24 ///

25 ///

1 RANDALL SIMPSON,
2 a witness as a panel on behalf of the Applicant, having
3 been previously duly sworn by the Chairman to speak the
4 truth and nothing but the truth, was examined and
5 testified as follows:

6

7

DIRECT EXAMINATION

8 BY MS. GRABEL:

9 Q. Mr. Simpson you have already been sworn in. So
10 if you would please turn to Exhibit AEPCO-12, which is
11 your testimony summary in this case.

12 Have you seen this document before?

13 A. (MR. SIMPSON) Yes, I have.

14 Q. Was it prepared by you and under your direction
15 and control?

16 A. (MR. SIMPSON) Yes, it was.

17 Q. Does this testimony summary accurately convey
18 the testimony that you will present to the Committee
19 today?

20 A. (MR. SIMPSON) Yes, it does.

21 Q. Thank you.

22 And if you'll turn now to AEPCO-13, which is the
23 witness presentation of Randall Simpson.

24 Are you there?

25 A. (MR. SIMPSON) Yes.

1 Q. Have you seen this document before?

2 A. (MR. SIMPSON) Yes, I have.

3 Q. Was it prepared by you or under your direction
4 and control?

5 A. (MR. SIMPSON) Yes, is.

6 Q. Is the information contained in this
7 presentation true and correct to the best of your
8 knowledge?

9 A. (MR. SIMPSON) Yes, it is.

10 Q. Do you have any corrections you'd like to make
11 to Exhibit AEPCO-13?

12 A. (MR. SIMPSON) None at this time.

13 Q. Okay. Thank you.

14 Please go ahead and begin your presentation.

15 A. (MR. SIMPSON) Thank you.

16 So earlier I -- I recapped some of my experience
17 and my employment background. Just to add a few points
18 to that, my academic background is I have two degrees;
19 one in landscape architecture, one in environmental
20 design, both from North Dakota State University. I
21 served in various capacities over the course of my
22 30-year career ranging anywhere from business director to
23 senior project manager, consultant, planning manager --
24 environmental planning manager, things of that nature.

25 My career has largely, the last 29 years, been

1 focused on energy infrastructure development, lots of
2 transmission lines, substations, power generation
3 facilities, and in more recently some renewal energy
4 development work as well. I have been the project
5 manager for and testified in previous line siting cases,
6 that included 116, 122, 127, 131, 187, and more recently
7 198. I've also provided some technical studies in
8 support of two other cases that I did not testify at.

9 My role in this project, again, was to conduct
10 the -- the transmission line siting studies that allowed
11 us to identify this proposed route, to do all the work
12 necessary to collect the data and analyze the data
13 relevant to that route, and also to oversee the public
14 engagement process, specifically agency outreach and
15 outreach to the community members in the area. And then
16 ultimately I was responsible for preparing the CEC
17 application and exhibits in association with AEPCO.

18 My testimony today is going to focus on -- on
19 three areas, one of which you've -- you've already heard
20 about. We completed the virtual tour. I'm also going to
21 talk a little bit about the transmission line siting
22 study so you can understand how much work was done prior
23 to getting to this decision.

24 There was a fairly extensive study that was
25 completed over the course of several months, and then

1 that led us to the -- the route selection and then the
2 preparation of all the exhibits associated with the CEC
3 application.

4 More specifically, the siting studies are
5 contained within Exhibit B of the CEC application. Land
6 use and recreation is part of Exhibits A and F,
7 biological resources are contained in Exhibits C and D,
8 visual resources are contained in Exhibit E, cultural
9 resources are also in Exhibit E, existing plans are
10 covered in Exhibit H, and noise and interference is
11 included in Exhibit I.

12 At this time I would also like to point out that
13 we had a subconsultant, WestLand Resources, that was part
14 of our project team. They conducted the biological
15 resource studies, so the content in Exhibit C and D and
16 also the cultural resources portion of Exhibit E. Their
17 firm is a very reputable firm based here in Tucson. They
18 have a lot of experience in this vicinity and with the
19 issues in this area, and they've also done a lot of work
20 with AEPCO in the past. So they were a very valuable
21 part of our team and in helping us conduct this analysis.

22 Also, the noise and interference, the detailed
23 studies were conducted by Sargent & Lundy. That's
24 another engineering firm that also works with AEPCO
25 routinely, and they provided the technical studies

1 related to noise and interference associated with the
2 preliminary design on the project.

3 So specifically I wanted to touch on how we
4 conducted the siting study. The siting study is really a
5 comprehensive process. As I mentioned, we've been at
6 this work for almost 22 months, and the first half of
7 that project process was figuring out where the potential
8 locations for this power line could be. And in order to
9 do that, we conduct our work in different phases. And,
10 as I mentioned, one of the initial phases is identified
11 where the project needs to connect and then establishing
12 a -- a study area that will allow us to evaluate all the
13 data that exists between those two interconnection
14 points.

15 And we actually had two phases that I'll talk
16 about to this siting study. The initial phase started
17 from a -- another substation further away, so it included
18 a much broader area, and then we got to this more refined
19 area in -- in recent months. And that's going to be the
20 focus of what we talk about today. But I can assure you,
21 the amount of data that was collected and analyzed to get
22 to the preferred route was very significant.

23 Once we had some of the routes identified, we
24 did a detailed evaluation -- evaluation for engineering
25 and environmental considerations along each of the route.

1 It's that data that allows AEPCO to actually select a
2 preferred alternative that they feel like not only meets
3 the purpose and need for the project, but meets the
4 environmental -- environmental compatibility requirements
5 of the application.

6 And now we're in the permitting phase, so
7 obviously this -- this permit is crit- -- critical to the
8 advancing into the next stages, which will include
9 detailed design, right-of-way acquisition, and then
10 construction permitting, which will require some
11 additional permits from -- from other entities.

12 As I mentioned, engineering and design is one of
13 the key components of our -- our studies; rights-of-way,
14 making sure we have enough space to build the project,
15 that we have a -- a likely chance that we can secure the
16 needed right-of-way, existing and planned land uses.

17 This area has some development in it and -- and
18 potentially a lot of future development planned for the
19 area, which is partly, you know, what the need is all
20 about for this project.

21 Visual resources is always a key consideration
22 for a study like this. Recreation resources. As I
23 mentioned, we have two kind of main trail corridors that
24 follow Santa Cruz River and the CAP Canal, so we've given
25 consideration to those. Biological and conservation

1 areas, in particular, you know, the upland habitat in the
2 eastern area of the project area. And the Santa Cruz
3 River and some of the agricultural land has some habitat
4 value as well. And then, of course, cultural and
5 archaeological and historical is a key part of this
6 analysis.

7 And one thing we'll talk a little bit about is
8 one of the key reasons that we've ended up with the
9 proposed route is this proposed route really minimizes
10 the impact to some important biological and cultural
11 resources that we identify in this area. And a lot of
12 that -- those occurred -- oh, I'm on the wrong map. A
13 lot of those occurred out near the planned Adonis
14 Substation and to the north of there. So we had some
15 routes that we looked at out there at one point that we
16 thought initially might look good, but it turned out they
17 would be probably the most challenging from a biological
18 and cultural resource standpoint. And we'll talk a
19 little bit about that.

20 So during the study, we conducted a detailed
21 opportunities of constraints analysis. And what that
22 means is we looked at all the different land uses in the
23 area, some of which proposed constraints for development
24 of a transmission line; existing residences,
25 master-planned communities, airports, things of that

1 nature. And then we looked at opportunities which
2 oftentimes are following road rights-of-way; existing
3 transmission line corridors, things of that nature.

4 That is what allowed us to develop a whole range
5 of preliminary route links. And we studied many, many
6 miles of those. And then we went through a process of
7 eliminating some of the ones that performed the worst
8 and recommending others to be carried forward for more
9 detailed study.

10 As I mentioned, Phase 1 of the siting study
11 originally started from a substation called Thornydale,
12 which is located along the same transmission line
13 corridor that Mr. Barnes and Mr. Lindsey had been talking
14 about, but it's several miles to the south.

15 So one of the things that I think this project
16 has benefited from is more work that AEPCO and TEP have
17 done to work out an arrangement where this Adonis
18 Substation could be connected and utilized for the
19 takeoff point which allows sort of almost a direct
20 westerly connection, maybe one of the shorter connections
21 that we evaluated.

22 If we were to connect all the way down to
23 Thornydale, the -- the route length may double. So
24 this -- the way the project played out through the course
25 of this phase, this study area, we had good routes, we

1 had opportunities to look at, we had over 120 miles of
2 routes that could have been chosen, but we kind of moved
3 on to the next phase through the course of that project
4 and came up with a more focused area.

5 We talked about the opportunities of
6 constraints. This is the map that illustrates that
7 larger study area. And you can see the Thornydale
8 Substation was way down here. Our substation is -- is
9 way up here now, in the northern part of the study area,
10 and that's where our study area is primarily focusing.
11 But, you know, this -- this area that we studied earlier
12 in the process included, you know, concerns with the
13 Marana Regional Airport, quite a few residential
14 communities that were developed to the south of where
15 we're at now, as well as some floodplains and other
16 issues associated with the -- the river crossing to the
17 south.

18 So, again, I wanted to emphasize the -- the
19 benefits of going through this broader process is it
20 allowed us to -- to narrow our options and then begin to
21 focus on this Phase 2, which was utilizing the takeoff
22 point from Adonis to Marana. And the revised study area
23 then was about half, so 43 square miles. And that
24 included approximately 30 miles of preliminary route
25 segments that -- that could have been built. And then

1 from that, we identified three routes that would connect
2 east to west.

3 And then from that, after all the
4 considerations, land use, visual resources, the cultural
5 and biological resources, AEPCO identified the proposed
6 route, which I mentioned is -- is fairly direct in terms
7 of how you -- you're able to transition east to west.

8 So, as I mentioned, this was the -- the map
9 where the approximately 30 miles of alternatives could
10 have been utilized and -- and overall these weren't bad
11 alternatives, but I would highlight that the area that we
12 had the most issue with, where we would have more
13 substantial impacts, were these northern routes coming
14 out of Adonis. There's a -- a substantial number of very
15 significant cultural resources out in this -- this area
16 and then there's not lot of good access out here. So
17 biological resources had more concerns because we had to
18 build a lot more roads out in that area and created more
19 disturbance in that area.

20 So although initially we thought that -- that
21 might be a pretty good option to -- to go north, it ended
22 up performing lower from an environmental compatibility
23 standpoint due to the sensitivity of biological and
24 cultural resources. And I feel like the proposed route
25 does the best job of minimizing the overall footprint,

1 reducing the miles of -- of route that are going to be
2 built, and taking advantage of the roads and access that
3 occur almost the entire length of that route. And that's
4 really how this preferred route was identified, looking
5 at a whole range of -- of options and issues out in the
6 area.

7 So to get into the discussion with each of the
8 exhibits, more specifically we'll talk about each one of
9 these. Exhibit A of the CEC application is -- is land
10 use resources, which includes both an assessment of
11 existing land uses as well as proposed or planned land
12 uses.

13 I'm going to show you a couple maps here in a
14 minute, and I'll recap some of this information, but by
15 and large this area is almost predominantly private land.
16 So approximately 68 percent of the study area was private
17 land; federal, mainly the area along the CAP Canal that's
18 owned by the Bureau of Reclamation, was 5 percent; state
19 land is approximately 23 percent; and then municipal,
20 largely being the Pima County, was about 4 percent.

21 Two of the key plans that were referenced in the
22 participants in the process were Pima County and the Town
23 of Marana. Pima Prospers Comprehensive Plan is dated
24 2015, and there's some addendums that go along with that
25 that we've reviewed. And then the Make Marana 2040

1 General Plan is fairly recent, as of 2019. And we did
2 receive a couple of updates on those during our -- our
3 meetings and discussions with the County and the Town of
4 Marana.

5 As I mentioned, just to illustrate this map,
6 this is Figure -- Exhibit A1, land ownership, that is
7 included in the -- in the CEC Exhibit 8. This area over
8 here is what I referred to as the prominent area where we
9 have state land and also the federal land that's shown in
10 yellow. The -- the light gray areas are the private
11 lands. And then we have a little bit more state land
12 over on the western portion of the study area that's a
13 little bit to the south side of our proposed route. But
14 you can see predominantly the route that we're proposing
15 is going to be on private land.

16 Also to illustrate the jurisdiction in the
17 area -- this is Exhibit A2, which is also included in the
18 CEC application -- the area shown in green on the west
19 end of the study area under the Marana Substation is
20 under the jurisdiction of Pima County. And then the area
21 shown in tan, which is the eastern two-thirds of the
22 project area essentially east of the Santa Cruz River, is
23 all under the jurisdiction of the Town of Marana.

24 MEMBER LITTLE: Mr. Chairman?

25 CHMN. KATZ: Yes, Member Little.

1 MEMBER LITTLE: I have a question about the TEP
2 substation siting area.

3 Does TEP own that land, or have you negotiated
4 with the owners the use of it? How -- how firm is that
5 commitment to that?

6 MR. LINDSEY: Yeah, Committee Member Little.
7 This is Chris Lindsey from TEP. We are in the final
8 stages of that land acquisition and negotiation.

9 We -- just a little bit of detail, we're not
10 looking to acquire that entire blue carve-out there.
11 It's a -- it's a small subset. We've just identified
12 that as the area that we're looking to acquire land. So
13 we're not quite final, but we are in the final stages.

14 CHMN. KATZ: Are you looking --

15 MEMBER LITTLE: Thank you.

16 CHMN. KATZ: Are you looking to purchase that or
17 obtain an easement?

18 MR. LINDSEY: Chairman Katz, yes, we're looking
19 to purchase the land.

20 MEMBER LITTLE: Thank you.

21 MEMBER PALMER: Mr. Chairman?

22 CHMN. KATZ: Yes.

23 MEMBER PALMER: If I might, I got a text from
24 Member French some -- not the witnesses. Some of us he
25 was having trouble hearing. And if we could get closer

1 to our mics, that would be helpful.

2 CHMN. KATZ: And that was Mr. Palmer.

3 And I'll try to stay close to mine as well.

4 MR. SIMPSON: To continue on with the land use
5 studies, as I mentioned, we did inventory a number of
6 different features out there that are existing. We have
7 some residential development, both a developed community,
8 which is the San Lucas Community located just east of
9 Interstate 10 along West Cochise Canyon Trail -- I'll
10 show you again what we'll transition on a map, and I'll
11 show you where these are. We also have some rural homes
12 out in the residential -- agricultural lands that are --
13 that are dispersed along a portion of the -- of the route
14 in the agricultural lands.

15 As I mentioned, agricultural land is a
16 predominant of the makeup of the land just to the west of
17 Interstate 10 between the Santa Cruz River and the
18 freeway, and then to some degree on the west side of the
19 Santa Cruz River as well.

20 There are some commercial developments primarily
21 near the interchange of I-10 and West Marana Road.
22 That's, you know, really the only close access point off
23 the freeway in this area. So it's further south than
24 where our route is. We don't have any direct effects to
25 that, but there is some commercial development in that

1 area.

2 Recreation resources that I mentioned are
3 primarily the existing CAP Canal, which has been
4 developed and Pima County has in their planning
5 documents, and then the Juan Bautista National Scenic
6 Trail, which is planned along the actual Santa Cruz River
7 corridor. And, you know, that -- that could be
8 implemented over the course of many years as funding is
9 available and support is available for that.

10 The area to the east of the Interstate 10 again,
11 as I had mentioned, is largely undeveloped. When you get
12 to the area near CAP Canal, there's potential for that to
13 be developed long term but no specific plans once you get
14 past the San Lucas Community.

15 We have a -- a major transportation corridor in
16 Interstate 10. The cross is through the -- the middle
17 portion of the study area from northwest to southeast.
18 That also includes the Union Pacific Railroad on the east
19 side of the freeway as well as the pipeline corridor and
20 the fiberoptic line corridor that I mentioned earlier.
21 So that's a pretty notable linear feature that -- that
22 we'll be crossing over.

23 So just to recap a few of these on the map so
24 you -- you know exactly where these are occurring, the
25 San Lucas Community is this development right in this

1 area, essentially along Link Segment 50. So it's between
2 the CAP Canal and Interstate 10. We will not directly
3 cross any portion of that community. We'll be to the
4 northern edge of it. So we'll not have any direct
5 physical land displacement of any -- any of that
6 community.

7 The agricultural lands, as I mentioned, are --
8 are in this area all shown in green. And you can see
9 some of these yellow boxes, and those yellow boxes are
10 the -- the rural residential lots that exist along the
11 route. So you can see a few of them beginning kind of on
12 the Link 190 area, and then transitioning into Link 250
13 just before you get to the freeway.

14 And then on the opposite side of our Marana
15 Substation, we will not be crossing into this area, and
16 there's a pretty good buffer between all the existing
17 transmission lines coming into Marana Substation, but
18 there are some large lot developments in Pima County on
19 the west side of Trico/Marana Road -- or, excuse me --
20 North Trico Road.

21 On -- and, again, I mentioned the river
22 corridor, predominant, you know, recreation, slash,
23 riparian corridor in this area. And the CAP Canal
24 located in -- in this area here as well.

25 This particular exhibit, A3, is also included in

1 this CEC application. It's a little bit larger scale, so
2 you might be able to read it a little bit better in the
3 application than -- than on your slide handout. All
4 these maps are a little larger scale in the application.

5 We talked about future land use in particular, I
6 think the two things to consider primarily are the
7 residential community, Sanders Road, and the Villages at
8 Tortolita that we talked about. They also have a little
9 bit of commercial development associated with them. And
10 then we've got the -- the recreation corridor along the
11 CAP Canal and potentially along the Santa Cruz River.

12 Again, just for reference, this community that
13 is north of the San Lucas Community, north of our
14 Link 50, is the Villages at Tortolita. That is an
15 approved master-planned community that the Town of Marana
16 has approved some years ago.

17 Across the road is the Sanders Road development,
18 which has also been approved. And you can see that
19 occurs along the western side of Link 100 and the
20 northern side of Link 120. So we will not be directly
21 crossing through it.

22 Some of the other alternatives that we
23 considered would have potentially crossed through more of
24 those future development plans, depending upon which
25 route you pick. But, again, we felt like this route also

1 avoided impacts to these future planned communities. To
2 the extent possible, we try to be right on the southern
3 edge of each one of those so we would not affect them
4 directly.

5 The area in the agricultural lands, you know,
6 over time -- you know, we can't be certain how long it
7 would take, but over time this area could likely
8 transition into more residential development, both sides
9 of the freeway. And that's just going to be dictated by,
10 you know, economic concerns and -- and demand for housing
11 and things of that nature.

12 The Pinal Airpark is located some distance off
13 our map here, but they do have a large, you know,
14 commercial employment type plan for the area. So that
15 could provide a lot of jobs and future opportunities for
16 people who might live in this area. It's well away from
17 our alternative, but I did want to point that out. I
18 thought that in our earlier part of our studies that was
19 a notable resource in the area. That large area around
20 Pinal Airpark, you could see a lot of economic
21 development.

22 So in -- in summary, for the assessment, the
23 majority of the impacts for land use would be low to
24 moderate, and we do not directly impact any physical
25 structures or homes or things of that nature. Same for

1 the future development. We believe that most of this
2 route could be accommodated on the edges of road
3 right-of-way and not displace a lot of uses at all.

4 Of course, we do have a couple of areas where
5 impacts could be a little bit higher if we have to,
6 perhaps, displace some of the fence lines around some of
7 those rural residences where they have corrals or
8 outstructures. A lot of times you can avoid that or you
9 can span over those, but there is a little bit of a
10 chance where you could have some impact there.

