

1 BEFORE THE ARIZONA POWER PLANT LS-411  
2 AND TRANSMISSION LINE SITING COMMITTEE  
3 IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF ) DOCKET NO.  
RANEGRAS PLAINS ENERGY CENTER, LLC, ) L-21344A-24-0273-  
4 OR ITS ASSIGNEES, IN CONFORMANCE ) 00243  
WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF )  
5 A.R.S. § 40-360, ET SEQ., FOR A ) CASE NO. 243  
CERTIFICATE OF ENVIRONMENTAL )  
6 COMPATIBILITY AUTHORIZING THE )  
RANEGRAS PLAINS ENERGY CENTER 500 )  
7 KV TRANSMISSION LINE. ) PREHEARING  
) CONFERENCE

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10 At: Phoenix, Arizona  
11 Date: February 4, 2025  
12 Filed: February 6, 2025

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15 REPORTER'S TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS  
16 (Pages 1 through 15)

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By: Robin L. B. Osterode, CSR, RPR  
Arizona CR No. 50695

1	NO.	DESCRIPTION	IDENTIFIED	ADMITTED
2	PHC-1	Map of Proposed Project	5	5
3	PHC-2	Notice of Service to Affected Jurisdictions	5	5
4	PHC-3	Example of Sign Contents	5	5
5	PHC-4	Map of Notice of Hearing Sign Locations	5	5
6	PHC-5	Proposed Certificate of Environmental Compatibility	5	5

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1 BE IT REMEMBERED that the above-entitled  
2 and numbered matter came on regularly to be heard before  
3 the Arizona Power Plant and Transmission Line Siting  
4 Committee at Phoenix, Arizona, commencing at 3:00 p.m.  
5 on February 4, 2025. All parties attended via  
6 videoconference.

7

8 BEFORE: ADAM STAFFORD, Chairman

9

10 APPEARANCES:

11 For the Applicant:

12 OSBORN MALEDON, PA  
13 By: Meghan H. Grabel  
14 By: Elias J. Ancharski  
2929 North Central Avenue, 20th Floor  
Phoenix, Arizona 85012

15 Also Present:

16 Tod Brewer, Assistant to Chairman Stafford  
17 Richard Knox, Tetra Tech  
18 Christopher Powers, Savion Energy  
Jennifer Skulstad, Tetra Tech  
Patty Varra, Savion Energy

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1 CHMN STAFFORD: Let's go on the record.  
2 Now is the time set for the prehearing conference for  
3 Docket Number L-21344A-24-0273-00243. The application of  
4 Ranegras Plains Energy Center, LLC, for a Certificate of  
5 Environmental Compatibility.

6 Let's start with appearances, Ms. Grabel.

7 MS. GRABEL: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
8 Meghan Grabel from Osborn Maledon, on behalf of Ranegras  
9 Plains Energy Center, LLC. With me from my law firm is  
10 my colleague, Elias Ancharski. And also with us from the  
11 applicant are their project managers, Christopher Powers  
12 and Patty Varra. And also with us from Tetra Tech, their  
13 consultant is Richard Knox and Jennifer Skulstad.

14 CHMN STAFFORD: All right. So you've got  
15 the lodging arrangements for the committee members from  
16 out of town? Because we're holding it at the Commission,  
17 some of them are still coming in from out of town.

18 MS. GRABEL: That's correct, yes. We've  
19 got hotel arrangements at the Embassy Suites Phoenix  
20 Downtown North.

21 CHMN STAFFORD: Okay. I haven't seen any  
22 requests to intervene. So that will -- one less thing to  
23 worry about -- neither any limited appearance statements.

24 MS. GRABEL: We haven't had any  
25 participation from the public. I mean, outreach, but

1 very little back to us.

2 CHMN STAFFORD: So applicant agrees that  
3 the June 18th, 2025, is the date for the committee to act  
4 on the application in compliance with the statute?

5 MS. GRABEL: Yes, that's correct.

6 CHMN STAFFORD: Okay. All right. Now,  
7 you've got a number of exhibits, Prehearing Exhibits 1  
8 through 5. You want to go through those real quickly?

