

1 BEFORE THE ARIZONA POWER PLANT

LS-525

2 AND TRANSMISSION LINE SITING COMMITTEE

3 IN THE MATTER OF THE)
4 APPLICATION OF SALT RIVER)
5 PROJECT AGRICULTURAL)
6 IMPROVEMENT AND POWER)
7 DISTRICT, IN CONFORMANCE WITH)
8 THE REQUIREMENTS OF ARIZONA)
9 REVISED STATUTES § 40-360, ET)
10 SEQ., FOR A CERTIFICATE OF)
11 ENVIRONMENTAL COMPATIBILITY)
12 FOR APPROXIMATELY FOUR AND -)
13 ONE-HALF MILES OF TWO 230 KV)
14 DOUBLE-CIRCUIT TRANSMISSION)
15 LINES LOCATED IN PINAL COUNTY,)
16 ARIZONA.)

) DOCKET NO.
) L-00000B-26-0363-00267

) CASE NO. 267

11 IN THE MATTER OF THE)
12 APPLICATION OF SALT RIVER)
13 PROJECT AGRICULTURAL)
14 IMPROVEMENT AND POWER)
15 DISTRICT, IN CONFORMANCE WITH)
16 THE REQUIREMENTS OF ARIZONA)
17 REVISED STATUTES § 40-360, ET)
18 SEQ., FOR A CERTIFICATE OF)
19 ENVIRONMENTAL COMPATIBILITY)
20 AUTHORIZING THE MARIGOLD)
21 THERMAL PLANT PROJECT, LOCATED)
22 IN PINAL COUNTY, ARIZONA.)

) DOCKET NO.
) L-00000B-26-0375-00268

) CASE NO. 268

) PREHEARING
) CONFERENCE

18 At: Phoenix, Arizona

19 Date: September 15, 2026

20 Filed: September 18, 2026

21 REPORTER'S TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

22

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1 BE IT REMEMBERED that the above-entitled and
2 numbered matter came on regularly to be heard before the
3 Arizona Power Plant and Transmission Line Siting
4 Committee, commencing at 1:03 p.m. on the 15th day of
5 September, 2026, with all participants appearing via
6 videoconference.

7

8 BEFORE: ADAM STAFFORD, Committee Chair

9

10

11 APPEARANCES:

12 For the Applicant:

13 HIGH TOWER LAW
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17 SALT RIVER PROJECT AGRICULTURAL IMPROVEMENT AND
18 POWER DISTRICT
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18

19

20 ALSO PRESENT:

21 Michele Maser - SRP
22 Christina Hallows - SRP
23 Marc Ventura - SRP
24 Alexis Laurence - SRP
25 William Lopez - SRP
Sarah Justus - KP Environmental
Tod Brewer - Assistant to Chairman Stafford

25

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

2 Now is the time set for the prehearing
3 conference on the applications of Salt River Project,
4 Docket Numbers L-00000B-26-0363-00267, and Docket No.
5 L-00000B-26-0375-00268.

6 We'll start with appearances for the Applicant.
7 Mr. Derstine.

8 MR. DERSTINE: Yeah, good afternoon. Matt
9 Derstine appearing on behalf of Salt River Project
10 agriculture and power improvement district.

11 Also appearing is Ms. Alysha Gilbert, in-house
12 counsel for SRP; Ms. Michele Maser who is the paralegal
13 in-house for SRP; Sarah Justus with KP Environmental;
14 and Christina Hallows, she's the manager of public
15 involvement for SRP.

16 And if they join late, I'm still expecting
17 Ms. Alexis Laurence, spelled L-A-U-R-E-N-C-E, who is the
18 project manager for SRP. If she joins late, that's her
19 title.

20 CHMN. STAFFORD: She's on.

21 MR. DERSTINE: She's it. Great.

22 MS. GILBERT: Also, we have William Loper who
23 has joined, as well. He's also a project manager.

24 CHMN. STAFFORD: Great.

25 Just to confirm, Mr. Derstine, that the

1 Applicant has arranged for lodging for all the committee
2 members, including myself and the court reporter?

3 MR. DERSTINE: We have. I don't know that I
4 have a current list of committee members who have made
5 reservations. We can circle back with Mr. Brewer just
6 to confirm, but we do have sufficient rooms for all the
7 committee members who would like to attend in person.

8 CHMN. STAFFORD: Okay. Excellent.

9 I have not seen any notices to intervene in
10 this matter.

11 MR. DERSTINE: We have not either.

12 CHMN. STAFFORD: Okay. And you have a number
13 of exhibits for the prehearing conference. I count six.
14 Is that all of them?