11 And then, again, we do have some crossings of
12 two trail corridors. Again, we're -- we're minimizing
13 that by -- by perpendicular crossings. They're very
14 short. And I think the way we're crossing those with
15 the -- the existing infrastructure that's in place, I
16 don't think we're going to have a significant impact on
17 those trails.

18 Then again, I would like to highlight that we --
19 we parallel existing road rights-of-way and utility lines
20 for the majority of this route. And it is one of the
21 most direct routes that we considered. And overall that
22 reduced the volume of land use impacts that we would
23 expect from a project like this.

24 Exhibit C and D are biological wealth and
25 biological resources. These are also contained in our

1 application. And the data that was collected was
2 collected from a number of different sources, secondary
3 sources as well as field verification. And there was a
4 lot of data that was readily available that we were able
5 to get from the Arizona Game & Fish Department, U.S. Fish
6 and Wildlife Service, as well as knowledge of the area
7 from -- from projects in this general vicinity.

8 We were fortunate enough, as I mentioned, to
9 have biologists that have experience and -- in working in
10 these areas; the Santa Cruz River, the upland areas, so
11 they were able to really hone in on the issues that were
12 important and collect the data that -- that, you know,
13 allowed us to understand which routes would be the most
14 viable for -- from a habitat standpoint and from
15 affecting any of the species that might occur in the
16 area.

17 And, again, I want to emphasize that the biology
18 team had been out in the field and also reviewed the
19 alignment and that, you know, gave us some concurrence of
20 what some of the -- the data that we had collected was
21 going to result in.

22 I'm going to show you a map in a minute, but
23 just again for summary, the habitat evaluation included
24 approximately 77 and a half percent agriculture land or
25 highly other modified lands. That tends to, you know, be

1 a little less supportive of -- of unique or biological
2 wealth resources. 12.5 percent was relatively intact,
3 desert upland. That does provide better habitat. That's
4 the area east of the CAP Canal. And 10 percent was the
5 Santa Cruz River riparian corridor and floodplain along
6 the river, which also provided some habitat value.
7 Certainly more notable than some of the other areas.
8 95 percent of the proposed route parallels existing
9 roads, so that's improved and unimproved.

10 And, again, the conclusion was the proposed
11 route of all of the routes that we considered would
12 minimize the impacts to biological resources simply
13 because we're -- we're not going to be disturbing as much
14 land when we're siting next to existing roads and
15 previously disturbed landscapes.

16 We do have a number of environmental protection
17 measures that are often incorporated in these during
18 either the design of the project or during construction
19 of the project. AEPCO is -- is very adept at -- at
20 conducting pre-construction surveys, developing
21 mitigation plans, making sure that they do not adversely
22 impact any of the biological resources as a result of --
23 of design or construction.

24 And I think this CEC will reflect some of those
25 mitigation measures. And just recently we did get a

1 letter from Game & Fish that more or less agreed with our
2 findings. They suggested a few mitigation measures or
3 surveys that they would want to be conducted prior to
4 construction. Those are very similar to what you've
5 heard in some of your recent cases, so there will be
6 migratory bird surveys conducted, burrowing owl surveys
7 in the areas where agricultural lands occur. And then in
8 the desert uplands areas, there will be some desert
9 tortoise surveys conducted.

10 Question?

11 MEMBER HAMWAY: What triggers these studies?

12 MR. SIMPSON: A lot of it is regulatory
13 requirements, but also a lot of it --

14 MEMBER HAMWAY: Whose? Whose regulatory
15 requirements?

16 MR. SIMPSON: In that case, the Arizona Game &
17 Fish Department has jurisdictional over some of these
18 issues. On federal lands, you may have the Bureau of
19 Reclamation defer to the Fish and Wildlife Service being
20 the other federal agency. So they may be concerned about
21 that on federal lands.

22 And then --

23 MEMBER HAMWAY: I guess my question is --

24 MR. SIMPSON: -- the county has some
25 conservation areas.

1 MEMBER HAMWAY: Who oversees that all of these
2 surveys get done?

3 MR. SIMPSON: Usually you will begin to
4 coordinate those surveys with the agencies. So in -- in
5 the case of the Game & Fish Department, they do have
6 protocols established for these surveys. So we will
7 follow their protocols and then develop a survey plan, go
8 out and conduct the surveys, document everything we find,
9 file that with Game & Fish. If we encounter any more
10 issues; we'll work through a process to resolve them or
11 make changes in the design.

12 But it -- it's kind of like what we've done so
13 far. We've kind of had a back-and-forth consultation
14 with them. That will continue on.

15 So, you know, what gives you a surety that it
16 gets done in the end? That's incumbent upon the
17 applicant to follow through with that. And in all the
18 cases that I've worked on recently, they are filing
19 compliance documents later on to demonstrate they've done
20 all that. And they have a lot of in-house procedures
21 already that require them to do certain things before
22 they undertake activities. Some of this may be done as a
23 matter of their business practices, not just because
24 there's a -- a regulatory requirement.

25 So I -- I'll maybe let Kevin add to that but --

1 MR. BARNES: Yeah. Mr. Simpson, I think you --
2 I think you handled the question well.

3 In addition, since we're an RUS borrower and
4 have to comply with the National Environmental Policy
5 Act, a lot of these things are going to be dictated by
6 RUS, and they will have, you know, that as an additional
7 nexus.

8 MEMBER HAMWAY: So this does require some NEPA
9 environmental assessment kind of plans?

10 MR. BARNES: Chairwoman Hamway, it will. And
11 the trigger for that is if we borrow federal funds, and
12 so ...

13 MEMBER HAMWAY: Well, that's what --

14 MR. BARNES: It requires -- we have a federal
15 nexus on all of our projects.

16 MEMBER HAMWAY: Okay.

17 MR. BARNES: And to clarify, this will qualify
18 for an environmental report, not an environmental
19 assessment, which is just one grade down in the analysis.

20 CHMN. KATZ: And the last set of questions was
21 from Mary Hamway.

22 MEMBER HAMWAY: I'm sorry.

23 CHMN. KATZ: I think our court reporter got it.

24 MEMBER HAMWAY: I'm sorry.

25 CHMN. KATZ: It's okay.

1 MR. SIMPSON: So there are definitely checks and
2 balances, and a lot of it. Like I say, just good
3 business practices. And I think most of the utilities
4 nowadays understand very well and -- and, you know,
5 they've been willing to accept those conditions in the
6 CEC. So I think, you know, those kind of things we -- we
7 are -- we are open to as this proceeding goes forward.

8 MEMBER HAMWAY: Okay. So in the past we've seen
9 that burrowing owls or, you know, the -- there's a chub
10 that's often endangered. So we kind of see what animals
11 are in the study area and if there are any endangered
12 species.

13 So do you have that data for us, or am I
14 assuming that in the study area there are burrowing owls
15 and a desert tortoise -- I don't know what else -- a
16 wild -- oh, a wildlife travel corridor.

17 So are you -- you've already determined that
18 you're going to need surveys for those things?

19 MR. SIMPSON: Yeah, we are basing our -- our
20 assessment partly on prior work that we've done in this
21 area and trying to characterize a level of risk and
22 making recommendations to AEPCO for the types of things
23 that they may need to do or should do. And in some cases
24 now we're going to follow more precisely what that letter
25 with the Game & Fish said, where they -- I believe that

1 was the three primary things; migratory bird surveys,
2 burrowing owl surveys, and desert tortoise surveys. So
3 that will become kind of a standard.

4 And then, of course, if we're out there doing
5 surveys and we make any other observations, there may be
6 more work that's required. But right now that was kind
7 of our initial assessment, this is where we have some
8 concern. And Game & Fish sort validated that with a
9 review in their letter that they provided.

10 MEMBER HAMWAY: Okay. Thank you.

11 MR. SIMPSON: So, again, in closing, again, I
12 just want to iterate that -- that this route, I think, of
13 all the routes, minimized the impact to habitat. And we
14 don't anticipate any measurable decline or -- or
15 significant issues with any wildlife habitat or -- or
16 species in- -- indirectly.

17 As I mentioned, this is a map of the biological
18 habitat. The route in this case actually is shown in a
19 little bit of a blue color just to add some contrast to
20 some of the background colors. But the different colors
21 represent the biotic communities in the area. So the tan
22 color that we're showing here is Arizona Upland
23 subdivision. We talked a little bit about that. You've
24 seen some of that in the pictures.

25 The yellow is the Lower Colorado River

1 subdivision. That's, again, predominantly the
2 agricultural land and some desert scrub lands. And then,
3 of course, you have the riparian habitat zones and some
4 of the conservation areas that the County has in that --
5 that Santa Cruz River corridor illustrated.

6 And then over here in this pink color -- it's
7 largely yellow underneath there, but that's what they
8 call multiuse management, and it sort of generally
9 implies that there's a lot of different things happening
10 out in that area; residential, things of that nature. So
11 it doesn't have maybe the same overall regulatory
12 requirements or -- or characterization of -- of
13 restrictions of -- of any nature.

14 So on to Exhibit E. And, as I mentioned,
15 Exhibit E has two parts. The first part we're going to
16 talk about is the scenic areas and visual resources. And
17 we've seen some of this in the virtual route tour, but
18 one of the things that we wanted to do is just kind of
19 discuss what the existing scenery was in the area. And
20 we did inventory some Class A landscapes that are -- tend
21 to be the most diverse landscapes, the most unique,
22 visually appealing, and those were predominantly along
23 the Santa Cruz River. And that had a lot to do with the
24 quality of the vegetation and the water and some of the
25 features associated with that corridor. So that was an

1 area that we considered to be a Class A landscape.

2 The Class B landscapes were the desert uplands
3 and the agricultural lands.

4 And then the Class C landscapes were some of
5 those desert scrub areas that have very little
6 vegetation, fairly open and barren areas, and then some
7 following agricultural land parcels.

8 And then, of course, in this area we have a mix
9 of man-made developments, developed landscapes, some
10 residential, commercial, some industrial, and some
11 utility features out in the area.

12 Just to illustrate a couple of those, this was a
13 picture I've taken. This is a little bit further up in
14 the -- the project area. This is one of the crossings of
15 the Santa Cruz River. And this is an area where, again,
16 I did note there was a fair amount of water flowing
17 through this. Each of the multiple times I was there, I
18 seen -- observed water in this area.

19 We are not crossing at this point, but I wanted
20 to include this picture in here because it does fall
21 within our study area, and I wanted to show you some of
22 the uniqueness of that river corridor.

23 The area over, again, more towards the planned
24 Adonis Substation is this upland area. You can see
25 there's a higher concentration, more diversity in the --

1 the landscape there. You know, when you get out there,
2 you're going to see some actually sporadic areas where
3 you see Saguaro cactus, a little bit higher quality than
4 the desert scrub lands. The agricultural lands in the
5 middle -- of course, Mr. Palmer will agree to me.
6 There's no more scenic area than the farmlands of -- of
7 the United States, so I wanted to make sure I include
8 that in here, but --

9 MEMBER HAMWAY: So what are they growing?

10 MEMBER GRINNELL: A pile.

11 MEMBER HAMWAY: Alfalfa?

12 MR. SIMPSON: I was going to stay, I've noticed
13 this transition in many areas. There's a lot of alfalfa
14 growing around the state now, and it's replaced a lot of
15 crops we have. You still see others. But a lot of what
16 I see out here appear to be alfalfa. And I wouldn't say
17 that's all the time or every time, but there is a lot of
18 alfalfa in there, yeah.

19 And the -- a picture on the right -- lower
20 right-hand corner again is the same picture in the
21 virtual route tour, but we do have quite a few utility
22 features out in the area. You can see in the foreground
23 some of the desert scrub vegetation. A little more
24 barren. A little more disturbed in nature.

25 So that's kind of the -- the compensation of the

1 different landscapes out there and the variety we have.

2 Viewpoints and visibility. We talked already a
3 lot about the San Lucas Community. That was an area that
4 we were paying particular attention to during our
5 analysis. I'm going to show you some visual simulations
6 of what the line might look like from that community and
7 then also from the -- a couple of the residences along
8 Trico/Marana Road.

9 And, again, we talked about the recreation
10 corridors, predominantly the CAP Canal Trail and then the
11 future Juan Bautista Natural Scenic Trail. We're, you
12 know, always a little concerned about viewing an
13 environment where you have trails and things of that
14 nature, and so we want to make sure that we, again,
15 acknowledge some of the potential for some visual impact
16 where we cross those trails.

17 On this particular map is illustrating where we
18 conducted the visual simulations for it that were in the
19 application. And I'm going to show you three different
20 simulations, two of which are from the same viewpoint.

21 But the -- the first simulation we're going to
22 take a look at was taken from the northern edge of the
23 San Lucas Community. And I was inside the subdivision,
24 and I was located inside a cul-de-sac that was
25 immediately adjacent to three or four residences that

1 surrounded that cul-de-sac. And the cul-de-sac butted up
2 against the edge of the wall of the subdivision, so it
3 provided probably a -- the worst-case scenario in terms
4 of viewing that you might have in the community. But it
5 was the only area I could get to where I felt like, you
6 know, we could appropriately illustrate what a viewing
7 condition might look like in that -- that subdivision. I
8 think a lot of what you're going to see is going to have
9 a lot of screening or partial screening due to the walls
10 and vegetation that people have in their yards.

11 But the second location is, again, the rural
12 residences over -- just before you turn the corner,
13 you're -- you're located along West Marana Road near
14 Wentz Road. And I took this picture kind of adjacent to
15 a residence that was off to the -- just to the immediate
16 west of where I shot this photo from.

17 So, as I mentioned, visual simulation 1 is
18 showing what I've characterized as more open viewing
19 conditions within the San Lucas Community. And I can
20 only identify about three locations where you'd have a
21 situation like this. One was this cul-de-sac, and there
22 were two other small little pocket parks that were --
23 were between -- sandwiched between residences that had
24 some playground equipment and kind of a -- I guess a
25 community gathering point there.

1 And what you can see here is one scenario that
2 could play out in an open viewing environment is some
3 people could have views of almost an entire structure.
4 So you can see that this is a double-circuit line. It
5 has the 115 on one side and 138 on the other. This
6 particular structure is about 85 feet tall modeled. And
7 this location when we modeled this, I put this a little
8 bit closer to the edge of the subdivision because I
9 wanted to give again a reasonable worst-case view.

10 So this -- this location where this line is in
11 the real world is about 75 feet north of that subdivision
12 wall. So it's not as far away potentially as it could
13 be, but I wanted to get it in a reasonable area where --
14 where you might understand what -- what that impact could
15 be.

16 So, again, 85 feet tall. I think the last time
17 I sat in front of you and we talked about some of the
18 residential impacts, we were looking at 150-foot-tall
19 structures. So very different.

20 I think this particular area, this structure,
21 this, you know, rustic steel tends to be far more
22 compatible in these settings than some of those larger
23 facilities we've seen in other cases. So I just want to
24 point out that because I think it's important to consider
25 for this area.

1 So this is a -- another variation of it.

2 And so we don't know exactly where each of these
3 structures are going to hit until we have a final
4 decision, but I -- I purposely, you know, estimated
5 that -- that there is potential for a -- a structure to
6 occur in an open area, but in some cases it may not.

7 So that structure -- it's -- it's hard to see in
8 this photo, but that structure now is actually located
9 behind this tree. You can kind of see it going right
10 down behind the tree, behind the subdivision wall. You
11 can still see the wires crossing through the open area.
12 You can see how different that looks when you don't have
13 structures visual -- visually in sight of the -- of a
14 home.

15 And so the reason I did this is, again, I want
16 to show both sides of what I think might occur out there.
17 I think the majority of people in this subdivision are
18 going to have this type of view. There's only going to
19 be between eight and ten structures along nine-tenths of
20 a mile where that subdivision occurs. So depending just
21 where the structures lands, you may have one or two
22 residences at each structure that might have a -- a
23 different view, and that's going to depend upon what's
24 going on in their backyards; trees, gazebos, trellises,
25 things of that nature that might obstruct views.

1 So, again, a reasonable worst case is some
2 people are going to see it. Some are not likely to see
3 it as well.

4 MEMBER HAMWAY: How old is this community?
5 Mary Hamway.

6 How old is this community?

7 MR. SIMPSON: I believe it's approximately
8 20 years. And I can confirm that after a break if you'd
9 like, but I think it's close to 20 years.

10 MEMBER HAMWAY: Okay.

11 One other quick question. So if somebody was
12 motivated to try to find out more about this project,
13 would the Ten-Year Plan provide the detail for these
14 residences of -- that -- that it was going to go down
15 this corridor next to their property? Does it go into
16 that kind of detail?

17 I just kind of glanced at it. It was way beyond
18 my pay grade.

19 MR. SIMPSON: Yeah, the Ten-Year Plan is more of
20 what I consider an engineering document or a technical
21 document that people in the industry might understand
22 better.

23 These types of projects, we -- and Mr. Levitt,
24 my colleague, can talk in great detail about all the
25 things we did, but we try to target these communities

1 with our mailings, with our Facebook links. We have the
2 notice of our project website that we do have uplisted on
3 the Town of Marana's website. It was listed on a number
4 of websites; AEPCO's website, TEP's website.

5 It has to come a little bit more purposeful to
6 get out to the community, so we try our best to try to
7 get people to -- to review the information and -- and
8 make it available.

9 And Travis will talk about this. We did get
10 quite a few people looking at the website, and some of
11 that produced comments and direct feedback.

12 So we felt like it was working, but I wouldn't
13 say we had an overwhelming amount of people comment from
14 this area. The -- I mentioned I -- I talked to the
15 gentleman that lives in -- in this house right here. And
16 he was out working in his front yard when I was taking
17 some photos, and he just came up and asked me. So I
18 spent a fair amount of time just chatting with him and
19 talking about work he was doing on his home and work that
20 we were anticipating, and I talked to him about some of
21 the alternatives that were being considered here. So I
22 did have a -- a one-on-one conversation with him.

23 MEMBER HAMWAY: Okay. Thanks.

24 MR. SIMPSON: So this second simulation, as I
25 mentioned, is, again, right adjacent to my right-hand

1 side. You can't see it in the image because I'm
2 shooting, you know, kind of directly to the south, a
3 little bit southeast. But West Marana Road is -- is the
4 road that follows along where the transmission line is
5 located.

6 And, again, you can see the existing structures
7 that are out there today. And, as Mr. Barnes had
8 testified to, you know, we're not entirely sure whether
9 we can colocate these facilities or underbuild that
10 existing line on this one. That could be a consideration
11 if the owner of that line is willing to -- to work with
12 AEPCO on that. But we chose to show this in a way that,
13 again, would be sort of a reasonable worst case. If you
14 weren't able to consolidate it, this is what you would
15 see. You'd have a line essentially on either side of the
16 road. So it's kind of a -- a bit of a worst case. But,
17 yeah, there's a residences just, you know, maybe a couple
18 hundred feet to the right of where I shot this photo
19 along West Marana Road.

20 CHMN. KATZ: And Member -- Member --
21 Member Haenichen, I believe, has a question for you.

22 MEMBER HAENICHEN: Yeah. Those structures we
23 see there, what -- are those distribution lines on there
24 or transmission lines?

25 MR. SIMPSON: On the top photo, the existing --

1 MEMBER HAENICHEN: Yes.

2 MR. SIMPSON: -- structures are distribution
3 lines. And this is a different viewing perspective. But
4 the -- the place that we stopped along the route tour,
5 the virtual route tour, was right down on this road right
6 about in this area. So we were looking straight down the
7 road. So it's that same line we seen in the video,
8 Committee Member --

9 MEMBER HAENICHEN: Haenichen.

10 MR. SIMPSON: -- Haenichen, yes.

11 We -- we have views, you know, from multiple
12 different angles along the way, but, yeah, that was the
13 same view just from a different perspective.

14 MEMBER HAENICHEN: But if those are distribution
15 lines, you could not underbuild a transmission line on
16 that structure.