9 MS. GRABEL: Certainly.

10 Prehearing Exhibit Number 1 is the map of  
11 the proposed project. Prehearing Exhibit Number 2 is the  
12 notice that we sent to the affected jurisdictions in this  
13 matter. Prehearing Exhibit Number 3 is the example of  
14 the signage that we posted at the locations agreed to at  
15 the prefiling conference. Prehearing Exhibit 4 is the  
16 map of sign locations that was agreed to at the prefiling  
17 conference. And then Prehearing Exhibit 5 is a proposed  
18 form of Certificate of Environmental Compatibility.

19 CHMN STAFFORD: All right. Those are  
20 admitted.

21 (Exhibits PHC-1 through PHC-5 were admitted  
22 into evidence.)

23 CHMN STAFFORD: It looks like, I mean,  
24 you've got the returns or you got an email from the  
25 County, confirming receipt of the application and the

1 notices -- not the -- not the application, but the  
2 notices, actually, correct?

3 MS. GRABEL: Correct.

4 CHMN STAFFORD: So the notice to the  
5 affected jurisdictions has been complied with. And those  
6 are, let's see, La Paz County, Arizona State Land  
7 Department, and Arizona Department of Transportation,  
8 correct?

9 MS. GRABEL: That's correct, Mr. Chairman.

10 CHMN STAFFORD: Okay. Now, for the  
11 public -- for the posting requirements, you've got the  
12 signs placed up, as evidenced by Exhibit 4.

13 What were the publication dates for the  
14 notice?

15 MS. GRABEL: We published notice in the  
16 Arizona Republic on December 27th, 2024 and in the Parker  
17 Pioneer on January 1st, 2025.

18 CHMN STAFFORD: You said January 1st?

19 MS. GRABEL: Yes.

20 CHMN STAFFORD: January 1st, you said?

21 MS. GRABEL: Yes. 2025.

22 CHMN STAFFORD: Okay. Yeah, I've got to  
23 make sure I put the "2025" on the dates now.

24 MS. GRABEL: Right.

25 CHMN STAFFORD: And what was that second

1 paper?

2 MS. GRABEL: The Park -- the Parker  
3 Pioneer.

4 CHMN STAFFORD: Parker Pioneer.

5 Okay. All right. And the agenda, are  
6 there any objections or additions to the agenda?

7 MS. GRABEL: No, sir.

8 CHMN STAFFORD: We're not doing a tour for  
9 this one, seeing how we're at the Commission.

10 All right. So we've got it -- we'll be  
11 starting the hearing on Monday, at 10:00 a.m., and then  
12 we're back on Tuesday, the 11th, at 9:00. No hearing on  
13 Wednesday, because that's the open meeting day. And  
14 then, if necessary, we're back on Thursday at 1:30. And  
15 then Friday at 9:00, again, if necessary. I'm hopeful  
16 that we'll be able to wrap it up on Tuesday.

17 MS. GRABEL: Mr. Chairman, it should be a  
18 pretty short witness presentation.

19 CHMN STAFFORD: Okay. All right. And then  
20 you've talked to the Commission and made all the  
21 arrangements for the -- to have your -- be able to put  
22 your presentation on the screens and that sort of thing?

23 MS. GRABEL: Yes, we have. Mr. Ancharski  
24 has been in touch with Mr. Vallardo over at the  
25 Corporation Commission.

1 CHMN STAFFORD: Okay. And you've got the  
2 sign-in forms for public comment?

3 MS. GRABEL: We will have them, correct.

4 CHMN STAFFORD: All right. So we're doing  
5 the public comment session on that Monday, the 10th, at  
6 5:30 p.m. I imagine we'll be done by 6:00, if there's  
7 little to no interest from the public.

8 Now, we're not doing a tour, but you'll be  
9 able to -- you'll be able to access, like, Google Earth  
10 to answer questions and look at distances should --  
11 questions from the members will have about that type of  
12 thing?

13 MS. GRABEL: Yes, Mr. Chair. We also do  
14 have a virtual tour ready to go.

15 CHMN STAFFORD: Okay. Attire for the  
16 hearing is business casual.

17 Any other issues regarding the hearing  
18 itself? The other question I had was for the members  
19 that you'll be doing hard -- notebooks for the exhibits.  
20 I got my copy delivered today. So I assume that you're  
21 doing hard copy notebooks for the exhibits for the  
22 members, as opposed to tablets?

