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Utilities Division Director

ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION

October 7, 2022

Mr. Paul A. Katz, Chairman
Arizona Power Plant and
Transmission Line Siting Committee
Assistant Arizona Attorney General
2005 North Central Avenue
Phoenix, Arizona 85004-1592

Arizona Corporation Commission

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AZ STATE CORPORATION COMMISSION
DOCKET CONTROL

RE: Maricopa Energy Center Transmission Line Project
Line Siting Application 207
Docket Control No. L-21206A-22-0243-00207

Dear Chairman Katz:

On September 12, 2022, the Arizona Corporation Commission's ("Commission") Utilities Division Staff ("Staff") received your letter regarding the application of Maricopa Energy Center, LLC ("Maricopa", "Company", or "Applicant") for the issuance of a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility ("CEC") authorizing the construction of a 500 kilovolt ("kV") transmission line and a 500 kV switchyard (collectively "Project").

This letter is Staff's response addressing the question of whether the proposed project improves the reliability and/or safety of the operation of the grid and the delivery of power in Arizona.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

On September 8, 2022, Maricopa filed an application for the issuance of a CEC for its proposed Maricopa Energy Center 500 kV Transmission Line Project. The proposed Project consists of a single circuit or double circuit 500 kV transmission line and a 500 kV switchyard. When constructed, the Project would interconnect an up to 550 megawatt ("MW") alternating current ("MWac") solar array and battery energy storage system ("BESS") to the Arizona Public Service Company ("APS") Delaney 500 kV Substation ("Delaney Substation").

The Applicant has proposed two alternative routes and will construct one of the alternative routes depending on which is selected to be best suited for the Project. Alternative Route A ("Alternative A") would originate either at the Project's 500 kV S13 switchyard siting area or the S17 switchyard and will be approximately 5.7 to 7.5 miles in length, depending on where the Project switchyard is located. Alternative A is located on Flood Control District of Maricopa County ("FCDMC") fee land and Arizona State Land Department ("ASLD") owned land. Alternative Route B ("Alternative B") would originate at the Project's 500 kV S13 switchyard

siting area and will be approximately 8.5 miles in length and will cross private, FCDMC, and ASLD land, as well as one mile of land owned by the Bureau of Land Management (“BLM”).

According to the Applicant, the Project is needed to assist and support APS’s goals in meeting a 100 percent carbon-free generation base by 2050. The Applicant also states in their application that the Project seizes an opportunity to reduce dependence on non-renewable energy sources by capturing the rays of the sun to power our homes and businesses as well as store this energy for continued dispatch during peak hours and after the sun sets.

In response to a Staff-issued Data Request (“DR”), Maricopa shared that APS conducted a System Impact Study (“SIS”) to examine the effects of the proposed project on the transmission system. Overall, the results of the SIS concluded that the interconnection of the proposed Project to the existing Delaney Substation could be connected reliably to the system with no negative impacts or network upgrades beyond the Point of Interconnection.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Based of Staff’s review of the Application, as well as the Applicant’s response to a Staff-issued DR, Staff believes the proposed Project could improve the reliability and safety of operation of the grid and the delivery of power in Arizona.

If there are any questions, please contact me at (602) 542-6935, or Chaunce De Roos at (602) 542-0941.

Sincerely,



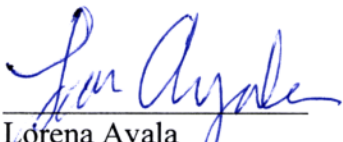
Elijah Abinah
Director
Utilities Division

On this 7th day of October, 2022, the foregoing document was filed with Docket Control as a Utilities Division Correspondence, and copies of the foregoing were mailed on behalf of the Utilities Division to the following who have not consented to email service. On this date or as soon as possible thereafter, the Commission's eDocket program will automatically email a link to the foregoing to the following who have consented to email service.

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By: 
Lorena Ayala
Administrative Assistant III