17 MR. SIMPSON: No. It would work in reverse.
18 You would underbuild the distribution on the transmission
19 line.

20 MEMBER HAENICHEN: Move the distribution down?

21 MR. SIMPSON: Yeah.

22 MEMBER HAENICHEN: Then why is it at that high
23 elevation now if it's capable of being lowered?

24 MR. SIMPSON: The structure that we've simulated
25 in the second photo is the 85-foot-tall structure.

1 This -- this particular area, now we're back to just the
2 115 voltage line, so there's only one circuit on this
3 line. That's approximately 85 feet tall. Whereas the
4 structure across the road is probably half that height.
5 I would estimate between 30, 35 feet tall. Maybe a
6 little more.

7 So if you were to be able to consolidate these,
8 it would potentially change the design of this structure,
9 and it may need to be slightly different. But, again, we
10 don't know if that's going to be feasible, so we're
11 showing it in a location that would be on the opposite
12 side of the road because this is the existing
13 distribution line.

14 MEMBER HAENICHEN: Because when they were
15 originally built, they -- they didn't consider that there
16 could be underbuilds on there, did they, even if they're
17 80-foot tall?

18 MR. SIMPSON: Yeah, the -- I don't think the
19 distribution lines are -- are high enough at all to do
20 much underbuilding. They're half the height. You know,
21 40 feet would probably be a pretty tall structure.

22 MEMBER HAENICHEN: Okay.

23 MR. LINDSEY: And, Member Haenichen, I could add
24 a little bit of detail. That's our existing, I believe,
25 distribution and -- and, as mentioned, it's in that

1 40-foot-tall range, the structure is. And it was not
2 planned to support future transmission lines, no. It's
3 a -- it's a relatively older line.

4 MEMBER HAENICHEN: Okay. But what about
5 those -- the taller structures, though, that were
6 referred to as 85 feet -- foot? Was there -- is there
7 the possibility of an underbuild that distribution
8 voltage there?

9 MR. LINDSEY: Committee Member Haenichen, I
10 believe you're referring to the new poles we're proposing
11 to install. And it's not typical practice for -- for us
12 to install distribution as underbuild on this high of a
13 voltage line. We like to keep those separate if at all
14 possible.

15 MEMBER HAENICHEN: Okay. So all of those poles
16 we're seeing there are virtual. They're not existing; is
17 that correct?

18 MR. LINDSEY: Mr. Haenichen, so the poles on --
19 I call it the background, the -- the lower ones, those
20 exist today. And the new poles you see there, those --
21 those would be future proposed.

22 MEMBER PALMER: Those are simulated. Okay.

23 MR. LINDSEY: Correct.

24 CHMN. KATZ: And are across the street from the
25 existing poles? They're across the street from the

1 existing poles; correct?

2 MR. SIMPSON: Yes. The distribution line in
3 this location is actually on the south side of West
4 Marana Road. We simulated the new structures on the
5 north side of the road. Again, that was to present a,
6 you know, reasonable worst case if you end up with two
7 lines in that corridor.

8 MEMBER HAENICHEN: But on those simulated ones
9 that we're talking about now, is there the -- the
10 possibility of an underbuild of that low voltage there,
11 distribution voltage.

12 MR. LINDSEY: Member Haenichen, that's not
13 typical practice for us at this high a voltage. If we
14 were to underbuild on the new -- basically relocate the
15 existing distribution to the new transmission line that
16 we're proposing here, it would increase the height a fair
17 amount.

18 I can't -- I can get you a specific number to
19 that because of the clearance we need from the new
20 transmission line to the distribution. So it's pretty
21 well standard at TEP to keep the distribution separate
22 from the higher voltage transmission lines.

23 MEMBER HAENICHEN: Okay. So I'm wondering why
24 we're having this discussion then if that wasn't a
25 possibility.

1 MR. LINDSEY: Member Haenichen, it's really not
2 preferred for us at all.

3 MEMBER HAENICHEN: Okay. It seems a little lack
4 of communication there.

5 MS. GRABEL: Mr. Chairman, this is Meghan.
6 Sorry.

7 Just to clarify something for the record, when
8 Mr. Lindsey was speaking and saying "us," he was
9 referring to Tucson Electric Power Company. And when
10 Mr. Barnes was speaking, he was referring to AEPCO.

11 And I think there's a little confusion in the
12 record as to whose lines we're talking about or whose the
13 application was. That clarification might take care of
14 it. I just wanted to put that on the record.

15 MEMBER HAENICHEN: That's a very important
16 clarification, because I misunderstood it, and I'm fairly
17 knowledgeable about this stuff. So -- so a little more
18 care in the verbiage.

19 MS. GRABEL: Thank you.

20 MR. SIMPSON: Yeah. I apologize if I added any
21 confusion, but I -- just to clarify, we -- we simulated
22 this in a way that would not include any under- --
23 underbuilding. So this is -- this is without
24 underbuilding of any existing facilities in the area.

25 MEMBER HAENICHEN: Okay.

1 MR. SIMPSON: So continuing on, again, from a --
2 an assessment standpoint, the majority of the impacts to
3 visual resources are in the low to moderate range and are
4 not anticipated to adversely impact existing or planned
5 scenic landscapes or high-sensitivity couple of the
6 isolated residences along West Marana and Trico Road.
7 Those would be areas where you'd be -- have a residence
8 that would be a relatively close proximity to the line
9 and open viewing conditions, which we think there will be
10 a few of those areas.

11 Overall, you know, again, with a -- the CAP
12 Canal for the most part, you know, we don't think the
13 impacts are going to exceed the moderate level. But at
14 the immediate area where we make those crossings, we
15 would expect the impacts to be a little bit higher, and
16 in that immediate crossing location be the most visible
17 since the views are pretty -- pretty open.

18 Again, this project parallels existing road
19 rights-of-way and utility lines almost the entire length,
20 and overall that generally results in fewer visual
21 impacts and fewer disturbed landscapes.

22 So, again, we think that's a benefit to the
23 visual environment. We don't have to build a lot of new
24 roads out in the open desert areas or through developed
25 master-planned communities or things of that nature.

1 MEMBER HAMWAY: Just one quick question. Mary
2 Hamway again.

3 Have we -- did the CAP send a letter of support?

4 MR. BARNES: Community Member Hamway, this is
5 Kevin Barnes with AEPCO. We did not request that letter
6 from CAP, but we did have dialogue with them, and they
7 didn't indicate any concerns with that crossing location,
8 but we will obviously work with them in the future and
9 just have them approve all of our engineering. And we
10 will require a right-of-way permit from them to make that
11 crossing.

12 MEMBER HAMWAY: Okay. Thank you.

13 MR. SIMPSON: And my general experience with CAP
14 is they prefer the perpendicular crossings and not the
15 parallel situations. It has a lot to do with their
16 maintenance and how they conduct aerial surveys of the
17 canal itself or maintenance. Generally they've been
18 pretty receptive to perpendicular crossings. And, of
19 course, we're crossing where the road already exists.

20 On to the second part of Exhibit E, which is the
21 historic sites and structures and archaeological sites.
22 Again, we had a lot of resources available to us that
23 were compiled from various databases. This area, due to
24 the nature of -- of prior projects and -- and the amount
25 of facilities, like the interstate, the CAP Canal, some

1 of the transmission lines, some of the development in the
2 agricultural areas, some of the home locations, the
3 majority of this area had really well-defined resources
4 for archaeological and historic resources.

5 We collected that information from the AZ site
6 database, which is a State of Arizona online database,
7 archaeological record searches from the Arizona State
8 Museum, the Arizona Register of Historic Places, the
9 National Register of Historic Places, and then Historic
10 General Land Office plats and USGS maps that are
11 available.

12 So, again, we -- we conducted that research
13 and -- and we were pretty easily able to understand where
14 we were -- would likely have cultural resources and not.

15 And, as I mentioned earlier, the results of
16 those surveys really indicated that the area to the north
17 of the planned Adonis Substation, and then to some degree
18 as you transition to the west, had a proliferation of
19 cultural resources. A very important resources, and that
20 is one of the reasons why we ended up here.

21 And so this particular route we feel like we can
22 address through mitigation, either spanning or completely
23 avoiding any of the known resources and the fact that,
24 again, we're by -- immediately adjacent to roadways and
25 things of that nature, we don't think we're going to have

1 any substantial impacts to archeological resources. Some
2 of those resources are listed here, and they're included
3 in the exhibit in a fair amount of detail. But, you
4 know, some of these features include the South Gila
5 Ditch; the Southern Pacific Railroad, which is
6 essentially the -- now the Union Pacific Railroad;
7 Historic Route SR 84, which is essentially the frontage
8 road along the freeways, you know, very different
9 nowadays than it was back then; and then you have some
10 agricultural canals on the west side of the -- the
11 freeway that -- that have historic status.

12 So we do acknowledge there's some resources that
13 we -- we have to be careful about how we approach them,
14 but we don't think that any of these resources would
15 result in any kind of adverse impacts to cultural
16 resources.

17 We did receive a letter from the State Historic
18 Preservation Office that, again, reviewed our data. They
19 made some recommendations. They generally concurred with
20 our findings, and they -- they agree that conducting a
21 Class 3 survey prior to construction and then further
22 consultation with them would be the appropriate measures
23 to continue with the development of this line. And --
24 and, again, that is fairly standard for AEPCO to -- to do
25 with the SHPO. And, again, there would be some

1 connection to that in the federal process that Kevin
2 mentioned as well.

3 Recreation and -- and purpose -- recreation
4 purposes and aspects, which is Exhibit F of the CEC
5 application. Again, we talked a lot about the two
6 trails. I mentioned that there are a couple of small
7 neighborhood pocket parks in that San Lucas Community
8 that are along that northern edge. We will not be
9 directly impacting them from a recreation standpoint.

10 The CAP Canal Trail will be spanned. So, again,
11 we won't have any direct impact to that recreation
12 resource. The same with the future of Juan Bautista
13 Natural Scenic Trail. It will largely be spanned, and it
14 won't prevent use or prohibit use of that trail from any
15 recreation perspective.

16 Obviously AEPCO would consider future
17 opportunities to accommodate recreation facilities
18 adjacent to or within their rights-of-way. You know,
19 they have to give due consideration to safety,
20 operations, and maintenance. But if, you know, the --
21 the CAP Canal Trail needed to implement some features,
22 you know, down the road to enhance their trail, certainly
23 AEPCO would be willing to work with those jurisdictions
24 to accommodate changes that are necessary in those areas.
25 Overall, the route would be compatible with existing and

1 planned recreation facilities and no direct impacts to
2 them.

3 Existing plans. Again, we talked a lot about
4 this during the land -- land use studies, but, again,
5 it's important to acknowledge that we have two key plans
6 that are the future plans for Pima County and Marana, the
7 Pima County -- excuse me -- the Pima -- Pima Prospers
8 Comprehensive Plan and the Make Marana 2040 General Plan.
9 And we referenced those during the course of the studies.
10 And, for the most part, the findings in those studies are
11 consistent with the way the -- the County is currently
12 planning and anticipating and approving some developments
13 in this area.

14 We did get -- in the case of those
15 master-planned communities, we got some confirmation from
16 the Town of Marana on how those developments will likely
17 proceed. They couldn't give us official, you know, times
18 of those, but there are certainly potential communities
19 that -- that could develop and -- and are approved in the
20 existing plans. So, again, we'll continue to work with
21 those landowners through -- through the design and
22 right-of-way acquisition process. We'll continue to work
23 with ADOT.

24 One thing that, you know, is potentially
25 occurring in this area with respect to ADOT is their

1 future Interstate 11 corridor, is that there's a takeoff
2 point down in this general vicinity. And that general
3 location that they've identified that -- that I-11
4 corridor to be is out in this vicinity on the -- excuse
5 me -- west of the Marana Substation.

6 Now, that's very conceptual at this point.
7 They're going through a whole planning process for that.
8 If you're not familiar with that, that Interstate 11
9 corridor would potentially connect all the way from
10 Tucson past a lot of the developed area in Tucson all the
11 way up around the out -- western side of the Phoenix
12 metro area and then all the way up paralleling utilizing
13 parts of U.S. 93 all the way up into Las Vegas.

14 So it's a pretty big plan, pretty huge piece of
15 infrastructure, and there's a lot of momentum behind
16 wanting to get parts of that going. This is something
17 that could occur out in this area. So something to be
18 aware of. I don't think it'll directly have any bearing
19 on this project, but...

20 MEMBER HAMWAY: Did Marana add a technology
21 corridor to their Make Marana Great 2040 General Plan?
22 Do you know if they have a technology corridor section?

23 MR. SIMPSON: I would have to go back and
24 reference the plan again. That doesn't stand out --

25 MEMBER HAMWAY: Okay.

1 MR. SIMPSON: -- in my mind, but I do know that
2 there's a lot to that plan. It's a fairly robust
3 document, so ...

4 MEMBER HAMWAY: Okay. Thank you.

5 MR. SIMPSON: But just to recap again, we are
6 trying to follow along the edges of the Villages of
7 Tortolita and the Sanders Grove development. Uptown
8 Marana project is that commercial development near I-10
9 and Marana Road.

10 For the most part, we're going to also be
11 skirting around the edges of that, so we don't anticipate
12 any compatibility issues with existing and long-term
13 plans, the jurisdictions in this area.

14 And, again, no objections from Pima County or
15 from Town of Marana with respect to anything that's been
16 proposed here.

17 Just to -- to recap, this is another map that
18 we -- we created utilizing data that was provided largely
19 by Town of Marana, but you can see all the different
20 types of developments that have been proposed, most --
21 most of which is south of our proposed project. But this
22 gives you a little bit of additional visual of that
23 Sanders Grove development and the Villages at Tortolita
24 over here.

25 And, again, the important thing is you can kind

1 of see where we're -- we're trying to follow a -- an
2 existing corridor, a roadway corridor, that kind of goes
3 through the edges of those developments and not so much
4 through the middle. This is part of Exhibit-H1, and it's
5 called Exhibit -- Existing Plans, mostly of Marana.

6 Exhibit I is noise and interference. And,
7 again, the data collection analysis focused on evaluation
8 of corona, audible noise, radio interference, television
9 interference, and electric and magnetic effects. Methods
10 that were used by Sargent & Lundy, the consultant that
11 did this work, were industry standards. They were
12 developed by the Bonneville Power Administration, which
13 is a federal agency that maintains a -- a significant
14 transmission resource. And that program, I think, is
15 kind of a -- the standard by which most of these studies
16 are conducted. And that's how they did their work.

17 The conclusions of their report is that there
18 are no adverse impacts expected from corona, audible
19 noise, radio interference, television interference, and
20 electric and magnetic effects.

21 And, again, it would be AEPCO's commitment to
22 work with any affected parties to resolve any concerns
23 that may raise as a result of construction of this
24 project. But, again, for the most part, we're going to
25 be some distance from any real developed areas where you

1 might have an effect like that.

2 So in conclusion, I will recap a few statements
3 I have made, but, you know, overall I want to emphasize
4 that we feel like out of all the routes that we studied
5 and evaluated, and we weighed the purpose's need with the
6 environmental footprint of the project, this route that
7 you have before you today was the most environmentally
8 compatible. For the most part this route is going to
9 confirm to applicable general plans and comprehensive
10 plans. Most of the lands are generally undeveloped or
11 agricultural. Lands are expected to be developed in the
12 area long term that may include residential, commercial,
13 employment, and mixed-use. So pretty typical of what we
14 see of these fringe areas that are in transition to more
15 urbanized development.

16 The line itself is located along 4.3 miles of
17 existing power distribution lines and utility lines,
18 6 miles of road right-of-way, and also near one existing
19 substation, that being the Marana Substation.

20 We avoid significant cultural resources that
21 were present in the eastern part of the study area. We
22 talked about that. That was really apparent after our --
23 our work collecting that data and the consultation we did
24 with SHPO. I think we would have a lot of difficulty
25 moving forward with any of those routes that went to the

1 north because of that resource.

2 Design standards and selective mitigation
3 measures that -- that will be incorporated in this
4 project will further reduce impacts. And, again, I think
5 as we approach the -- the right-of-way acquisition
6 process and the -- the design, many of the issues that
7 are out there can be resolved through good quality
8 engineering.

9 AEPCO is going to continue to work with
10 landowners and agencies. Obviously, as they make their
11 way through the right-of-way application process --
12 right-of-way acquisition process, they will be working
13 with all the affected land owners very directly on --
14 that will translate into -- into what occurs during the
15 final design. No impacts -- no adverse impacts to
16 existing plan land uses, recreation resources, visual
17 resources, cultural resources, or biological resources.

18 And, importantly, Mr. Levitt will -- will get
19 into his testimony in detail here next, but we do not
20 have any direct opposition from the agencies or public at
21 any point in the project. We had some good comments,
22 some good questions. We tried to consider what was being
23 mentioned in -- in the proposal here today and feel like
24 we brought forth the -- the best route that we could to
25 meet the purpose and needs of this project.

1 So with that, I'll conclude.

2 MS. GRABEL: Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Simpson.
3 Are there any further questions?

4 CHMN. KATZ: Any of our Committee Members have
5 any? Any Committee Members have any questions?

6 Hearing none, where are we at, Ms. Grabel, in
7 terms of presentation? We could go about another 10 or
8 15 minutes, or we can break?

9 MS. GRABEL: Mr. Levitt is next. His
10 presentation, if he goes without questions, is perhaps
11 20 minutes, not too much longer than. I suspect, though,
12 because he has done a public outreach, he will get some
13 questions. So we can start with him, or there's one
14 exhibit left to be admitted. I could quickly take care
15 of that as long as Mr. Simpson's still on the panel and
16 sworn in. Then we can take a break.

17 CHMN. KATZ: I'm not opposed to taking a 10- or
18 15-minute break. And if we have a 20-minute
19 presentation, we can could do that before our 5:30 public
20 session.

21 MS. GRABEL: Okay.

22 CHMN. KATZ: I'd like to break within the next
23 five or 10 minutes.

24 MS. GRABEL: I will really quickly then enter
25 one exhibit. It will take me two minutes.

1 CHMN. KATZ: Whatever.

2 MS. GRABEL: Thank you.

3 BY MS. GRABEL:

4 Q. Mr. Simpson, while you're here, I'd like you to
5 turn to Exhibit AEPCO-11. This is the route tour
6 itinerary. The reason I'm introducing it into as an
7 exhibit now is because we'll be taking the tour tomorrow
8 morning, and I thought the Committee Members might want
9 to have their attention directed to it. And those who
10 are participating remotely might like to take a look at
11 what we'll be doing as well.

12 Mr. Simpson, are you there?

13 A. (MR. SIMPSON) Yes, I am.

14 Q. Okay. Have you seen this document before?

15 A. (MR. SIMPSON) Yes, I have.

16 Q. Was it prepared by you or under your direction
17 and control?

18 A. (MR. SIMPSON) Yes, it was.

19 Q. And Exhibit -- Exhibit AEPCO-11 is an overview
20 of what the Committee Members will do on the tour
21 tomorrow morning; is that correct?

22 A. (MR. SIMPSON) Yes, it is.

23 MS. GRABEL: Thank you very much.

24 MR. SIMPSON: Thank you.

25 MS. GRABEL: 30 seconds. Look at that.

1 CHMN. KATZ: Okay. The other question I do have
2 is, I can -- can pull it out of the notebook or else I
3 could have you just prepare it for me so that I can make
4 appropriate introductions with our court reporter
5 whenever we get to a particular location.

6 Do you want me to, just a copy of the tour --

7 MS. GRABEL: Certainly.

8 CHMN. KATZ: -- rather than me ripping the
9 notebook apart?

10 MS. GRABEL: Yes.

11 CHMN. KATZ: And I don't need that until
12 tomorrow morning obviously.

13 Why don't we take about a 10- or a 15-minute
14 break. Maybe we'll get back about 20 to 5:00. And then
15 we'll take care of Mr. Levitt and then break until our
16 public session. And I don't think we'll get lot of
17 input, but you never know.