23 MS. GRABEL: Correct.

24 CHMN STAFFORD: You've got the witness  
25 summaries provided for, exhibits?



1 MS. GRABEL: Yes, sir.

2 CHMN STAFFORD: Well, I can see the order.  
3 Any other issues with the presentation that we need to  
4 cover?

5 MS. GRABEL: I don't think so, Mr. Chair.  
6 I think we've covered it.

7 CHMN STAFFORD: All right. And I think  
8 Staff, did they just file their letter in response to  
9 mine? Was it --

10 MS. GRABEL: I actually don't know if they  
11 filed a response in this case. I need to check the  
12 docket.

13 CHMN STAFFORD: Let me do that now.  
14 I'm not seeing it.

15 MS. GRABEL: I don't recall seeing it  
16 either.

17 CHMN STAFFORD: It will probably be -- it  
18 will probably be today or later this week before the  
19 hearing, because they usually get those in ahead of time.

20 All right. And you've taken care of the  
21 financial arrangements with the Commission?

22 MS. GRABEL: We have.

23 CHMN STAFFORD: We've got your proposed  
24 CEC. It's in your exhibits. It's also Prehearing  
25 Exhibit 5.

1                   What's the status of the EIS? I remember  
2 talking about it previously. You had your Conditional  
3 Use Permit and Major Plan Amendment from the County  
4 already. That was approved I have December 16th of last  
5 year, but the EIS was pending and you hoped to have a  
6 draft of it by the time of the hearing.

7                   MS. GRABEL: That is correct. It is  
8 pending. I do believe -- we do not have a final EIS yet.  
9 I don't know, Chris, do we have a draft EIS?

10                  MR. POWERS: A draft EIS was published on  
11 the Federal Register on January 13, so it's currently out  
12 for public comment. Public comment period closes on  
13 February 28th.

14                  CHMN STAFFORD: I couldn't really make  
15 that.

16                  THE REPORTER: Yeah, I was going to ask,  
17 was that the same for everybody -- did that sound the --

18                  MR. POWERS: What about now?

19                  THE REPORTER: No.

20                  MR. KNOX: Yeah. Yeah, so, Chris, your  
21 audio sounds a little off.

22                  So Richard Knox here, Mr. Chairman. So the  
23 DEIS was published -- Notice of Availability to review  
24 the DEIS was published January 13th, 2025. There's a  
25 45-day public comment period. That public comment period

1 ends February 28th, 2025. The final EIS will be  
2 developed in the summertime, with a Record of Decision  
3 projected in October of 2025.

4 CHMN STAFFORD: All right. Thank you.

5 All right. So we've already established  
6 that the County permits are already handled, it's the  
7 NEPA process is what's pending.

8 Is there any other issues we need to cover?

9 MS. GRABEL: Mr. Chairman, this is my first  
10 line siting hearing at the ACC. Do we need to provide  
11 food for the committee members or is that sort of lunch  
12 on your own kind of thing?

13 CHMN STAFFORD: It's sort of a lunch on  
14 your own type of thing. It's -- it's really not set up  
15 to have something for the committee catered at the  
16 Commission. So that is something that they get their own  
17 meals and submit for reimbursement from the Commission.

18 MS. GRABEL: Thank you.

19 CHMN STAFFORD: I guess those of us, you  
20 know, who live in town will just eat lunch like we  
21 normally do.

22 MS. GRABEL: That works.

23 CHMN STAFFORD: All right. That's  
24 everything I have. Anything -- wait, hang on. Let's  
25 see.

1 Oh, yes, we need the link for the committee  
2 members to attend remotely.

3 MS. GRABEL: Okay.

4 CHMN STAFFORD: If you can get that out  
5 sooner than later, preferably in the next couple of days,  
6 because otherwise, there's a mad flurry of emails to Tod  
7 on Monday morning trying to find it. So the sooner you  
8 get it out, the sooner you can get it distributed to  
9 members, and they'll be ready.