15 MR. DERSTINE: You might be counting one more
16 than I have on my list. I'll tell you what I have.

17 I have the Word version of the proposed CEC
18 both for the transmission application and the plant
19 application, the route tour map plus the narrative, and
20 our public outreach summary. I don't know what the
21 additional exhibit might be.

22 CHMN. STAFFORD: Well, I have -- there's the
23 maps for the plant and then one for the transmission
24 line.

25 MR. DERSTINE: Okay. Those are exhibits to the

1 CECs, to the respective CECs for the plant and the
2 transmission.

3 CHMN. STAFFORD: Okay. So how do you want to
4 identify them? We'll start with No. 1 is which one?
5 Because there's six documents. Let's give them all
6 1 through 6.

7 MR. DERSTINE: Let's go with the CEC for the
8 transmission would be 1, and we'll mark the map that
9 goes with that as 2, the map for the transmission CEC.
10 The CEC for the plant is 3. The map for the
11 plant CEC as 4.

12 And then our route tour map plus narrative
13 as 5. And then our public outreach summary as 6.

14 Did I get it right?

15 CHMN. STAFFORD: That sounds right to me.

16 Those are admitted.

17 Do you expect much public comment at this
18 meeting?

19 MR. DERSTINE: I think there will be public
20 comment. I don't know how much is much. I think at
21 this point we anticipate folks will want to show up and
22 be heard, but I don't know whether that's 10 or 20 or
23 more.

24 CHMN. STAFFORD: All right. Well, we'll be
25 prepared regardless of the number.

1 MR. DERSTINE: Right.

2 CHMN. STAFFORD: Does the Applicant agree that
3 February 10th and February 14th is the time limit for
4 the committee to act in compliance with the statute?

5 MR. DERSTINE: Yes.

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

8 MR. DERSTINE: I think as we discussed at the
9 prefiling conference, we just have Pinal County as the
10 affected jurisdiction.

11 CHMN. STAFFORD: Okay. And its received notice
12 by certified mail in compliance with the statute?

13 MR. DERSTINE: Yes.

14 CHMN. STAFFORD: Okay. And the Applicant has
15 complied with the posting and publishing requirements of
16 the procedural order and the statute?

17 MR. DERSTINE: Yes.

18 CHMN. STAFFORD: Okay. We've got documents
19 for -- the transcripts and the application, those are at
20 two different libraries as well?

21 MR. DERSTINE: That's right. The application
22 and transcripts were posted in the Casa Grande Public
23 Library and the Maricopa County Library and Cultural
24 Center, and they were posted there on August the 20th.

25 CHMN. STAFFORD: Okay. And then the publishing

1 requirements, I remember it was going to be close.

2 Did we get the notices for both published
3 twice, at least 30 days prior to the start of the
4 hearing?

5 MR. DERSTINE: We did. So the transmission
6 application was filed on August the 14th. The
7 transmission application was filed on August the 18th in
8 the Casa Grande Dispatch and The Arizona Republic on
9 August the 20th.

10 As to the plant, the plant application was
11 filed on August the 18th. The notice was published with
12 the Casa Grande Dispatch on August the 20th and with the
13 Arizona Republic on August the 22nd.

14 CHMN. STAFFORD: All right. Now, you did
15 social media outreach, as well, for the hearing?

16 MR. DERSTINE: We did. There was Facebook, and
17 Instagram, and I think SRP also uses Nextdoor. Those
18 social media ad runs started on September the 7th and
19 will continue through the first day of the hearing,
20 September the 21st.

21 CHMN STAFFORD: Okay. And there was to be
22 signs posted as well. I don't see a map of the sign
23 locations. I think you had one at the prefiling.

24 MR. DERSTINE: We did. And I think that map
25 carries forward to where we ultimately placed those

1 signs. They were put in the ground between August
2 the 26th and August the 31st.

3 CHMN. STAFFORD: Okay. It was eight locations?

4 MR. DERSTINE: There were five.

5 CHMN STAFFORD: Five. Okay.

6 All right. I'm assuming you had a chance to
7 review the agenda by now.

8 MR. DERSTINE: Yes.

9 CHMN. STAFFORD: Are there any objections or
10 additions to the agenda?

11 MR. DERSTINE: No.

12 CHMN. STAFFORD: All right. So we're going to
13 hear both cases concurrently, starting on September 21st
14 at 10:00 a.m.