18 We'll -- we're in recess.

19 (Recess from 4:22 p.m. to 4:42 p.m.)

20 CHMN. KATZ: I think everybody should be in
21 place right now. And if we're ready to go, Ms. Grabel,
22 you may call your next witness.

23 MS. GRABEL: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I've
24 actually asked my colleague, Eli Ancharski, to take this
25 examination.

1 So Mr. Ancharski.

2 CHMN. KATZ: And would you prefer an oath or an
3 affirmation?

4 MR. LEVITT: Affirmation, please.

5

6 TRAVIS LEVITT,

7 a witness on behalf of the Applicant, having been
8 affirmed by the Chairman to speak the truth and nothing
9 but the truth, was examined and testified as follows:

10

11 CHMN. KATZ: You may proceed, Ms. Grabel.

12 MEMBER GRINNELL: Mr. Chairman, real quick.

13 Could you pronounce your name again for me.

14 MR. LEVITT: Travis Levitt.

15 MEMBER GRINNELL: Oh. Who is Ancharski? Oh.

16 MR. ANCHARSKI: Yeah. Hello, Chairman and

17 Committee Members. Elias Ancharski for the record.

18 MEMBER GRINNELL: Okay. I hate mispronouncing
19 names.

20 MR. ANCHARSKI: I appreciate it. Thank you.

21

22 DIRECT EXAMINATION

23 BY MR. ANCHARSKI:

24 Q. Mr. Levitt, please state your name and business
25 address for the record.

1 A. (MR. LEVITT) Travis Levitt, 9400 Ward Parkway,
2 Kansas City, Missouri, 64114.

3 Q. And by whom are you employed and in what
4 capacity?

5 A. (MR. LEVITT) I'm a senior public involvement
6 specialist with Burns & McDonnell.

7 Q. And what is your role in this matter?

8 A. (MR. LEVITT) I oversee the public involvement
9 portions of this project, including the compilation of a
10 newsletter, public notices, the content on the website,
11 and plenty of other comments and aggregating some of the
12 results.

13 Q. Thank you. And you should have a -- before you
14 a book of exhibits.

15 Do you see that?

16 A. (MR. LEVITT) I do.

17 Q. If you'd please turn to Exhibit AEPCO-14. This
18 is the testimony summary of Travis Levitt.

19 Just let us know when you're there?

20 A. (MR. LEVITT) I have it.

21 Q. Great. Have you seen this document before?

22 A. (MR. LEVITT) I have.

23 Q. And was it prepared by you or under your
24 direction and control?

25 A. (MR. LEVITT) It was.

1 Q. Does this summary accurately convey the
2 testimony that you will present to the Committee today?

3 A. (MR. LEVITT) It does.

4 Q. All right. Please turn to Exhibit AEPCO-15,
5 which is the witness presentation of Travis Levitt.

6 A. (MR. LEVITT) Okay.

7 Q. All right. And have you seen this document
8 before?

9 A. (MR. LEVITT) I have.

10 Q. And was it prepared by you or under your
11 direction and control?

12 A. (MR. LEVITT) It was.

13 Q. And is the information contained in this exhibit
14 true and correct to the best of your knowledge?

15 A. (MR. LEVITT) It is.

16 Q. Do you have any corrections you would like to
17 make to this presentation?

18 A. (MR. LEVITT) I do have an addition to slide 19,
19 which we'll address when we get there.

20 Q. Thank you.

21 And, finally, please turn to Exhibit AEPCO-16,
22 which the summary of public outreach.

23 A. (MR. LEVITT) Okay.

24 Q. And have you seen this document before?

25 A. (MR. LEVITT) I have.

1 Q. Was it prepared by you or under your direction
2 and control?

3 A. (MR. LEVITT) It was.

4 Q. And was this document prepared in response to
5 the Chairman's Procedural Order, specifically
6 paragraph 16?

7 A. (MR. LEVITT) It was.

8 Q. Does this summary accurately convey the public
9 outreach performed by AEPCO in this matter?

10 A. (MR. LEVITT) It does.

11 Q. All right. And with that, I may interrupt your
12 presentation to lay additional foundation, but please
13 begin your remarks.

14 A. (MR. LEVITT) Thank you very much.

15 Chairman and Committee Members, again, my name
16 is Travis Levitt with Burns & McDonnell, senior public
17 involvement specialist. I have a Bachelor's of Arts in
18 political science from North Central College in
19 Naperville, Illinois. I have eight years of experience
20 providing stakeholder management services with Burns &
21 McDonnell. The majority of that has been in the routing
22 and siting of linear infrastructure projects, mostly
23 transmission lines, as well as conducting public outreach
24 during the construction and restoration phases of
25 projects as well.

1 I'm also an envision sustainability
2 professional. And my role in this project was to
3 implement the public engagement process, compile a
4 virtual open house website, compile the content of the
5 newsletter, comment forms, survey, maintain the project
6 hotline and email, and track all the comments that we
7 received.

8 Today during the testimony I'll go over our
9 three phases of the public engagement and the tactics
10 that we used during each, including the newsletters,
11 mailings, survey results, and contracting. We'll also
12 take a look at the virtual open house website that we
13 utilized and the analytics that we were able to pull from
14 that effort. We will also look at our social media
15 campaign and the analytics there. And we'll review the
16 hotline calls that we received for the project.

17 As I mentioned before, our public engagement was
18 broken down into three phases. The first phase was
19 conducted in 2021, and that was outreach to our
20 jurisdictional and agency briefings. We conducted
21 outreach to the Town of Marana on June 23rd, 2021, and a
22 summary of these meetings can all be found in J-2 of the
23 application.

24 And during our meeting with the Town of Marana,
25 we talked about the two master-planned developments that

1 have been discussed during this hearing today. They also
2 talked about the extension of the North Adonis Road and
3 improvements to the Interstate 10 interchange, and they
4 also asked about the possibility of undergrounding during
5 that meeting.

6 Our next meeting was with Pima County on
7 August 4th, 2021. They had a few concerns over the
8 floodplain that could affect river flow. So specifically
9 on statements 270, 280, and 250. And they spoke about
10 the possibility of widening rural roadways in the area
11 but made it clear they had no immediate plans for doing
12 that.

13 And then we also reached out to the Arizona
14 State Land Department on August 17th, 2021, and they
15 suggested collocating the line as possible, as we have
16 discussed as well, especially along Line Segment 30.

17 MEMBER HAMWAY: I have a quick question. Was
18 the current route that you -- we're seeing today, was
19 that what was presented a year ago?

20 MR. LEVITT: No. All the route options and all
21 the segment options were presented at those meetings.

22 MEMBER HAMWAY: Okay. And had you -- I could
23 probably go back and look, but have you received letters
24 of approval from the Town of Marana, Pima County, and the
25 State Land Department?

1 MR. LEVITT: I'll refer that to Mr. Kevin
2 Barnes.

3 MR. BARNES: Committee Member Hamway, we have
4 not simply because we haven't proposed this route
5 officially --

6 MR. SIMPSON: Excuse me.

7 MR. BARNES: -- solicited and put it on our
8 route selections. But until we have an approved project,
9 then we will start that dialogue with those agencies.

10 MEMBER HAMWAY: Doesn't that sometimes happen
11 before they come here?

12 Yeah, we're just kind of used to a little bit
13 more concurrence with the participating agencies, like a
14 letter of agreement or -- so I'm just curious.

15 A year ago. So have you had other contact with
16 them since the year?

17 MR. BARNES: We have. And the Town of Marana
18 posted all the hearing information/project information on
19 their website.

20 MEMBER HAMWAY: Okay.

21 MR. ANCHARSKI: And, Mr. -- Mr. Barnes, did we
22 also send a copy of the application and the Notice of
23 Hearing -- or, sorry -- just the Notice of Hearing to
24 those jurisdictions in this matter.

25 MR. BARNES: We did.

1 MEMBER HAMWAY: Okay. Thanks.

2 MR. LEVITT: And Phase 2 of the public outreach,
3 January through March of 2022. We expanded our outreach
4 to the general public. We also had an email exchange
5 with the Arizona Department of Transportation. And in
6 that exchange with the -- with ADOT, we did learn they
7 had some comments on the vertical -- vertical clearance
8 of the line over I-10 and their desire to place poles
9 outside of ADOT right-of-way. Other than that, they had
10 no other concerns about the project.

11 For our outreach to the general public, we
12 mailed to all the property owners and residents within
13 one mile of any of the proposed route alternative links,
14 in the project study area, on January 11th, 2022. That
15 mailing included 1420 addresses. And that mailing
16 included the notification of the project, a high-level
17 project information summary, the project study area map,
18 and contact information and the project website.

19 MEMBER HAMWAY: It did not mention this hearing;
20 correct?

21 MR. LEVITT: Not at this point, no.

22 My clicker has gone. There it goes. Okay.

23 Here's a copy of the newsletter that we
24 emailed -- or that we sent out. And, as you can see
25 here, we have the project purpose and needs summary, we

1 have a detailed project description, we included a photo
2 of a typical double-circuit structure that might be used
3 on this project, and we also included a diagram of the
4 double circuit as well as a delta configuration single
5 circuit. We also provided this information in Spanish on
6 the project website, which was indicated at the top.

7 MEMBER HAMWAY: So was this mailed in an
8 envelope, or was this a postcard? Or what did it
9 physically look like when it arrived at someone's door?

10 MR. BARNES: It was in an envelope.

11 MEMBER HAMWAY: Okay. And what was the return
12 address on it?

13 MR. BARNES: Committee Member Hamway, I'm not
14 really sure. I know when they were returned to sender,
15 they came back to AEPCO's Benson corporate center.

16 MEMBER HAMWAY: Okay.

17 MR. LEVITT: On the back of this newsletter
18 included a project timeline and the different phases for
19 the approval of this project as well as those steps
20 outlined here, and also included ways for the community
21 to provide input, including the project website, the
22 project email, the project hotline, and included a QR
23 code that people could scan, and that would take them
24 directly to the project website where they could complete
25 a comment form or a survey.

1 Additionally, a project map was included. This
2 at this point included all the different line segments
3 that were being considered at this phase of the project,
4 numbered so that the residents could indicate comments
5 based on those line segments. And, again, this document
6 had the website, the email, hotline, and the QR code as
7 well.

8 During Phase 2 we had a survey that captured
9 what factors were most important to responders to --
10 respondents to determine the proposed route. We had four
11 people who responded to the survey. All four respondents
12 were either developing property in Marana, represented a
13 business, or lived within the project study area. Three
14 learned of the project via the -- the mailing, and one
15 learned of the project via a news release.

16 MEMBER GRINNELL: Mr. Chairman, I just have a
17 quick question.

18 CHMN. KATZ: Yes, Mr. Grinnell.

19 MEMBER GRINNELL: The expansion of these lines,
20 are you going to be servicing this area, or are these
21 utility lines for future development?

22 MR. BARNES: Member cooperative Trico and
23 their -- it's within their service territory.

24 MEMBER GRINNELL: So you're --

25 MR. BARNES: Trico will be directly servicing

1 meters in the area.

2 MEMBER GRINNELL: So all these people that we
3 are doing the surveys and outreach and everything else,
4 they're current Trico members?

5 MR. BARNES: I believe most of them are, but
6 some of them might be T --

7 MEMBER GRINNELL: TEP.

8 MR. BARNES: Correct. There's some overlap on
9 those service areas right there in that location.

10 MEMBER GRINNELL: Are the TEP residents
11 receiving this information as well?

12 MR. BARNES: Everybody with an address in that
13 area received a letter.

14 MEMBER GRINNELL: Okay. Thank you.

15 MEMBER HAMWAY: You probably said this.

16 This is Mary Hamway again.

17 How was the survey communicated? I mean, you
18 got the mailer. I got that that went in an envelope.
19 But the survey that you've got four people responding to,
20 how did those four people know to go fill out a survey?

21 MR. LEVITT: The survey was indicated on the
22 website. So folks could go through and -- and complete
23 the survey on the website, or they could call the hotline
24 and get the survey sent to them as well.

25 MEMBER HAMWAY: So the only way somebody knew

1 about the survey was to go to the website?

2 MR. LEVITT: Yes.

3 MEMBER HAMWAY: And the only way that somebody
4 would have known to go to the website was from a mailer
5 you sent a year ago?

6 MR. LEVITT: We did have for this phase the one
7 mailer, we did do some Facebook outreach as well, and we
8 did have some of our partners and other towns in the area
9 post the website information as well. So there were some
10 other avenues.

11 So when we take a look at the survey results
12 here, we, again, ranked -- we have these routing factors,
13 maximizing distance to homes; maximizing distance from
14 commercial, industrial facilities, and businesses;
15 maximizing distance from public facilities, like schools,
16 libraries, parks, and churches; minimizing crossing of
17 agricultural land; minimizing crossing directly through
18 property versus along property boundaries; minimizing the
19 total links of the transmission line and a number of
20 angles; minimizing the distance -- or maximizing the
21 distance from historical and cultural sites; and
22 maximizing the placement of transmission lines along
23 freeways and arterial roads; and maximizing the placement
24 of transmission lines along existing power lines and
25 utility corridors.

1 As you can see here, some of the factors that
2 scored high, maximizing placement along transmission
3 lines or existing power lines and utility corridors was
4 ranked as very important by three of the respondents.
5 Minimizing crossing directly through property versus
6 boundaries also scored very high among the three
7 respondents. Two of the respondents ranked very high
8 maximizing distance from homes as well as maximizing
9 placement of transmission lines on freeways and arterial
10 roads.

11 MEMBER GRINNELL: Mr. Chairman, real quick. I
12 want to get a clarity.

13 Member Hamway said a survey was done a year ago,
14 but this says January.

15 MEMBER HAMWAY: No, no. People who would have
16 known about the survey, that postcard went out a year
17 ago.

18 MEMBER GRINNELL: Okay. Thank you.

19 MR. LEVITT: So that -- the timing of that
20 postcard or that newsletter was to solicit the feedback
21 so we could narrow those route segments, too, for a route
22 that would be -- we'd bring forward to today.

23 MEMBER HAENICHEN: How many mailings in total
24 were sent out? Roughly.

25 MR. LEVITT: Just over 1400.

1 MEMBER HAENICHEN: And you got what, 15
2 responses?

3 MR. LEVITT: We got four folks to visit -- to
4 complete the survey. But we do have some folks who
5 visited the website, and we'll be going through those
6 analytics as well.

7 MEMBER HAMWAY: Do you have the analytics on the
8 social media also?

9 MR. LEVITT: Yes.

10 MEMBER HAMWAY: Okay. Perfect.

11 MR. LEVITT: A couple other responses that were
12 interesting as well is that the respondents believe the
13 project was adequately explained on the websites. And
14 respondents were also given an opportunity to leave
15 open-ended questions and comments as well, and you can
16 see those detailed results in J-11.

17 Question number 7 allowed respondents to share
18 concerns about preliminary or alternative -- route
19 alternatives.

20 Question 8 allowed respondents to share any
21 preference for a particular preliminary route
22 alternative.

23 And question 9 allowed respondents to add any
24 general comments or questions.

25 When we take a look at question 7, "Do you have

1 any concerns about preliminary route alternatives,"
2 respondent number 1 had -- had none; respondent number 2
3 said -- this was from one of the developers. They were
4 developing 841 acres north of Marana Road, and so they
5 had a comment about visual impacts. Respondent number 3
6 was also a developer with 350 acres for a potential
7 residential, and they had a question about overhead
8 versus underground. And then finally they had a
9 concern -- respondent 4 had a concern about Route
10 Segment 50, which was running near the San Lucas
11 neighborhood.

12 BY MR. ANCHARSKI:

13 Q. Mr. Levitt, before you continue, if I can just
14 kind of correct the record.

15 Those mailers went out on January 11th, 2022,
16 correct? So early this year. There was -- there was not
17 those -- those initial mailers did not go out last year.
18 That -- that was the initial fees of -- the initial phase
19 of public engagement that started in 2021?

20 MEMBER HAMWAY: The newsletter went out a year
21 ago. And he just explained that was to narrow it down to
22 get route selection.

23 So I guess my next question is --

24 MR. LEVITT: Uh-oh. I got to go back.

25 MEMBER HAMWAY: -- is when was the information

1 about the survey sent out, I guess is really what I'm
2 trying to get at?

3 MR. LEVITT: So that -- the newsletter is
4 January 11th, 2022.

5 MR. ANCHARSKI: Yes. That's -- that is slide 5.

6 MEMBER HAMWAY: Okay.

7 CHMN. KATZ: So, in other words, we've clarified
8 that the newsletter went out in 2022, in January, not --

9 MEMBER HAMWAY: The newsletter went out in 2021,
10 the --

11 CHMN. KATZ: Oh.

12 MR. ANCHARSKI: No. Sorry.

13 MR. LEVITT: Sorry.

14 BY MR. ANCHARSKI:

15 Q. Go ahead, Mr. Levitt.

16 A. (MR. LEVITT) January 11 of 2022 is when that
17 initial newsletter went out.

18 MEMBER HAENICHEN: On a recent slide you made a
19 statement, "Respondents felt that the thing was
20 adequately explained."

21 How many said that?

22 MR. LEVITT: That response came from the four
23 who -- who filled out the survey.

24 MEMBER HAENICHEN: Okay. That's the problem
25 with these things. They never -- you never get a big

1 response because it's a pain in the neck to do it, I
2 guess.

3 CHMN. KATZ: Anyway, the record will be
4 corrected, though, that the newsletter went out on
5 January 11th of 2022, not 2021.

6 That's correct, is it, Mr. Levitt.

7 MR. LEVITT: Yes, sir.

8 MEMBER HAMWAY: What was the purpose of the
9 newsletter again?

10 MR. LEVITT: The purpose --

11 MEMBER HAMWAY: What went out a year ago to get
12 the route selection?

13 CHMN. KATZ: I think that was a misstatement.

14 MEMBER HAMWAY: Okay.

15 MR. LEVITT: The newsletter had -- was to get
16 people to visit the website and complete the survey,
17 which would help us narrow down those route options based
18 on their preferences that that we just walked through a
19 moment -- a moment ago.

20 MEMBER HAMWAY: Right.

21 MEMBER GRINNELL: What went out in 2021 then?

22 MEMBER HAMWAY: I don't think it was. I
23 think --

24 MR. LEVITT: Nothing went out in 2021. Those
25 were just agency briefings.

1 MEMBER HAMWAY: I'm the one that caused the
2 problem. I'm sorry about that.

3 CHMN. KATZ: Not necessarily.

4 Let's go forward and make sure we're not talking
5 all at the same time.

6 MR. LEVITT: Oh, I've gone the wrong way again.
7 How --

8 MR. ANCHARSKI: There's a back button. The
9 bottom.

10 MR. LEVITT: There we go.

11 MEMBER HAMWAY: Do you feel four people is a
12 good sample?

13 MR. LEVITT: I think it's on par with responses
14 that we've had in the past. We -- we don't always have a
15 great reaction at this point of the -- of the project, so
16 it's -- it's usually a limited response.

17 MEMBER HAENICHEN: So maybe that method is not
18 worthwhile doing then if you get such a poor response.
19 I'm not saying it's your fault, but maybe that's just not
20 a good way to make decisions.

21 CHMN. KATZ: I think, though, he's also
22 testified, and I don't want to speak for Mr. Levitt, that
23 that newsletter provided access to the website and the
24 social media and there was more data that we have yet to
25 discuss.

1 MR. LEVITT: That is correct. So --

2 MEMBER HAENICHEN: Why don't we have that data
3 now.

4 CHMN. KATZ: He does have it. He hasn't gotten
5 there yet.

6 MEMBER HAMWAY: It's coming.

7 MR. LEVITT: So going back to some of the
8 open-ended questions here, question 8, "Are there any
9 preliminary route alternatives that folks preferred," we
10 did have some comments here from respondent 1, who talked
11 about Segments 40, 140, 150, 160, and 120, avoiding areas
12 that were planned housing developments, which were 10,
13 20, 30, 50, 60, and 70, and 80. They also made a comment
14 about route options 120, 190, 250, and 320, which they --
15 they said that would be the most direct route using major
16 streets and existing line paths. So another respondent
17 talked about going down Marana Road on the south side of
18 the road. Respondent 3 skipped question 8. And
19 respondent 4 had a question about line 5 and -- or
20 line 50. I'm sorry. And, again, these responses can be
21 found in J-11.

22 BY MR. ANCHARSKI:

23 Q. And, Mr. Levitt, just to clarify, of the
24 application; correct?

25 A. (MR. LEVITT) Yes.

1 Q. Thank you.

2 A. (MR. LEVITT) And question 9 was an open-ended
3 question. We wanted to hear from folks if they've had
4 anything else to add. Respondent 1 stated they wanted to
5 please consider where downlines could possibly start
6 fires and had a concern about that. One had a question
7 about how they could learn more about public hearings.
8 Another one skipped -- respondent 3 skipped the question.
9 And respondent 4 said, "Please consider the arguments in
10 Section 7 and 8 of the questionnaire," and thanked us for
11 the time.

12 So the next phase of the project moved on to
13 Phase 3, March to June of 2022. At this point we mailed
14 a postcard to all the valid addresses and property owners
15 and residents within one mile of the proposed route and
16 alternative links. That mailer went out on March 9th of
17 2022. That mailer included 1,353 addresses. That was a
18 small reduction from the original mailer based on mailers
19 that were returned for bad addresses. This postcard
20 included a section that detailed the proposed route, the
21 notification of this hearing today, and, again, provided
22 a contact information and the website.

23 Here we have a copy of that postcard. It had
24 the project overview and information on the hearing here
25 today and also included the project website, the email,

1 the phone number, and the QR code again. And on the back
2 of the postcard, it showed all the previous route segment
3 options in pink and included the proposed route that we
4 are discussing today in green.

5 MEMBER HAMWAY: So my problem with the postcard
6 is you mentioned the date, you don't mention the Line
7 Siting, you mention the Corporation Commission.

8 So if I were reading this and I was a resident,
9 I would think that the hearing would be downtown at the
10 Corp Comm offices. So you -- you're telling me to go to
11 the website to get information. But if I were just
12 reading this, I'd blow it off and tell you that I
13 wouldn't go downtown, because I'm thinking that the
14 hearing is now held in Phoenix, not Marana. And the
15 whole purpose for these, we travel so that we can -- so
16 that the people who are affected don't have to travel.

17 So I think you -- you missed a great opportunity
18 for people to show up by not mentioning that it was in
19 Marana at this facility.

20 MR. LEVITT: We did receive two comments on the
21 Contact Us form since the CEC application was submitted.
22 We did have one gentleman email the website asking for
23 employment opportunities for his construction company,
24 and we had another respondent ask about power lines being
25 undergrounded in existing neighborhoods.

1 So now we're going to talk a little bit about
2 the virtual open house website and including the -- the
3 analytics. Again, the website was launched in
4 January 2022. It included the project description, the
5 purpose and need, project maps, other educational
6 information, and opportunities for feedback. And it was
7 updated in Phase 3 once the proposed route was selected.

8 This is a screenshot of the website as it was
9 originally presented in Phase 2. And so folks could go
10 there and see more information through the virtual open
11 house. They could see project information, project maps,
12 virtual maps there, frequently asked questions,
13 comment -- contact us, and the original newsletter
14 translated into Spanish.

15 MEMBER HAMWAY: So the open house was available
16 24/7?

17 MR. LEVITT: Yes, ma'am.

18 MEMBER HAMWAY: Okay. Thank you.

19 MR. LEVITT: The way the virtual open house
20 worked, if you went in the website, it was a vertically
21 scrolling page that walked you through many of the
22 information that Mr. Simpson presented earlier today,
23 providing maps, describing the process, and basically
24 walk folks through from conception through siting how
25 this process would work.

1 So taking a look at some of the website
2 analytics from Phase 2, January 4th, 2022, through
3 March 9th of 2022, we had 237 folks visit the project
4 website via IP addresses. We tracked 113 of those could
5 be confirmed from the State of Arizona. We also tracked
6 how people found that project website. 94 of those users
7 visited the website via our Facebook ad campaign, which
8 we'll talk about here; 82 of those users visited the site
9 via the QR code that was included on the newsletter or by
10 typing in the URL directly; 48 users were referred to the
11 site through our partner organizations, either through
12 UNS Energy Corporation and Tucson Electric Power or by
13 AZ -- AZ G&T themselves. They all posted this
14 information on the website, and folks did find the
15 website through that; and 13 visited the website through
16 other means that could not be determined.

17 In Phase 3, after we updated the website -- this
18 is March 9th, 2022, through April 18th, 2022. After the
19 postcard was sent, we had a total of 103 users who
20 visited the website. 50 of those could be confirmed from
21 Arizona through IP address tracking; 42 of those visitors
22 came via our website -- or our Facebook ads; 42 of those
23 found us through the QR code again, or by typing in the
24 URL; 14 of those were referred by our partner sites; and
25 five visited through other means.

1 MEMBER HAMWAY: But you don't have any way of
2 knowing if the ones -- the total of 237 and the total 103
3 could be some of the same people? You don't know -- we
4 don't know that; correct?

5 MR. LEVITT: I believe those are unique views,
6 unique page views.

7 MEMBER HAMWAY: Okay. So you really have 200 --
8 or 340; right?

9 MR. LEVITT: Yes.

10 MEMBER HAMWAY: People who actually went to the
11 website?

12 MR. LEVITT: Correct.

13 MEMBER HAMWAY: Okay.

14 MR. LEVITT: And now we're going to talk about
15 our Facebook ads. This is where I do have the one
16 correction to this slide here. It mentions here seven
17 ads were posted. Actually, we had seven ads that were
18 using the reach method; an additional 14 ads that used
19 the engagement method. So a total of 21 Facebook ads
20 were placed.

21 These ads were placed by Pioneer Utility
22 Resources, which is a communication firm that AEPCO uses
23 to manage their social media. And at first they tested
24 the -- the reach strategy, which the idea there is to
25 reach as many eyeballs as you can and get this ad as --

1 out as far as it can. And then we shifted to the
2 engagement strategy, which really encouraged people to
3 click on the ad, to share it, like it, make comments.
4 Really engage with the most active people.

5 We did receive 47 of those -- 47 comments when
6 they were on -- through -- through those ads. And if
7 they had general questions on the project, we could -- we
8 can answer those. If they wanted to provide more
9 detailed comments, we encouraged them to visit the
10 project website.

11 The targeting for this social media ad campaign
12 was specifically targeted at those 1400 addresses. So if
13 someone was visiting Facebook from one of those 1400 plus
14 addresses in the study area, this ad would be targeted to
15 them. So this was zeroed in on those most affected
16 folks.

17 When we look --

18 MEMBER HAMWAY: So I just -- so when someone is
19 told -- when they put a comment, they were just told to
20 go to the website if they had more information?

21 Did someone -- did a person reach out to them?

22 MR. LEVITT: Yes, the -- the social media
23 company that AEPCO uses did respond on -- on Facebook.
24 We did not -- if we didn't have any other contact --
25 contact information for them. So --

1 MEMBER HAMWAY: Yeah.

2 MR. LEVITT: -- yes. Unless it was a
3 derogatory, inappropriate comment. Not derogatory to the
4 project. But we did have some just typical Facebook
5 inappropriateness that was not responded to.

6 So if we look at the Facebook metrics here,
7 again, the first week we were using that reach strategy,
8 and we got 21,364 responses, or impressions, 20,492
9 uniques, 38 clicks, 29 engagements.

10 And then moving to the engagement method, you
11 usually see the number of impressions go down but the
12 number of clicks go up. So you see 20 on the first week
13 but then 133, 159, 121, 471, and the engagement going up
14 as well. And, again, I want to stress, these are people
15 who are logging onto Facebook from the study area. So
16 these are people who are actually living in that area.
17 And in Phase 3, as well, going with the engagement
18 method, we had a total of 31,604 impressions and 781
19 engagements. So through our Facebook campaigns, we had
20 over a thousand engagements through our Facebook campaign
21 from that targeted area.

22 We maintained a -- a project hotline throughout
23 the project. Phase 2, we received two hotline calls.
24 One resident did call from the HOA area there. The
25 gentleman asked if we were intending to build a public

1 road there. I personally returned that call and
2 explained the scope of the project and explained that a
3 public road was not part of this project here. And we
4 did have another call from one of the developers, which I
5 called and responded to, and they just had general
6 questions about the project scope.

7 And Phase 3, we did have one gentleman call the
8 hotline and asked if this project would provide him an
9 alternative to Trico Electric Cooperative as his
10 provider, which I answered no.

11 Again the feedback opportunities we had here,
12 the project telephone hotline, the project email, our
13 contact form, and the survey that we used in Phase 2,
14 which you can review those links as well.

15 So, in summary, public engagement process and
16 analytics described today are all found in Exhibit J.
17 The public engagement process was based on successful
18 programs we've implemented nationally and here in
19 Arizona.

20 Also, this was a challenging time in the
21 environment to be doing public engagement, with COVID-19,
22 lots of restrictions on -- on gathering and other
23 situations, where meetings were cancelled, opportunities
24 were restricted. So we really went for an opportunity
25 for people to log onto this website, have their questions

1 answered 24/7 at their leisure. We deployed multiple
2 tools to engage members of the public and agencies,
3 including agency meetings, stressing the virtual
4 participation, Facebook ads, the website, and promoting
5 our website through partners as well.

6 Public agencies and the public provided key
7 input to AEPCO to consider when we selected the proposed
8 route. And we found no significant opposition from the
9 public or other agencies of note.

10 MEMBER LITTLE: Mr. Chairman?

11 CHMN. KATZ: Yes, Member Little.

12 MEMBER LITTLE: I have a couple of questions.

13 Do you have a -- a summary of what kind of
14 responses or -- or interaction you got for all -- those
15 numbers on social media that -- that fall into --

16 MR. LEVITT: Yes.

17 MEMBER LITTLE: -- the engagement category?

18 MR. LEVITT: So we did have some comments that I
19 kind of summarized here. There were some general
20 comments about the possibility of undergrounding. There
21 was some general opposition to transmission lines. In
22 general, nothing specific to this project but just being
23 negative towards the possibility of transmission --
24 transmission lines.

25 We had some folks who made comments asking for a

1 greater choice in electrical providers. We had some
2 preference -- we had one comment on a preference for an
3 open house and a meeting. We had concerns about rate
4 increases. We had general questions about location of
5 the route which we referred to the website. Questions
6 about which route was selected and when. Questions about
7 local benefits to the community. We had a question about
8 eminent domain and a general question about urban sprawl.

9 I will say that most of these comments came from
10 a select group of people that were kind of in a
11 conversation with each other. We had one commenter who
12 talked a lot about transmission lines ending at mines and
13 got into a discussion with other folks who went off on
14 a -- on a sidebar that wasn't very relevant about mines.

15 But generally these comments here were -- are
16 pretty typical for this process. And there weren't any
17 that were out of the ordinary or overly specific to these
18 proposed route options.

19 MEMBER LITTLE: Okay. Thank you.

20 I did have one other question. And that is,
21 in -- in Exhibit -- which is the exhibit here we're
22 talking about?

23 MR. ANCHARSKI: J.

24 MEMBER LITTLE: Yes. Toward the end on page
25 J-14 -- I'm sorry. Yeah, that. There's a list of

1 frequently asked questions, and it's very small and
2 difficult to read.

3 Are those questions that actually came from the
4 public, or are those frequently asked questions that were
5 on the website?

6 MR. LEVITT: Which -- which page are you
7 referring to?

8 MEMBER LITTLE: It doesn't have a page number on
9 it. It looks like maybe it's a PowerPoint presentation.
10 It -- it is -- says Phase 2 --

11 MR. LEVITT: Okay.

12 MEMBER LITTLE: -- and it follows -- oh, I guess
13 it's the virtual open house website content.

14 MR. LEVITT: Yes. Those -- those frequently
15 asked questions were posted on the virtual open house
16 website.

17 MEMBER LITTLE: Okay. Okay. Thank you.

18 MEMBER GENTLES: Mr. Chair? Mr. Chair, this is
19 Member Gentles.

20 CHMN. KATZ: Yes, sir. Member Gentles.

21 MEMBER GENTLES: Mr. Chairman, I have a question
22 on the virtual open house. It looks like on the three
23 phases, one of which was the launch of the virtual open
24 house; is that correct?

25 MR. LEVITT: We divided the three phases. The

1 first phase was the agency briefings, at which point
2 there was not the virtual open house.

3 Phase 2, after the mailing of the newsletter, is
4 when we launched the virtual open house web page. And
5 that web page was updated once we had a preferred route
6 when we mailed the postcard out. And that website has
7 been continued to be updated to include relevant
8 information about this hearing as well how folks could
9 view these proceedings today and how they could make
10 comments.

11 MEMBER GENTLES: And then I didn't see it. And
12 I might have missed it, so my apologies. Did you -- can
13 you point me to the -- the virtual open house engagement
14 data.

15 MR. LEVITT: The analytics? Yes.

16 MEMBER GENTLES: Yeah.

17 MR. LEVITT: So --

18 MEMBER GENTLES: The website.

19 MR. LEVITT: Yes. This is the website in
20 Phase 2.

21 BY MR. ANCHARSKI:

22 Q. Mr. Levitt, there was also another section on
23 this; correct? Another -- another slide?

24 A. (MR. LEVITT) Yes. There's -- there's Phase 2
25 summary, and then there's Phase 3.

1 MEMBER GENTLES: I was just trying to see
2 what -- because the project website has its own set of
3 analytics; right? And a subset of that would be the
4 virtual open house section?

5 MR. LEVITT: These analytics --

6 MEMBER GENTLES: Give me an idea of how much
7 participation --

8 MR. LEVITT: Sure.

9 MEMBER GENTLES: -- there was.

10 MR. LEVITT: These analytics refer to the entire
11 website as a -- as a whole. So it doesn't break down the
12 clicks to that virtual open house tab, but this includes
13 the whole unique page -- any unique page view on that --
14 on that website.

15 MEMBER GENTLES: And, if so, how long do you
16 expect the website to be active/online?

17 MR. LEVITT: This -- at this point we've not
18 discussed that, but it's available to AEPCO if they'd
19 like to maintain it throughout the life of the project.
20 But that's not a -- a decision that -- that I have been
21 included on at this point, so I'll leave that to Kevin.

22 MR. BARNES: Yeah, we have -- we have not
23 discussed that yet to date.

24 MEMBER GENTLES: All right. One of the things
25 that I think we're moving towards from the public

1 training standpoint, which is at minimum if not the
2 entire website, at a minimum the virtual open house stays
3 up and active as long as possible just to give people
4 more access to the information, at least through, you
5 know, potentially at least the start of construction if
6 not further along. But overall I think, you know,
7 they'll -- the -- the outreach looks really good. I'm
8 just hoping that applicants that come before the
9 Committee will continue maintaining at least a virtual
10 open house, if not the entire website, for a longer
11 period of time to give people as -- you know, as -- as
12 good access to the information as they -- as possible.

13 MR. BARNES: This is Kevin Barnes. AEPCO can
14 certainly commit to doing that.

15 I do want to have one comment directed to
16 Committee Member Hamway. When that second mailer went
17 out, we had not yet identified this as the venue. I
18 don't believe we even had a pre-filing hearing at that
19 point. We were just provided the data of the hearing via
20 our attorney, and we felt it was very important to get
21 our preferred material out to the public as quickly as
22 possible so they had time to look at that route and visit
23 our website and make comments.

24 So we were not trying to exclude people or
25 mislead people to go to Phoenix. We just didn't have

1 that information.

2 MEMBER HAMWAY: I know that.

3 MS. GRABEL: Mr. Barnes, if I could add one
4 thing to that.

5 I'm sorry, Member Hamway.

6 Isn't it also true that if you compare the
7 newsletter, it just shows a bunch of route alternatives,
8 compared to the postcard that actually shows the route?

9 So the intention, wouldn't you agree,
10 Mr. Barnes, was to isolate the routes that anyone who
11 would be affected by it would be more likely to come out?

12 MR. BARNES: That is correct.

13 MEMBER HAMWAY: We'll see.

14 MEMBER GENTLES: I mean, this is an interesting
15 case because it has these links. This is the first time
16 I've seen multiple links as a part of an application. So
17 it's -- you know, in that respect it's a little complex.
18 So the more information that's just available so that
19 people track through it, the better, in my opinion.

20 So -- but otherwise that's all -- all the
21 questions I had, Mr. Chairman.

22 CHMN. KATZ: Thank you, Mr. Gentles.

23 Anything further?

24 MS. GRABEL: Not for this witness, Mr. Chairman,
25 unless anyone else has questions.

1 CHMN. KATZ: Any other Committee Members have
2 questions?

3 We'll excuse the witness, and I guess we'll
4 recess for about five more minutes.

5 MS. GRABEL: While we have those five minutes,
6 do you want to enter the staff letter into the record?

7 CHMN. KATZ: Sure. Did you mark it as an
8 exhibit --

9 MS. GRABEL: We've --

10 CHMN. KATZ: -- or were you --

11 MS. GRABEL: We've printed it out and just
12 written in hand AEPCO Exhibit Number 18.

13 CHMN. KATZ: Right. I did discuss with
14 Ms. Grabel at the recess I hadn't marked the letter we
15 got from the Corporation Commission. And we'll -- she
16 had it and I had it, and I just wanted copies to go to
17 everybody here. We can ultimately email it, I guess, to
18 those who are appearing virtually. But it's now AEPCO
19 Exhibit Number 18, and it's the May 31st, 2022, letter
20 from the Corporation Commission that basically recommends
21 approval of this project.

22 MS. GRABEL: Yes.

23 And, Mr. Chairman, just for the record, it was
24 also filed in the docket in this case, so it is available
25 to those.

1 CHMN. KATZ: Anything further for today?

2 MS. GRABEL: No, Mr. Chairman.

3 CHMN. KATZ: Well, we'll plan -- those of us who
4 are going on the tour, we should plan on meeting here at
5 approximately 9:00 o'clock. You can arrive earlier if
6 you want to get breakfast here. Or if you're at the
7 hotel, you can have breakfast there. Our tour should get
8 us back here at about 11:30. That's what we're
9 predicting.

10 And I'm -- accordingly, I'd like to get started,
11 if we can, with the continuation of this hearing at
12 12:30. If we run into any delays, I'll try to get in
13 touch with Tod Brewer to make sure those who are
14 appearing virtual -- virtually understand that we're
15 going to start at 1:00 instead of 12:30, but I want to
16 plan to start at 12:30.

17 And we're just going to hang in here now for
18 5:30. I'm pretty confident, in light of all the notices
19 that went out, that 5:30 is a good time, except that we
20 had five signs saying 6:00 o'clock that were just
21 corrected to 5:30 last Friday. I don't know whether we
22 need to stick around till 6:00. We probably should. I'm
23 not counting on that a lot.

24 But we'll silence ourself until our wonderful
25 technical people let us know that we have people willing

1 to speak virtually.

2 Is there anybody here in the audience that is
3 from -- a member of the public that wanted to address the
4 Committee? If so, there will be a sign-in sheet for you.
5 But raise your hand if you are a member of the public
6 that wanted to address.