15 MR. DERSTINE: Yeah. I had forgotten that I
16 asked for a 10:00 a.m. start. I was reminded as I was
17 telling folks I'll show up around 12:45 on Monday. And
18 they said, "No. You gotta be here bright and early
19 because we're starting at 10:00." So we are starting at
20 10:00.

21 CHMN. STAFFORD: Excellent. Then the members
22 will be able to check in Sunday evening to be there,
23 ready to go at start time at 10:00.

24 MR. DERSTINE: That's correct.

25 CHMN. STAFFORD: Okay. All right. And so

1 we'll be doing the hearing in the same location as
2 the -- it's at the Francisco Grande for both.

3 We'll have sign-in forms for the public
4 comment?

5 MR. DERSTINE: Yes.

6 CHMN. STAFFORD: Okay. We don't need security
7 at this hearing, will we?

8 MR. DERSTINE: I don't think so. We're not --
9 I don't know.

10 Anyone on the team, are we planning to have
11 security?

12 MS. HALLOWS: We will have SRP security
13 available.

14 CHMN. STAFFORD: All right. So we'll do public
15 comment at 5:30 in the evening on that Monday.

16 Now, you've got a tour planned for us; correct?

17 MR. DERSTINE: That's correct.

18 CHMN STAFFORD: How long is the tour
19 anticipated to take?

20 MR. DERSTINE: Ms. Justus, can you give some
21 background on the length of the tour?

22 MS. JUSTUS: Yes. I would anticipate
23 approximately hour to hour and a half. We're fairly
24 close to the site. It's about 14 miles from the hearing
25 venue to the start of the facilities and our first stop

1 on the tour. We have three stops total. We have a
2 location picked out if we need to make a rest break
3 along the route.

4 But it's fairly concise and fairly close. So
5 probably 60 to 90 minutes would be my best guess.

6 CHMN. STAFFORD: Great.

7 MS. JUSTUS: Very dependent on how long we
8 spend at each stop.

9 CHMN. STAFFORD: Usually it's three hours or
10 so. But, yes, this will be nice to have the tour in a
11 more reasonable time.

12 Okay. So I'm assuming you're having Peaks
13 Audio for the audio-visual needs?

14 MR. DERSTINE: It's a combination. SRP uses
15 its in-house AV team that they use for board meetings
16 and various events and then -- but they're supported by
17 Peaks, so it's a combination of both services.

18 CHMN. STAFFORD: Okay. So the Wi-Fi will be
19 sufficient, and then, if not, I guess there's the
20 Starlink option.

21 MR. DERSTINE: That's right.

22 CHMN. STAFFORD: Okay. Now, are there any
23 other issues regarding the hearing itself?

24 MR. DERSTINE: Nothing comes to mind. I don't
25 know if anyone on the team -- Ms. Gilbert, do you have

1 anything that you want to raise?

2 MS. GILBERT: No. Nothing further.

3 CHMN. STAFFORD: Okay. Now, I've got your
4 witness summaries. You filed those.

5 How many witnesses do you have? Let's see.

6 MR. DERSTINE: A lot.

7 CHMN. STAFFORD: Eight across two panels?

8 MR. DERSTINE: Yes.

9 CHMN. STAFFORD: Okay. And then -- wait.
10 Eight, potentially nine, I guess; right?

11 MR. DERSTINE: Yes. We have -- so I think
12 Ms. Justus will provide the overview testimony on noise
13 impacts from the plant. And then to the extent that
14 there's detail or questions from the committee that
15 she's not able to answer, we actually have the witness
16 who performed the sound studies and can provide more
17 detail if members of the committee would like some more
18 information.

19 CHMN. STAFFORD: Okay. And how long do you
20 anticipate the hearing to last?

21 MR. DERSTINE: I'm always reluctant to put a
22 time. I would hope that we would be done on Thursday.
23 That would be my wish, and we'll do our best to get
24 there.

25 CHMN. STAFFORD: I guess the best measurement

1 stick that you can have would be how long do you think
2 it takes to present your direct case, and then the curve
3 ball will be how hot the committee is on asking
4 questions.

5 MR. DERSTINE: That's right. My sense is that
6 based on a couple of past hearings we may -- the
7 committee might be hot and have a lot of questions, and
8 we're happy to answer them.

9 CHMN. STAFFORD: Okay. And how many exhibits
10 do you plan to introduce at the hearing?

11 MR. DERSTINE: Ms. Maser, what is our current
12 list number?

13 MS. MASER: Sorry. I was double-checking.

14 About 20, but eight of them are the witness
15 summaries.

16 CHMN. STAFFORD: Okay. And then I think Staff
17 filed their letter -- was it yesterday? Is that
18 included in your exhibit list?

19 MS. MASER: Yes, along with yours.

20 CHMN. STAFFORD: Okay. Now, are you going to
21 file your exhibits in the docket prior to the hearing?

22 MR. DERSTINE: Yeah, I typically don't do that,
23 but I'm happy to if that's the best way. I just want to
24 make sure that the committee members get to see our
25 exhibits well in advance of the start of the hearing.

1 Oftentimes, we have transmitted those to
2 Mr. Brewer and he's circulated them, but if that -- it's
3 a large amount of paper. So if that's a hard -- do it
4 through a share point or some other system.

5 If it's easier for us to file them in the
6 docket and that's the best way to get them to the
7 committee members, we will do that.

8 CHMN STAFFORD: Yeah. Because you can file
9 them all electronically in the docket, can't you?

10 MR. DERSTINE: I think so, yes.

11 CHMN. STAFFORD: You shouldn't need any paper
12 copies for that.

13 MR. DERSTINE: Right.

14 CHMN. STAFFORD: Yeah, I think that's probably
15 the best way to do it because then they're in the record
16 and anybody can see them, so they know what we're
17 talking about if they're watching, and then the members
18 have access to them through the Commission's website.

19 MR. DERSTINE: When would you like those filed?

20 CHMN. STAFFORD: By the end of the week.
21 Enough time so that the staff can get them posted to the
22 e-Docket. If you wait until, like, 5:00 on Friday,
23 they'll be scrambling to get them in Monday morning
24 before we start.

25 MR. DERSTINE: Okay. We'll look to get them

1 filed on Thursday and earlier in the day to make sure
2 they make their way out.

3 CHMN STAFFORD: Okay. Are there any legal
4 issues or matters that we need to resolve prior to
5 hearing?

6 MR. DERSTINE: I don't think so, no.

7 CHMN. STAFFORD: I don't think so either, but I
8 always ask.

9 And you've made the financial arrangements with
10 the Commission?

11 MR. DERSTINE: Yes.

12 CHMN. STAFFORD: You've got the letter.

13 There's no related litigation to this
14 application -- these applications, are there?

15 MR. DERSTINE: No.

16 CHMN. STAFFORD: Okay. We've got the draft
17 CECs. We've got the Word copies, too, so that's --
18 you're a step ahead with that.

19 MR. DERSTINE: Okay.

20 CHMN. STAFFORD: And then permit status.
21 There's an air permit from Pinal County?

22 MR. DERSTINE: We just filed the air permit
23 application. That's included in our exhibits. It was
24 not in the application itself, but it is one of our
25 exhibits.

1 Beyond that, Ms. Justus, are there -- I'm not
2 aware of any permits. It's not subject to any sort of
3 federal permitting process. But, Ms. Justus, am I
4 missing any permits?

5 MS. JUSTUS: There would be the aquifer
6 protection permit, but that's a little down the line.
7 Other than that, no.

8 CHMN. STAFFORD: Okay. So there's no federal
9 nexus.

10 Now, for the exhibits, you'll have the tablets
11 for the committee members as opposed to hard copies in
12 the notebooks; correct?

13 MR. DERSTINE: Yeah. We'll have all the
14 exhibits loaded onto the tablets, and then we'll have a
15 number of paper sets. I know that, I think, you like a
16 paper set, and we'll have some additional paper sets.

17 CHMN STAFFORD: Yeah. I think we need one hard
18 copy for the court reporter and then one for me.
19 Everything else can be on the tablets.

20 MR. DERSTINE: Understood.

21 CHMN. STAFFORD: All right. Is there anything
22 else we need to cover?

23 MR. DERSTINE: Team, any questions we have for
24 the Chairman in advance of the hearing?

25 (No response.)

1 CHMN. STAFFORD: I'm seeing a lot of shaking
2 heads.

3 MR. DERSTINE: I guess that's it.

4 CHMN. STAFFORD: All right. Tod, do we have
5 everything we need?

6 MR. BREWER: We do, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

7 CHMN. STAFFORD: All right. Well, thank you
8 very much. You all have a pleasant rest of your week,
9 and I will see you on Monday morning at 10:00.

10 MR. DERSTINE: Very good. Thank you.

11 CHMN. STAFFORD: With that, we are adjourned.

12 (The proceedings concluded at 1:20 p.m.)
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1 STATE OF ARIZONA)
2 COUNTY OF YUMA.) ss.

3
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16 DATED this 15th day of September, 2026 at Yuma,
17 Arizona.

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MICHELE E. BALMER
Arizona Certified Reporter
No. 50489

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