7 There's nobody in the room raising their hand,
8 so we'll just go off the record and wait and see in the
9 next several minutes if we get anybody contacting us.

10 We're in recess.

11 (Recess from 5:29 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.)

12 CHMN. KATZ: Let me go on the record just for a
13 minute.

14 I think we -- we have both David and Toby
15 present and all of the folks that were here.

16 Where is -- where's Jack?

17 MEMBER HAENICHEN: I'm here.

18 CHMN. KATZ: Oh, Jack is here. We have all
19 our --

20 MEMBER HAENICHEN: I'm making a dress.

21 CHMN. KATZ: We haven't lost any Members. But
22 it's now about a minute or two past 6:00 o'clock, and
23 nobody has contacted us. And we don't have any people in
24 person or virtually present from the public, so --

25 MEMBER HAENICHEN: They can't find this place.

1 CHMN. KATZ: So we stand in re- -- we stand in
2 recess until 9:00 o'clock tomorrow morning when we'll be
3 taking our tour. Everybody, drive safely. Have a good
4 night.

5 (The hearing adjourned at 6:01 p.m.)

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1 STATE OF ARIZONA)
)
2 COUNTY OF MARICOPA)

3 BE IT KNOWN that the foregoing proceedings were
4 taken before me; that the foregoing pages are a full,
5 true, and accurate record of the proceedings, all done to
6 the best of my skill and ability; that the proceedings
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9 I CERTIFY that I am in no way related to any of the
10 parties hereto nor am I in any way interested in the
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13 obligations set forth in ACJA 7-206(F)(3) and
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15 Arizona, this 9th day of June, 2022.

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1 BEFORE THE ARIZONA POWER PLANT LS-231

2 AND TRANSMISSION LINE SITING COMMITTEE

3

4 IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION) Docket No.
 OF ARIZONA ELECTRIC POWER) L-0000A-22-0102-00203
 5 COOPERATIVE, INC., OR ITS)
 ASSIGNEES, IN CONFORMANCE WITH) LS CASE NO. 203
 6 THE REQUIREMENTS OF A.R.S.)
 § 40-360, et seq., FOR A)
 7 CERTIFICATE OF ENVIRONMENTAL)
 COMPATIBILITY AUTHORIZING THE)
 8 SAGUARO TO MARANA 115KV)
 TRANSMISSION LINE PROJECT)
 9 _____)

10

At: Tucson, Arizona

11

Date: June 7, 2022

12

Filed: June 10, 2022

13

14 REPORTER'S TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

15

VOLUME II

(Pages 181 through 235)

16

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By: Cathy J. Taylor, RPR, CRR, CRC
 Arizona CR No. 50111

1 VOLUME I June 6, 2022 Pages 1 to 180
 2 VOLUME II June 7, 2022 Pages 181 to 235

3
 4

INDEX TO PROCEEDINGS

5 ITEM	PAGE
6 Opening Statement of Ms. Grabel	20
7 Presentation of Virtual Tour	62
8 Public Comment Session	178
9 Closing Statement of Ms. Grabel	210
10 Deliberations	217
11 Vote	233

12

INDEX TO THE TOUR

14 STOP	PAGE
15 1	188
16 5	191
17 6	195
18 7	197
19 9	201
20 12	206

18
 19

INDEX TO EXAMINATIONS

21 WITNESSES	PAGE
22 KEVIN BARNES, CHRISTOPHER LINDSEY	
23 Direct Examination by Ms. Grabel	29

24
 25

1 INDEX TO EXAMINATIONS (Cont'd)

2 WITNESSES PAGE

3 RANDALL SIMPSON

4 Direct Examination by Ms. Grabel(Virtual Tour) 62
 5 Direct Examination by Ms. Grabel 87

6 TRAVIS LEVITT

7 Direct Examination by Mr. Ancharksi 142

8

9

10 INDEX TO EXHIBITS

11 NO. DESCRIPTION IDENTIFIED ADMITTED

12 AEPCO-1
 13 Application for Certificate
 Of Environmental Compatibility
 For AEPCO (Saguaro to Marana)

14 AEPCO-2
 15 Map of Proposed Project

16 AEPCO-3
 17 Testimony Summary of Kevin
 Barnes (Project Overview)

18 AEPCO-4
 19 Witness Presentation of Kevin
 Barnes (Project Overview)

20 AEPCO-5
 21 AEPCO Ten-Year Plans

22 AEPCO-6
 23 TEP Ten-Year Plan for 2022
 (Jan. 31, 2022)

24 AEPCO-7
 25 Trico Electric Cooperative
 Letter of Support

1 INDEX TO EXHIBITS (Cont'd)

2	NO.	DESCRIPTION	IDENTIFIED	ADMITTED
3	AEPCO-8	Exhibits Regarding Notice	41	210
4		Requirements (A-K)		
5	AEPCO-9	Receipt of Filing Fee	43	210
6				
7	AEPCO-10	Virtual Tour	62	210
8	AEPCO-11	Tour Itinerary/Script/Protocol	140	210
9				
10	AEPCO-12	Testimony Summary of Randall	87	210
11		Simpson (Technical Component/Need/ Environmental)		
12	AEPCO-13	Witness Presentation of Randall	88	210
13		Simpson (Technical Component/Need/ Environmental)		
14				
15	AEPCO-14	Testimony Summary of Travis Levitt	144	210
16		(Public Outreach)		
17	AEPCO-15	Witness Presentation of Travis	144	210
18		Levitt (Public Outreach)		
19	AEPCO-16	Summary of Public Outreach	144	210
20	AEPCO-17	Proposed Certificate of	25	210
21		Environmental Compatibility		
22	AEPCO-18	Letter from the Arizona	176	210
23		Corporation Commission dated		
24		May 31st, 2022.		
25				

1
2
3
4
5
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7
8
9
10
11
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19
20
21
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INDEX TO EXHIBITS (Cont'd)

NO.	DESCRIPTION	IDENTIFIED	ADMITTED
TEP-1	Testimony Summary of Christopher Lindsey	46	210
TEP-2	Witness Presentation of Christopher Lindsey	46	210
CHMN-1	Edited draft of CEC	211	For Reference
CHMN-2	Final form of CEC	211	For Reference

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 at Northwest Fire Department Training Facility.
5 5125 West Camino de Fuego, Tucson, Arizona, commencing at
6 9:43 a.m. on the 7th day of June, 2022.

7

8 BEFORE: PAUL A. KATZ, Chairman

9 JAMES PALMER, Agriculture Interests
10 MARY HAMWAY, Incorporated Cities and Towns
11 RICK GRINNELL, Counties
12 KARL GENTLES, General Public
13 (via videoconference)
14 JACK HAENICHEN, General Public
15 MARGARET "TOBY" LITTLE, PE, General Public
16 (via videoconference)
17 DAVID FRENCH, Arizona Department of Water Resources
18 (via videoconference)

19 APPEARANCES:

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21 For the Applicant:
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3 Staff:

3

4 ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION
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6 (via videoconference)
7 1200 West Washington Street
8 Phoenix, Arizona 85007

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1 (TIME NOTED: 9:43 a.m.)

2 (Beginning of route tour.)

3 (Mr. Simpson joins the tour at the first stop.)

4 (Member Grinnell not present on route tour.)

5

6 (Arrival at Stop No. 1)

7 CHMN. KATZ: We'll go on the record. This is
8 route stop location 1 in the CEC 203 hearing, and Randall
9 Simpson is going to give us a little overview of this
10 planned Adonis Substation.

11 MR. SIMPSON: Yeah. As mentioned, we are now at
12 the planned Adonis Substation. This is the furthest east
13 takeoff point for the project. You can see the existing
14 transmission line corridor that has the quad circuit
15 line. That's the single pole line with the four sets of
16 wires. And then the shorter wood pole structure behind,
17 that's the 115kV line. The substation plans are kind of
18 in the -- the area between the row and -- and that wash
19 area out there extending to the south from the corridor.
20 So this will be the general location of the takeoff.

21 CHMN. KATZ: And what direction is this?

22 MR. SIMPSON: We are looking to the south.

23 CHMN. KATZ: Okay.

24 MR. SIMPSON: South/southeast from this
25 location. And the road that we traveled in on is kind of

1 west/southwest. And this is the road or the path that --
2 that we'll follow for the transmission line to head down
3 towards the interstate.

4 So the idea here, we would utilize the road edge
5 to be locating the -- the transmission line somewhat
6 adjacent to the road to minimize any new road
7 construction or any significant disturbance to the --

8 CHMN. KATZ: It goes on this side, to the right
9 side of the road?

10 MR. SIMPSON: So it'll be essentially the
11 southwest corner of the intersection of Owl Head Ranch
12 Road and the transmission line corridor.

13 And there is a preliminary plan that was
14 developed when this substation was first conceived that
15 could change a little bit as a result of this, but
16 generally the -- the configuration was -- was laying out
17 in this area. And they'll have to, you know, work with
18 that drainage that's over there, some other things, but
19 generally this is the vicinity of it, so --

20 MR. BARNES: One important thing, this is part
21 of the double-circuit portion of the project going from
22 Adonis to the west.

23 MR. SIMPSON: Yeah. And as we go to the west
24 and we approach the CAP Canal, you will notice just
25 before we get there the flood protection berms come out

1 along the edge of the road, and then the CAP Canal Trail
2 is located on either side of -- of that. The trail has
3 to come out behind that flood protection berm. There's
4 no way to get up and over the berms there. That's why it
5 gets away from the -- the CAP Canal in that area.

6 But you'll see the fences and the gates for the
7 canal just a ways down here, and then we'll hit the
8 canal, and then the San Lucas Community subdivision is
9 next.

10 And that's about really all. And, again, this
11 was the area that, you know, from a habitat standpoint
12 you can see a little bit better quality desert habitat
13 out here. Again, I think this location, being along the
14 road, is going to help us minimize the issues.

15 Some of the other routes we looked at going
16 north is where we had the issues with the bio and culture
17 resources, which is, you know, one of the things that --
18 that, you know, got us focusing more on this roadway
19 corridor. But a lot of that occurs in the approximately
20 mile, mile and a half to the north of us and then back
21 towards the freeway.

22 And that information is -- is both in Exhibit B,
23 the culture resource report, summary of that, as well as
24 part of Exhibit E.

25 CHMN. KATZ: Anybody have any questions of

1 Randall?

2 MS. GRABEL: Nope.

3 CHMN. KATZ: We can --

4 MS. GRABEL: Thank you.

5 CHMN. KATZ: -- hit the road?

6 MS. GRABEL: Yep, unless you had something.

7 CHMN. KATZ: No.

8 (TIME NOTED: 9:47 a.m.

9 (Conclusion of Stop No. 1)

10

11 (TIME NOTED: 9:56 a.m.

12 (Arrival at Stop No. 5)

13 MR. SIMPSON: So we drove by 2, which is

14 further --

15 CHMN. KATZ: Okay.

16 MR. SIMPSON: -- 3 was the CAP Trail, 4 was the

17 canal, and now we're at number 5. And number 5 is the

18 boundary of the San Lucas Community. Correct.

19 CHMN. KATZ: And go ahead and explain it, if you

20 think appropriate.

21 MR. SIMPSON: Okay. We are at stop 5 that was

22 shown in the virtual route tour. We are on the northern

23 edge of the San Lucas residential community, which is the

24 master-planned community just to the east of

25 Interstate 10. And the area to the north of us here is

1 State land. So approximately where that fence line is is
2 likely the -- the State land boundary. You can see this
3 access road that is on the edge of the fence line of the
4 community. I believe that's there because they do some
5 maintenance on that, that water structure down there
6 that -- that conveys water from the north and south. And
7 so I -- I think the approximate State land boundary is
8 going to be somewhere in the vicinity to the fence line.

9 As I mentioned yesterday in the visual
10 simulation that we prepared, I just measured the distance
11 approximately 75 feet from the wall. So just inside the
12 State land boundary was where that simulation was
13 prepared, which would be just, you know, to the -- to the
14 north side of that fence line.

15 We talked a little bit about the -- the grade
16 change that occurs in the subdivision. You can see how
17 the houses sit below the grade that we have back here.
18 The -- the fence line provides a pretty good buffer from
19 the backyards. And you can see some areas, you know,
20 some of the trees and things that occur along the
21 neighborhood will provide a little bit of additional
22 buffer.

23 And we are requesting, you know, 300 feet for
24 the corridor here. So theoretically the line could be
25 located a little bit further away from the residence than

1 where we had shown it, but that is going to be something
2 that has to be negotiated during the final decision and
3 right-of-way acquisition with the State.

4 CHMN. KATZ: So, in other words, it could
5 possibly be built on the State Trust right-of-way on the
6 State Trust land site?

7 MR. BARNES: It will be built on State land. We
8 don't know how far they'll allow us to go to the north.

9 MR. SIMPSON: Yeah. It's pretty common. We
10 work with State lands on a lot of these projects.
11 They're pretty used to these types of linear facilities.
12 And we don't expect to have any significant objections,
13 but, you know, there is a right-of-way process that has
14 to take place, an official process, and some additional
15 studies and things that need to be done for that.

16 As you can see back to the east of us, the CAP
17 Canal, we showed that in some photos yesterday. That
18 large berm that was on the eastern side of it is meant to
19 intercept the floodwaters that come down off the
20 mountains in the background, and it's to prevent any
21 washout or -- or damage to the canal. You'll see that
22 pretty much the entire length of the canal where there's
23 floodplains like that.

24 Member Hamway, you asked yesterday about the age
25 of the subdivision.

1 MEMBER HAMWAY: Yes.

2 MR. SIMPSON: I did look up some data, and it
3 looks like that the subdivision started about 15 years
4 ago.

5 MEMBER HAMWAY: Okay.

6 MR. SIMPSON: So some of the oldest homes on the
7 south/southwest corner appear to have started around
8 2008. Some of the areas up on this north side around
9 2015 and '16 for some of these homes out on this edge.
10 So it -- it spanned, you know, about 10 years --

11 MEMBER HAMWAY: Okay.

12 MR. SIMPSON: -- of time. So anywhere from 7 to
13 15 years appeared to be the rough age of the homes in
14 here.

15 MEMBER HAMWAY: How many in total are in there?

16 MR. SIMPSON: I did not look at that, but it --
17 you know, it's a pretty sizeable subdivision.

18 MEMBER HAMWAY: Yeah.

19 MR. SIMPSON: I would say several hundred.

20 MEMBER HAMWAY: Okay.

21 MR. SIMPSON: I also looked in the area in the
22 middle of the subdivision, and it does appear to be a
23 retention basin. And it was left as a desert. It
24 doesn't appear it was ever modified or constructed.
25 There appeared to be a low spot that they left to allow

1 that water to accumulate.

2 MEMBER HAMWAY: Okay.

3 MR. SIMPSON: And we'll drive right by that.

4 CHMN. KATZ: Okay. Ready to mount back up?

5 (TIME NOTED: 10:01 a.m.

6 (Conclusion of Stop No. 5)

7

8 (TIME NOTED: 10:07 a.m.

9 (Arrival at Stop No. 6)

10 MR. SIMPSON: Okay. Here now at route stop
11 location 6 from the virtual tour. And this is the
12 crossing of Interstate 10. On the other side of the
13 interstate here is where the UPR railroad tracks. We
14 crossed that coming under the freeway. There's a
15 pipeline corridor in that area also, a fiberoptic line.
16 And you can see a frontage road on either side of the --
17 the freeway that allows traffic to move back and forth
18 outside the freeway limits. So we are going to be
19 crossing right in the general area where the stop sign is
20 and the road sign out there. It is a little bit of a --
21 an angle due to the direction of travel on -- on
22 Interstate 10. But they'll probably try to do this
23 mostly perpendicular because it was a pretty long span.

24 So there may be a little bit of a shift or a jog
25 right here just to square up with the section line

1 boundaries on either side and get across the freeway, but
2 roughly we're going to follow this treeline or this
3 access road to the due west. And so the transition will
4 be, you know, pretty much along this line here, that
5 the -- from the frontage road looking to the south, the
6 parcel on the west side of the frontage road is expected
7 to be commercial development.

8 When we travel down this road and turn down
9 Sagebrush Road or onto Sanders Road from Sagebrush Road,
10 that is going to be where the Sanders Grove
11 master-planned community that was approved by the Town of
12 Marana is looking. So it's going to be at the end of the
13 tree row at the end of Sagebrush Road. And then we're
14 going to turn right there and head south. If you're
15 looking off to the right, that's where that subdivision
16 would roughly be located, and it'll extend to the south
17 where we turn on Marana Road.

18 So, again, mostly agricultural right now. You
19 can see some of the canal features, some of the
20 irrigation equipment. That'll all be taken into
21 consideration as well. And, you know, for the most part,
22 it's fairly open here and -- and fairly flexible in terms
23 of how the line is built and constructed.

24 So we will proceed about a half a mile to the
25 west and then a half mile south, and we will stop at

1 route stop 7 and 8. They're kind of in the same area.

2 And we'll look at the TEP siting area along Marana Road.

3 (TIME NOTED: 10:10 a.m.

4 (Conclusion of Stop No. 6)

5

6 (TIME NOTED: 10:15 a.m.

7 (Arrival at Stop No. 7)

8 CHMN. KATZ: This is what, stop 7?

9 MR. SIMPSON: Yeah. We are kind of at -- we are
10 at stop 7. And stop 8 is just right up the road here
11 more adjacent to the TEP substation siting area, so I
12 don't think we'll need to stop. There's not a great spot
13 to stop along the road there anyway.

14 Yeah, we're at the intersection of Sanders Road
15 and West Marana Road. So the line is going to come from
16 the north.

17 And we may have to move. We've got some
18 equipment coming down the road. We'll see if he turns
19 into this -- this farmstead here.

20 Okay. We're good. Bigger equipment always
21 wins.

22 So the TEP substation area in those -- is
23 located in -- somewhere in -- in those fields along the
24 south side of Marana Road. Again, it's predominantly
25 agricultural. You'll see this agricultural operation

1 here. There is a little trailer there, but it appears
2 that that might be more of an office than a residence.
3 It's not totally clear to me, but this looks more to be
4 an agricultural operation not so much a residence here.
5 This building on the south side of the road was a
6 commercial entity that appears to have been abandoned
7 several years ago. It's in a kind of state of disrepair,
8 so I don't expect that to present any issues if -- if we
9 were on that side of the -- south side of the road.
10 Again, this is an area to the west of us adjacent to
11 Sanders Road where the Sanders Grove master-planned
12 community was proposed. So it would have extended all
13 the way down to this road boundary and then all the way
14 up to the -- to the boundary of Sagebrush Road where
15 we're at, so, you know, to the west of us. But we're
16 right on that seam.

17 Anticipated commercial development over that
18 way. General planned areas for residential to the south.

19 And one thing to note. You'll see residential
20 communities to the south, and you'll see some new
21 construction down that way. Again, one of the reasons
22 why some of the routes that we looked at from the south
23 didn't perform as well is there's quite a bit more
24 development down there, and then there were new
25 developments that were just getting underway with

1 construction. And you kind of see that construction
2 activity down there.

3 So, again, we kind of fell into this more
4 central area because it provided a pretty good access
5 along the major roadway here. And, you know, we were
6 able to kind of stay on the -- the edges of other
7 development without being in- -- inside the development.
8 So it was kind of a compromise between some of the issues
9 we had on the cultural bio on the north end and land
10 issues on the south end.

11 CHMN. KATZ: And where will the lines actually
12 be running in this general area?

13 MR. SIMPSON: So the -- the request is still for
14 300 feet usually on the centerline, 150 feet from the
15 centerline of each of the roads. So theoretically you
16 could be on the north or south side.

17 What you'll notice when we go down West Marana
18 Road is there is some land uses that are on each side of
19 the road. It may require that we move from one side of
20 the road. And, again, that'll get worked out during the
21 right-of-way acquisition and the design phase, but there
22 are, you know --

23 CHMN. KATZ: The lines will be running south,
24 though, and then turning to the west?

25 MR. SIMPSON: South here turning due west right

1 at this intersection of West Marana Road and
2 Sanders Road.

3 And then at this point we're going to continue
4 west, and we'll stop at one of the other residential
5 areas a couple miles down the road along Wentz Road so
6 you can see that perspective of where those residences
7 are adjacent to the route. And then after that, we'll
8 continue past the river and -- and proceed on to the -- I
9 think the last stop.

10 MEMBER HAMWAY: Great.

11 MR. SIMPSON: So, you know, there was a lot of
12 traffic still. It looks like there's a fair amount this
13 morning, more than I've ever seen. We might have to go a
14 little faster just to stay pace here and not get run
15 over, but I will try to do it in a safe way. But we will
16 be coming exactly back on this path, so you get a chance
17 to see all this to this point. And then we'll continue
18 to exit on the freeway. So this -- this is the entire
19 length we'll drive twice. We'll see both sides of the
20 road.

21 All right. Next stop.

22 (TIME NOTED: 10:20 a.m.)

23 (Conclusion of Stop No. 7)

24

25 (TIME NOTED: 10:26 a.m.)

1 (Arrival at Stop No. 9)

2 MEMBER HAMWAY: So were any of your comments
3 from this resident right here?

4 MR. SIMPSON: I don't think we heard from any of
5 these residences. There's a few across the road here, a
6 couple here and then a couple down on the corner. I
7 don't recall getting any specific comments from any of
8 them.

9 MEMBER HAMWAY: So how close -- so where will
10 the line be for this house?

11 MR. SIMPSON: So we are -- let me make sure I
12 get this right.

13 Yeah. So we are at route stop location number 9
14 that was shown in the virtual route tour.

15 MEMBER HAMWAY: Yeah, but what is it on this
16 map? So, see. It --

17 MR. SIMPSON: And we're right at --

18 MEMBER HAMWAY: You've got intersections.

19 MR. SIMPSON: Right at the intersection of
20 Wentz Roads and West Marana -- excuse me -- Lockett Road
21 and West Marana.

22 MEMBER HAMWAY: Okay.

23 MR. SIMPSON: So we're going to turn and cross
24 the Santa Cruz River in a minute. But the route, again,
25 is still running east/west along West Marana Road to the

1 south of us, so in the same travel direction as that
2 power distribution line that you see right in the forward
3 around here.

4 So this location was also the -- the -- where we
5 prepared the second visual simulation that we discussed
6 yesterday. So this was -- I was standing pretty much
7 just right in this area when I shot the photo. And
8 that's the simulation that you see.

9 CHMN. KATZ: And the lines will be running on
10 this side of the road opposite the distribution lines?

11 MR. SIMPSON: Potentially. That's one option.
12 You know, from a right-of-way perspective you have more
13 development on that section, south road. And there was
14 one -- that one residence was pretty close to the south
15 end of the road. It would be a little difficult to get a
16 second line in there. So as far as being, you know, free
17 of -- of any encumbrances, the north side would probably
18 be a little more open. But, you know, that's discussions
19 we need to have with the landowners.

20 I think from a design standpoint, you know,
21 relatively straightforward with the exception of that one
22 residence that gets pretty close. The rest of it, I
23 think you could still build on the south side if you
24 wanted to. And, here again, we have some development
25 from this point heading west on West Marana Road. You do

1 have a little bit of development on both sides of the
2 road. Quite a bit of setback.

3 You'll see a -- a white fence that continues all
4 along the north side of this road. I believe that's the
5 edge of the road right-of-way. And so you could
6 anticipate if the line were in that location, you'd
7 probably be along the edge of that white fence.

8 MEMBER PALMER: In the right-of-way?

9 MR. SIMPSON: More than likely out. That was
10 one of the things that the County emphasized, is they
11 know this road will get expanded in the future, so they
12 don't want to have to relocate or move facilities. But
13 you won't have to be far into any of those corrals or
14 anything. You could literally be just inside the fence,
15 I think, and utilize some of the aerial right-of-way that
16 you'd have, which, again, makes it pretty feasible from
17 that standpoint.

18 So this is an area where we talked about some of
19 those land use impacts. We did characterize those areas
20 as potential impacts to some of those temporary
21 structures, like the fences, corrals, and some of the owl
22 structures that are in the area. But nothing of
23 significance. And I think most of it would be easily
24 mitigated.

25 MEMBER HAMWAY: Okay. Thank you.

1 MR. SIMPSON: We -- we won't really have a very
2 good spot to stop at the crossing of the Santa Cruz
3 River. The road ditches are really steep. It's curvy.
4 There's a lot of vegetation. There's not a very safe
5 spot to just stop on the road. So we'll try to go
6 through that slow. You'll see the river. Once we enter
7 the floodplain you'll see the vegetation, get more of a
8 sense, and you'll see the river channel. And there is
9 water flowing in it. That question was asked yesterday.
10 It has been every time I've been out here. So, again, I
11 think there's some -- some flow that's maybe a little bit
12 artificial in there.

13 MR. BARNES: No. That does flow year around,
14 and it's effluent water from the water treatment plant.

15 MR. SIMPSON: Yeah. I know the water treatment
16 plant is a ways north. Some of the northern routes we
17 studied would have went, actually, right past that. But
18 I don't know if the effluent down here comes from a
19 different plant.

20 MR. BARNES: It does.

21 MR. SIMPSON: It's not clear to me either.

22 But, yeah, there's a pretty good stream going
23 through there.

24 So we will go around the curve. You'll see the
25 land use, the residential and, you know, 1-acre

1 farmsteads along the way. And we'll cross the Santa Cruz
2 River, and then we'll stop on the other side of that.
3 And it'll be kind of our last stop as we approach the
4 area of the Marana Substation. And then when we leave,
5 we'll kind of go, turn around down by the Marana
6 Substation so you can get a look at that area, and then
7 we'll come back the same way.

8 MEMBER HAMWAY: Is the bridge we're going to
9 cross the river on the same one you're going to try to
10 span?

11 MR. SIMPSON: Yeah.

12 MEMBER HAMWAY: Okay.

13 MR. SIMPSON: We'll be paralleling the bridge
14 and spanning the river there. And, again, we haven't
15 decided yet. You could be on either side of the bridge.
16 They both look the same, you know, similar vegetation and
17 things of that nature. So there will have to be some
18 engineering done there because it is a pretty good span.
19 And then there appears to be some eroded edges in some of
20 the stream banks, and we'll have to figure out how to
21 design that appropriately. That'll be probably one area
22 that they spend more time on just to get it right.

23 CHMN. KATZ: Thanks.

24 MR. SIMPSON: All right. Our next stop.

25 (TIME NOTED: 10:31 a.m.)

1 (Conclusion of Stop No. 9)

2

3 (TIME NOTED: 10:36 a.m.

4 (Arrival at Stop No. 12)

5 MR. SIMPSON: All right. We are at the final
6 stop on the virtual route tour --

7 CHMN. KATZ: Okay.

8 MR. SIMPSON: -- which I believe is number 12.

9 Yes.

10 So we are at --

11 CHMN. KATZ: I'm trying to make a record.

12 MR. SIMPSON: -- the point where the
13 transmission line, the proposed route will come off
14 West Marana Road, and it'll follow this -- this access
15 road here, which follows a gas pipeline corridor. And
16 then into the substation on the -- the right-hand side of
17 the road is the Marana Substation. You'll see all
18 different transmission lines coming in it from different
19 directions. This is a pretty good-sized substation.
20 Lots of different resources tying in there. In that
21 large tower is a communications tower for the cellular
22 companies.

23 As you noticed, you know, crossing over the
24 Santa Cruz River, not a lot of development once you
25 passed the curves on the road. Pretty much, again, open

1 agricultural land. Right now this area only has general
2 planned residential uses. So sometime in the future,
3 this -- this potentially could all be residential
4 development. But, you know, a lot can change in those
5 things, too, based on the developer's intentions,
6 landowner intentions, but that's what it is currently
7 planned for.

8 And, again, coming down the road, you could
9 either be on the north side or the south side of Marana
10 here. And then in some ways there's a point at which if
11 you cross to the south side of Marana Road, you would
12 avoid that one residence that's a little bit on the
13 corner that was a little closer. I think it was an
14 orange-ish color house. If you were to switch sides of
15 the road there and stay on this side, you'd have a pretty
16 clean way of getting into the substation too. So that's
17 something to -- for the engineers to consider,
18 right-of-way folks to consider. But it might be a way of
19 minimizing some of the impacts to a couple of those
20 residences there.

21 So I think at this point we'll kind of conclude
22 the tour, but I will -- just for the sake of seeing the
23 substation a little bit better, I will go back onto the
24 main road, and we'll drive down Tri- -- Trico Road, and
25 then we'll turn around by the substation just so you can

1 see it. This road is good for the first part, but then
2 it gets pretty rough going into the sub, so I don't think
3 we want to attempt that one. We'll just turn around and
4 go that way. And then at that point we're just going to
5 do kind of a U-turn, and we'll head all the way back to
6 the freeway corridor driving the route all the way to the
7 point where we hit the Sanders Road. And then at that
8 point we leave the corridor to get to the freeway.

9 MEMBER HAENICHEN: Sounds good.

10 MR. SIMPSON: So we'll wrap it up here. And
11 enjoy the rest of the -- the drive.

12 MEMBER HAMWAY: Thank you.

13 MEMBER PALMER: Thank you.

14 MR. SIMPSON: You bet.

15 CHMN. KATZ: Thank you.

16 (TIME NOTED: 10:39 a.m.)

17 (Conclusion of Stop No. 12)

18

19 (End of route tour.)

20 (Recess from 10:39 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.)

21 (Member Grinnell joins the proceedings.)

22 CHMN. KATZ: Okay. Let's go ahead. Let's go
23 back on the record.

24 We're getting started, gentlemen.

25 The record should reflect that everyone except

1 David French that was here in person yesterday is here in
2 person again today. We have David French, and we have
3 Toby Little, Member Little, appearing virtually. I don't
4 know whether or not Karl Gentles, who appeared for a
5 few minutes, maybe longer than that, yesterday.

6 But the one thing I want to ask of all the
7 Members who are present here today virtually or -- and in
8 person, if you are going to appear virtually -- and
9 Member Little has always done it, and Member Grinnell,
10 who's here in person has always done it, and David French
11 is doing it today. We need whoever is going to appear
12 virtually to have their video on at all times, even if
13 you have to step away to grab a drink or go to the
14 restroom, because we need to make sure we have a quorum
15 present.

16 Because I knew in advance that we would today
17 not have two of our Members present, who are on vacation,
18 one out of the state and one out of the country, and we
19 just need to make sure we always have a -- a quorum
20 present. And we do.

21 So we are ready to go. And this is, again, CEC
22 Case Number 203. And it is the matter of Arizona
23 Electric Power Cooperative, Inc., and Intervenor TEP that
24 are participating in this through counsel, Meghan Grabel,
25 and her associate.

1 Do you want to make any opening -- or --
2 opening -- any closing remarks before we start reviewing
3 the proposed Certificate of Environmental Compliance?

4 MS. GRABEL: Just a couple of things,
5 Chairman Katz.

6 First, I would like to move into the record the
7 exhibits that we laid foundation for yesterday, which are
8 AEPCO Exhibits 1 through 18 and TEP Exhibits 1 and 2.

9 CHMN. KATZ: Exhibits 1 through 18 -- AEPCO's
10 Exhibits 1 through 18 have been offered and will be
11 admitted and made part of the record.

12 And TEP's Exhibits 1 and 2 have been offered and
13 will be admitted.

14 MS. GRABEL: Thank you.

15 And by way of closing, I think I'll rest on, I
16 think, the fine testimony presented by these gentlemen
17 yesterday. But I would like to very sincerely from the
18 bottom of our hearts thank you very much for your
19 attendance and participation. I know it's a long way for
20 some of you all to travel. Thank you also for your
21 participation in the tour this morning. I thought it was
22 beneficial. I think that those who went along also
23 thought it was beneficial.

24 I think the project is one that's -- that's good
25 for several reasons. It's going to improve the

1 reliability of three different utilities, Trico Electric
2 Cooperative, Arizona Electric Power Cooperative, and
3 Tucson Electric Power Company. It also is a good example
4 of the benefits that can come when utilities cooperate
5 and collaborate by collocating facilities.

6 We have had no opposition to the project; and,
7 therefore, we respectfully ask that the CEC be approved.

8 CHMN. KATZ: Thank you very much.

9 And what we're going to do, the document -- and
10 I don't think the folks appearing virtually can see it --
11 on the right screen is the PDF version. And we're not
12 going to work with it. It will be marked as Chairman
13 Exhibit Number 1. And I'll have to rely on the applicant
14 to make sure that a copy of that PDF marked as Chair 1
15 gets presented to our court reporter and made
16 appropriately part of the record. And it will be
17 admitted.

18 And we're going to work from the Word version,
19 and it's going to be on our left screen. It's inverse,
20 but that's the only way that the participants who are
21 appearing virtually can see it. And we're going to work
22 from that document and edit it as we think appropriate.

23 I'll take us through sometimes a paragraph at a
24 time, sometimes just a few lines at a time, but we're
25 going to hold off of our final vote of approval or

1 disapproval until we've reviewed the entire document.

2 You can put that document up, and we can begin
3 working on it.

4 And if you could scroll up so we could at least
5 see lines, really, 11 through 23. You can just scroll
6 down.

7 Okay. I have the introduction, which explains
8 the nature of the project under Certificate of
9 Environmental Compatibility. And it is with a capital A,
10 that section, lines 11 through 23 -- or 23 and a half are
11 that initial portion.

12 And I could go on, I guess, to the next page,
13 but it -- let me read --

14 MEMBER HAMWAY: Let's just do that one.

15 CHMN. KATZ: We'll just do that one.

16 And do we have a motion to approve lines 11
17 through 23?

18 MEMBER HAMWAY: So moved.

19 MEMBER PALMER: Second?

20 CHMN. KATZ: All in favor.

21 (A chorus of "ayes".)

22 CHMN. KATZ: Anybody opposed?

23 (No response.)

24 CHMN. KATZ: We will then move on. Picking up
25 at line number 25 on that page and going all the way

1 to -- where is that portion? I don't think we have the
2 lines to fill in on what the vote is on lines -- on
3 page 2, lines 12 through --

4 MEMBER PALMER: It's yet to come.

5 MEMBER HAMWAY: It's -- I think it's --

6 CHMN. KATZ: Oh, is it further down?

7 MEMBER HAMWAY: Yes.

8 CHMN. KATZ: Okay. What I'd like to do then is
9 get a motion. Well, what you need to do is Zachary
10 Branum and Leonard Drago were not present --

11 MEMBER HAMWAY: And neither was Karl.

12 CHMN. KATZ: -- and neither was Karl Gentles.

13 He appeared briefly yesterday, but we're going to
14 indicate that he's not present. So we do have myself
15 present, David French, Rick Grinnell, Mary Hamway, James
16 Palmer, Jack Haenichen, and Margaret Toby Little. And
17 I'd like to have us approve the amended version beginning
18 on line 25 of page 1 and then picking back up at line 2
19 on page 2 through -- I guess we can go all the way
20 through line 11 on page 2.

21 MEMBER HAMWAY: I move --

22 CHMN. KATZ: Go ahead.

23 MEMBER HAMWAY: I move lines -- oh, starting
24 with the beginning -- actually, I can't see those
25 numbers.

1 CHMN. KATZ: All right. We started --

2 MEMBER PALMER: 25.

3 MEMBER HAMWAY: 25 through --

4 CHMN. KATZ: Line --

5 MEMBER HAMWAY: Oh.

6 CHMN. KATZ: The next page, line 11. But we are
7 striking the three --

8 MEMBER HAMWAY: Yeah, right.

9 CHMN. KATZ: -- folks that aren't present.

10 MEMBER HAMWAY: Second.

11 CHMN. KATZ: All in favor?

12 (A chorus of "ayes".)

13 CHMN. KATZ: Anyone opposed?

14 (No response.)

15 CHMN. KATZ: Hearing no one.

16 And I thought the next paragraph beginning at
17 line 12 is where we normally have the vote.

18 MEMBER HAMWAY: Yeah. I don't see the vote
19 either.

20 MS. GRABEL: Mr. Chairman, we need to include
21 Tucson Electric Power instead of Intervenor.

22 CHMN. KATZ: You're correct. We need to amend
23 line -- we'll look at lines 9 through -- 9 through 11 on
24 page 2 and --

25 MEMBER HAMWAY: Here's the vote. Right there.

1 CHMN. KATZ: I see. Okay. We just need to --
2 we've already approved it, but we need to change the term
3 Intervenor to Tucson Electric Power.

4 Do we --

5 MEMBER HAMWAY: We haven't voted on those lines
6 yet, have we?

7 CHMN. KATZ: I thought we went through line 11.

8 MEMBER HAMWAY: Okay. I'm sorry.

9 MEMBER PALMER: Yeah, I think we did.

10 CHMN. KATZ: But we could do a motion to amend
11 lines 9 through 11 to change the name of -- or to change
12 the term Intervenor to Tucson Electric.

13 MEMBER HAENICHEN: So moved.

14 MEMBER HAMWAY: Second.

15 CHMN. KATZ: All in favor.

16 (A chorus of "ayes".)

17 CHMN. KATZ: Anyone opposed?

18 (No response.)

19 CHMN. KATZ: We will then move on. We're going
20 to skip -- I see where -- at line 16 there are two Xs
21 where we normally have a space.

22 We're going to skip right now lines 12 through
23 line 17 because that's our final vote. We'll come back
24 to that later.

25 MEMBER PALMER: Yeah. Mr. Chairman, and also

1 for those of us that aren't looking at the hard copy,
2 those lines are a moving target, so --

3 MEMBER HAMWAY: I'm not sure it's helpful to do
4 the lines so much anymore.

5 CHMN. KATZ: That's fine, but we'll go back to
6 those paragraphs.

7 We now are going to paragraph B, beginning at
8 line -- it's like really at line 18 and a half, the
9 overview of the project. That goes through the line 27
10 and a half and on to page 3, line 13.

11 We'll just take a quick look at page 2, and in a
12 minute or so we can continue on to the next page.

13 I think we've --

14 MEMBER PALMER: I move approval of --

15 CHMN. KATZ: We're going to go on to the next
16 page as well.

17 If you can move to page 3, please. And that is
18 what, through --

19 MEMBER PALMER: Line 14.

20 CHMN. KATZ: -- line 14.

21 MEMBER PALMER: I move approval of item B, the
22 Overview of the Project.

23 MEMBER HAMWAY: Second.

24 MEMBER GRINNELL: Second.

25 CHMN. KATZ: All in favor?

1 (A chorus of "ayes.")

2 CHMN. KATZ: Anyone opposed?

3 (No response.)

4 CHMN. KATZ: We now will go to Condition
5 Number 1, which is on page 3. And is that line 16
6 through 21?

7 MEMBER PALMER: I move Condition 1.

8 MEMBER HAMWAY: Second.

9 CHMN. KATZ: All in favor.

10 (A chorus of "ayes.")

11 CHMN. KATZ: Anybody opposed?

12 (No response.)

13 CHMN. KATZ: And we have stricken the reference
14 to the -- to CEC's upon which this condition is
15 predicated.

16 We are now looking at Condition Number 2, which
17 begins at, I believe, line 22 through the following page,
18 line number 8.

19 MEMBER HAENICHEN: I move Condition 2.

20 CHMN. KATZ: Any second?

21 MEMBER GRINNELL: Second.

22 MEMBER HAMWAY: I'll ask a question. I thought
23 that they notified the people within a one-mile radius of
24 the project, not a five-mile.

25 CHMN. KATZ: That's -- isn't that -- that's

1 correct.

2 MS. GRABEL: Yes, Chairman.

3 Thank you, Member Hamway. Yes, we -- we agree
4 with that. We would prefer one mile. We didn't object
5 to it, but we think that one mile is more appropriate for
6 this project. That language was taken from prior CECs
7 where a five-mile radius was probably more appropriate.

8 MEMBER HAMWAY: I think you stick with what you
9 started with.

10 CHMN. KATZ: Right.

11 So we are going to edit that to make it one
12 mile; correct?

13 MEMBER HAMWAY: I move Condition 2 with those
14 changes.

15 MEMBER GRINNELL: Second.

16 CHMN. KATZ: All in favor.

17 (A chorus of "ayes.")

18 CHMN. KATZ: Anybody opposed?

19 (No response.)

20 CHMN. KATZ: Moving on then to Condition
21 Number 3, which I believe is at line 9, and it runs
22 through line 24 or -- 25. Condition 3.

23 MEMBER HAMWAY: I move Condition 3.

24 CHMN. KATZ: Is there a second?

25 MEMBER PALMER: Second.

1 CHMN. KATZ: All in favor?

2 (A chorus of "ayes.")

3 CHMN. KATZ: Anyone opposed?

4 (No response.)

5 CHMN. KATZ: We're now going to Condition
6 Number 4, which begins at line 26 on page 4 and goes
7 through line number -- what is that? Line number 2 on
8 page 5.

9 MEMBER LITTLE: I move Condition Number 4.

10 MEMBER HAMWAY: Second.

11 CHMN. KATZ: All in favor.

12 (A chorus of "ayes.")

13 CHMN. KATZ: Anybody oppose?

14 (No response.)

15 CHMN. KATZ: Moving now to Condition Number 5,
16 which is beginning on line -- is that line 3 through line
17 number 7.

18 Do I have a motion?

19 MEMBER PALMER: I move Condition 5.

20 MEMBER HAENICHEN: Second.

21 CHMN. KATZ: All in favor.

22 (A chorus of "ayes.")

23 CHMN. KATZ: Anybody opposed?

24 (No response.)

25 CHMN. KATZ: We're now going to Condition

1 Number 6, which is on page 5, line number 8 through 12.

2 MEMBER HAMWAY: I move Condition 6.

3 CHMN. KATZ: Do we have a second?

4 MEMBER PALMER: Second.

5 CHMN. KATZ: All in favor.

6 (A chorus of "ayes.")

7 CHMN. KATZ: We're now moving to Condition

8 Number 7, which is on page 5, line 14 through line 21.

9 MEMBER HAENICHEN: I move Condition 7.

10 MEMBER HAMWAY: Second.

11 CHMN. KATZ: All in favor.

12 (A chorus of "ayes.")

13 CHMN. KATZ: Anybody opposed?

14 (No response.)

15 CHMN. KATZ: We're now going to number 8,

16 Condition Number 8, which is at page 5, line number 22

17 through 25.

18 MEMBER HAMWAY: I move Condition 8.

19 MEMBER LITTLE: I move Condition 8.

20 CHMN. KATZ: We have two. Mary can --

21 MEMBER HAMWAY: Second.

22 CHMN. KATZ: -- second it then.

23 And all in favor.

24 (A chorus of "ayes.")

25 CHMN. KATZ: Anybody opposed?

1 (No response.)

2 CHMN. KATZ: Now we'll go to Condition Number 9
3 which begins now on page 5, line number 26, and continues
4 to the next page through line number 12.

5 Do we have a motion?

6 MEMBER HAENICHEN: I move 9.

7 MEMBER HAMWAY: Second.

8 CHMN. KATZ: All in favor.

9 (A chorus of "ayes.")

10 CHMN. KATZ: Anybody opposed?

11 (No response.)

12 CHMN. KATZ: Now to Condition Number 10, which
13 is on page 6, lines 13 through 17.

14 MEMBER HAMWAY: I move Condition 10.

15 CHMN. KATZ: Do we have a --

16 MEMBER PALMER: Second.

17 CHMN. KATZ: -- second?

18 We have a second.

19 All in favor.

20 (A chorus of "ayes.")

21 CHMN. KATZ: Anybody -- anybody opposed?

22 (No response.)

23 CHMN. KATZ: Moving now to Condition Number 7,
24 which begins on page number 6, lines 23, going on to
25 pages 7 through line 4.

1 MEMBER HAMWAY: I move Condition 11.

2 MEMBER HAENICHEN: I'll second.

3 CHMN. KATZ: All in favor.

4 (A chorus of "ayes.")

5 CHMN. KATZ: And I haven't been asking for
6 discussion, but if there's a need, you can let me know
7 before we vote.

8 We'll now move on to Condition Number 12, which
9 begins at page -- I believe -- was it page 7, line 12
10 through line -- excuse me -- line 5 through line
11 number 14.

12 MEMBER HAMWAY: Do we want to keep this one?

13 CHMN. KATZ: Hold on.

14 MEMBER HAMWAY: Well, I would keep this one the
15 same, actually.

16 CHMN. KATZ: That needs to be one mile.

17 MEMBER HAMWAY: No. I would keep it the way --

18 CHMN. KATZ: Okay.

19 MEMBER HAMWAY: I would keep it the way it's
20 written because you're providing cities and towns within
21 five miles but developers and building within one mile --

22 CHMN. KATZ: That's fine.

23 MEMBER HAMWAY: -- so I would keep it that way.

24 CHMN. KATZ: And that reads --

25 MEMBER LITTLE: I agree.

1 CHMN. KATZ: That's the way it reads.
2 MEMBER HAMWAY: Right.
3 CHMN. KATZ: Correct.
4 MEMBER HAMWAY: I move Condition 12.
5 MEMBER LITTLE: Second.
6 CHMN. KATZ: Any second?
7 MEMBER HAENICHEN: Second.
8 CHMN. KATZ: Any discussion?
9 All in favor.
10 (A chorus of "ayes.")
11 CHMN. KATZ: Is anyone opposed?
12 (No response.)
13 CHMN. KATZ: Now Condition Number 13 is on
14 page 7, lines 15.
15 MEMBER HAMWAY: I move Condition 13.
16 MEMBER HAENICHEN: Second.
17 CHMN. KATZ: All in favor.
18 (A chorus of "ayes.")
19 CHMN. KATZ: Number -- Condition Number 14 is on
20 page 7, lines 14 -- excuse me -- line 17 through 21.
21 MEMBER PALMER: I move Condition 14.
22 MEMBER HAMWAY: Second.
23 CHMN. KATZ: All in favor.
24 (A chorus of "ayes.")
25 CHMN. KATZ: Condition 15 begins on page 7,

1 lines 22 through line 26.

2 MEMBER LITTLE: I move Condition Number 15.

3 MEMBER HAMWAY: Second.

4 CHMN. KATZ: All in favor.

5 (A chorus of "ayes.")

6 CHMN. KATZ: Number 16, which is on -- at the
7 top of page 8, line 1 through line 3.

8 MEMBER HAMWAY: I move 16.

9 MEMBER LITTLE: I move Condition 16.

10 MEMBER HAMWAY: Second.

11 CHMN. KATZ: All in favor.

12 (A chorus of "ayes.")

13 CHMN. KATZ: Condition Number 17 is on page 8,
14 line number 4 through line 15. That's fairly long. Take
15 your time before you move it.

16 MEMBER LITTLE: Mr. Chairman?

17 CHMN. KATZ: Yes.

18 MEMBER LITTLE: I don't recall if -- maybe the
19 applicant can answer the question. I don't recall
20 hearing anything about there being any natural gas or
21 hazardous pipelines in the vicinity of this project.

22 MEMBER PALMER: There actually was.

23 MEMBER LITTLE: Not that that matters on this.
24 I'm just curious.

25 CHMN. KATZ: There was some testimony, and on

1 the tour it was pointed out where that gas line is. And
2 we just need to make sure that the project doesn't
3 interfere with any existing or yet-to-be-discovered gas
4 or fuel lines.

5 MEMBER HAMWAY: Isn't this a standard
6 condition --

7 CHMN. KATZ: Yes, it is.

8 MEMBER HAMWAY: -- from the ACC?

9 MEMBER LITTLE: Yes.

10 CHMN. KATZ: It's a standard condition from the
11 ACC. And it's designed not only for known lines but any
12 that might be discovered in the course of construction.

13 MS. GRABEL: And, Mr. Chairman, this --

14 MEMBER LITTLE: I'm just --

15 CHMN. KATZ: Yes.

16 MS. GRABEL: Sorry, Member.

17 MEMBER LITTLE: I'm just saying I'm not
18 proposing this be removed. I was just curious. So thank
19 you for the information.

20 CHMN. KATZ: And I'll ask Ms. Grabel. There was
21 some testimony, was there not, of an existing gas
22 pipeline?

23 MS. GRABEL: Yes, there was, Mr. Chairman. And
24 I'd also note that this is the condition that was
25 requested by staff in its letter to you that's in Exhibit

1 AEPCO-18.

2 CHMN. KATZ: Thank you very much.

3 Again, we're back to that Condition 17.

4 MEMBER HAMWAY: I move Condition 17.

5 CHMN. KATZ: Is there a second?

6 MEMBER PALMER: Second.

7 CHMN. KATZ: All in favor.

8 (A chorus of "ayes.")

9 CHMN. KATZ: We'll now move to Condition 18
10 which starts on page 8, line 25, and runs through line 8
11 on page 9.

12 MEMBER HAENICHEN: I move Condition 18.

13 MEMBER HAMWAY: Second.

14 CHMN. KATZ: All in favor.

15 (A chorus of "ayes.")

16 CHMN. KATZ: And we can move on to number 19,
17 and that's on --

18 MEMBER GRINNELL: I move 19.

19 CHMN. KATZ: Mr. Grinnell has moved for
20 approval, and that's lines 10 and 11 on page 9.

21 MEMBER PALMER: Second.

22 CHMN. KATZ: All in favor.

23 (A chorus of "ayes.")

24 CHMN. KATZ: Condition Number 20 on that same
25 page, lines 12 through 15.

1 MEMBER GRINNELL: I have a quick question
2 regarding this.

3 CHMN. KATZ: Yes.

4 MEMBER GRINNELL: Is -- you have Trico involved,
5 you have AEPCO being the lead here, and then you have TEP
6 involved.

7 Is this condition -- and what's the word I'm
8 looking for? Is there any -- maybe this is a better way.
9 Is there any anticipation of seeing transfer of assets
10 between any of these entities?

11 MR. BARNES: Committee Member Grinnell, there is
12 not.

13 CHMN. KATZ: That is Mr. Barnes.

14 MR. BARNES: Mr. Grinnell, there is not. AEPCO
15 is solely responsible for the construction of this
16 project.

17 MEMBER GRINNELL: And is AEPCO going to be the
18 permanent owner of this project?

19 MR. BARNES: We will own a portion of the
20 double-circuit project, and TEP will own a portion of the
21 double-circuit project.

22 MEMBER GRINNELL: Okay.

23 CHMN. KATZ: And, again, even if no assignment
24 is contemplated, this is a standard condition to make
25 sure that we don't have a haphazard, unapproved

1 assignment of obligation or ownership without knowledge
2 of the Corporation Commission.

3 MS. GRABEL: And, Chairman Katz and
4 Member Grinnell, if I may, the CEC is required to the
5 entity that is going to construct the facilities not
6 who's going to own the facilities ultimately. So AEPCO
7 will be constructing them. And if anything changes, this
8 condition requires that the CEC be assigned to the entity
9 that does do the construction. And we're comfortable
10 with it.

11 MEMBER GRINNELL: When TEP comes back to this
12 committee for their substation and any additional lines,
13 will this address -- will this have any implications in
14 this condition?

15 MS. GRABEL: It will not because we will be
16 coming -- TEP will be coming back for an entirely
17 different CEC that authorizes TEP to construct that
18 additional transmission facility that completes the loop.

19 MEMBER GRINNELL: Very well. Thank you.

20 CHMN. KATZ: We want to make sure. Do we have a
21 motion to approve Condition --

22 MEMBER PALMER: I'll move 20.

23 MEMBER HAMWAY: Second.

24 CHMN. KATZ: All in favor.

25 (A chorus of "ayes.")

1 CHMN. KATZ: And Condition 21 is on that same
2 page, and 9, line 16 through 19, and it is tied into
3 Condition 20 with regard --

4 MEMBER HAMWAY: I move Condition 21.

5 MEMBER PALMER: Second.

6 CHMN. KATZ: All in favor.

7 (A chorus of "ayes.")

8 CHMN. KATZ: And Condition Number 22 on page 9,
9 line 20, going on to page 10, line number 2.

10 MEMBER HAMWAY: I move Condition 22.

11 MEMBER HAENICHEN: Second.

12 CHMN. KATZ: All in favor.

13 (A chorus of "ayes.")

14 CHMN. KATZ: All right. Now we're going to
15 Condition Number 23. Now Condition Number 23, which is
16 the last condition for approval, is on page 10, lines 3
17 through 7.

18 MEMBER HAENICHEN: I'll move 23.

19 MEMBER GRINNELL: Second.

20 CHMN. KATZ: All in favor.

21 (A chorus of "ayes.")

22 CHMN. KATZ: Now we move on to our Findings of
23 Fact and Conclusions of Law. There were six of them.
24 The first one is on page number 10, lines 11 through 13.

25 MEMBER PALMER: I will move Finding of Fact and

1 Conclusion of Law Number 1.

2 MEMBER HAENICHEN: Second.

3 CHMN. KATZ: All in favor.

4 (A chorus of "ayes.")

5 CHMN. KATZ: Number 2, which is on page 10,
6 lines 14 and 15.

7 MEMBER HAMWAY: I move Con- -- Finding of Fact
8 Number 2.

9 MEMBER HAENICHEN: Second.

10 CHMN. KATZ: All in favor.

11 (A chorus of "ayes.")

12 CHMN. KATZ: Condition Number 3 on the same
13 page, lines 16 and 17. And I said "Condition." I met
14 Finding of Fact or -- Findings of Fact and Conclusion of
15 Law Number 3.

16 MEMBER LITTLE: I move Findings of Fact and
17 Conclusion of Law Number 3.

18 MEMBER HAMWAY: Second.

19 MEMBER HAENICHEN: Second.

20 CHMN. KATZ: All in favor.

21 (A chorus of "ayes.")

22 CHMN. KATZ: Condition Number 4 -- not Condition
23 Number 4. Finding of Fact and Conclusion of Law Number 4
24 on page 10, lines number 18 through 20.

25 MEMBER PALMER: I move Finding 4.

1 MEMBER HAENICHEN: Second.

2 CHMN. KATZ: All in favor.

3 (A chorus of "ayes.")

4 CHMN. KATZ: Finding 5 on that same page 10,
5 lines 21 through 24.

6 MEMBER HAMWAY: I move Finding of Fact
7 Number 5.

8 MEMBER GRINNELL: Second.

9 CHMN. KATZ: All in favor.

10 (A chorus of "ayes.")

11 CHMN. KATZ: Anyone opposed?

12 (No response.)

13 CHMN. KATZ: Moving now to the final Finding of
14 Fact and Conclusion, which is on page 10, line 25,
15 through page 11, line 2.

16 MEMBER HAENICHEN: I move 6.

17 MEMBER HAMWAY: Second.

18 CHMN. KATZ: All in favor.

19 (A chorus of "ayes.")

20 CHMN. KATZ: Anyone opposed?

21 (No response.)

22 CHMN. KATZ: We now are going back to page
23 number 2. I'll have to take a look at it.

24 MR. ANCHARSKI: Yes, it is page number 2,
25 Chairman.

1 CHMN. KATZ: Yeah. It's above -- it's above --
2 it's at line, like, 13 and a half through lines 18 and a
3 half. "At the conclusion of the hearing, the Committee,
4 after considering" -- this is going to be a vote in favor
5 or against. And we're going to do it by a roll call --
6 roll call, and I'll be the last one to vote.

7 But, Mr. French, how do you vote? In favor of
8 approving the Certificate of Environmental Compliance as
9 it is now amended and written?

10 You're muted.

11 MR. BUJARSKI: He's actually not muted.

12 There we go.

13 CHMN. KATZ: Mr. French, do you vote -- how do
14 you vote?

15 MEMBER FRENCH: I voted aye.

16 CHMN. KATZ: You voted aye.

17 We can barely hear him. He voted aye.

18 Mr. Grinnell?

19 MEMBER GRINNELL: I vote aye.

20 CHMN. KATZ: Member Hamway?

21 MEMBER HAMWAY: I vote aye.

22 CHMN. KATZ: Member Palmer?

23 MEMBER PALMER: I vote aye.

24 CHMN. KATZ: Member Haenichen?

25 MEMBER HAENICHEN: I vote aye.

1 CHMN. KATZ: Member Little?

2 MEMBER LITTLE: I would like to thank the
3 applicant in their presentation of the information on
4 this project. I would also like to thank AEPCO for
5 providing the information in a very timely way for those
6 of us that couldn't be present at the meeting. That was
7 very much appreciated.

8 And with that, I vote aye.

9 CHMN. KATZ: That makes -- and I will vote aye.

10 That makes a 7 to 0 vote. We barely had the
11 quorum that we needed, but we did have it.

12 MEMBER GRINNELL: Did Jim vote?

13 CHMN. KATZ: Yeah, Jim voted.

14 MEMBER GRINNELL: Oh.

15 CHMN. KATZ: The Certificate of Environmental
16 Compatibility is approved.

17 Is there anything further that we need to
18 discuss?

19 MS. GRABEL: No, Chairman and Committee Members.
20 Thank you very much. We appreciate your time.

21 CHMN. KATZ: Thank you.

22 And just make sure that you get the revised
23 version and have that printed and marked at some point in
24 time. That will be marked as Chairman Number 2. The
25 PDF, which is what we started working from, will be

1 labeled as Chairman Number 1. And we just need to get
2 copies of that.

3 MS. GRABEL: Mr. Chairman?

4 CHMN. KATZ: Yes.

5 MS. GRABEL: My apologies. Will you take the
6 liberties you often do in correcting typos that you see?

7 CHMN. KATZ: Yes.

8 MS. GRABEL: We noticed kind of a random page,
9 but that's the kind of thing you can fix.

10 CHMN. KATZ: Maybe we should have a motion to
11 allow myself with staff to correct any typographical or
12 grammatical errors.

13 MEMBER PALMER: I will so move, Mr. Chairman.

14 MEMBER HAMWAY: Second.

15 CHMN. KATZ: All in favor.

16 (A chorus of "ayes.")

17 CHMN. KATZ: Any reason that we shouldn't allow
18 people to go home or take a tour of this facility,
19 whichever you might prefer?

20 MS. GRABEL: No, sir.

21 CHMN. KATZ: We stand in recess.

22 I thank everybody for the very good quality
23 presentation we had, for the tour that we had, and for
24 making this happen. And we do stand in recess.

25 (The hearing concluded at 1:03 p.m.)

1 STATE OF ARIZONA)
)
2 COUNTY OF MARICOPA)

3 BE IT KNOWN that the foregoing proceedings were
4 taken before me; that the foregoing pages are a full,
5 true, and accurate record of the proceedings, all done to
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9 I CERTIFY that I am in no way related to any of the
10 parties hereto nor am I in any way interested in the
11 outcome hereof.

12 I CERTIFY that I have complied with the ethical
13 obligations set forth in ACJA 7-206(F)(3) and
14 ACJA 7-206(J)(1)(g)(1) and (2). Dated at Phoenix,
15 Arizona, this 9th day of June, 2022.

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Cathy J. Taylor, RPR, CRR, CRC
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