10 MS. GRABEL: Okay. Awesome.

11 CHMN STAFFORD: Oh, and you sent a hard  
12 copy of the application to my office, correct?

13 MS. GRABEL: We did.

14 CHMN STAFFORD: Now, how was that  
15 delivered? Was it a courier? Was it USPS? UPS?

16 MS. GRABEL: I think it was delivered.

17 MR. ANCHARSKI: I -- that one I delivered  
18 personally.

19 CHMN STAFFORD: Okay. And which -- to  
20 which office, the one on Palm or the one on 15th Ave.?

21 MR. ANCHARSKI: 15th, where we typically  
22 take them.

23 CHMN STAFFORD: Okay.

24 MR. ANCHARSKI: So it was -- it was  
25 delivered, actually, with the other application for UNS

1 Electric. So I don't know if you -- if you received that  
2 one, you should have got the other one.

3 CHMN STAFFORD: Yes, that's -- that's the  
4 mystery. Because I have the application for UNSE, what  
5 I'm missing is the hard copy of this one. The electronic  
6 version is 3,000-something pages. So I understand it's  
7 in a box. So I just -- it seems to have been misplaced  
8 somewhere, so -- but it was delivered to the -- the one  
9 on Washington -- 15th Avenue and Washington address,  
10 then?

11 MR. ANCHARSKI: That's -- that's correct,  
12 Chairman. Yeah, as I mentioned, you are correct, it is  
13 in a big box, because that was the full application for  
14 your review. But they were -- they were delivered  
15 together.

16 CHMN STAFFORD: Okay. All right. Well, I  
17 know where to look now. I think I'll be able to track it  
18 down here.

19 MR. ANCHARSKI: Okay.

20 MS. GRABEL: Would you like us to deliver  
21 one that's the smaller condensed version in a notebook?

22 CHMN STAFFORD: Pardon?

23 MS. GRABEL: Would you like us to bring you  
24 one in a smaller condensed version in a notebook?

25 CHMN STAFFORD: I don't think that will be

1 necessary. I think once -- once we get the -- once I  
2 locate this one, what I'll end up doing is probably take  
3 the -- the most relevant portions, beginning at the  
4 application itself, as opposed -- because it looks like a  
5 big chunk of it is the environmental stuff for -- that  
6 you submitted to BLM.

7 MS. GRABEL: Correct.

8 CHMN STAFFORD: That seems to be the bulk  
9 of everything, so --

10 MS. GRABEL: Right. It's so voluminous.

11 CHMN STAFFORD: Yes. I'll probably just  
12 cull some of it, because I'm -- I'll -- actually, I'll  
13 bring the whole box, but I'm not going to spread it out  
14 over the entire table up there, so --

15 All right. Well, thank you very much.

16 That's all I have.

17 Anything else, Tod?

18 MR. BREWER: No, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

19 CHMN STAFFORD: Okay. Robin, you all set?

20 THE REPORTER: I'm all set.

21 CHMN STAFFORD: All right. Thank you.

22 Let's go off the record and I'll see you all on Monday.

23 (The hearing concluded at 3:15 p.m.)

24

25

1 STATE OF ARIZONA )  
COUNTY OF MARICOPA )

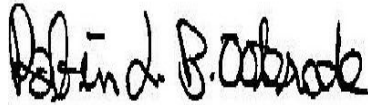
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4 BE IT KNOWN that the foregoing proceedings were  
5 taken before me; that the foregoing pages are a full,  
6 true, and accurate record of the proceedings all done to  
the best of my skill and ability; that the proceedings  
were taken down by me in shorthand and thereafter reduced  
to print under my direction.

7 I CERTIFY that I am in no way related to any of  
8 the parties hereto nor am I in any way interested in the  
outcome hereof.

9 I CERTIFY that I have complied with the ethical  
10 obligations set forth in ACJA 7-206(F)(3) and ACJA 7-206  
(J)(1)(g)(1) and (2). Dated at Phoenix, Arizona, this  
11 4th day of February, 2025.

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ROBIN L. B. OSTERODE, RPR  
CA CSR No. 7750  
AZ CR No. 50695

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\* \* \* \* \*

18 I CERTIFY that Glennie Reporting Services, LLC,  
19 has complied with the ethical obligations set forth in  
ACJA 7-206(J)(1)(g)(1) through (6).

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GLENNIE REPORTING SERVICES, LLC  
Registered Reporting Firm  
Arizona RRF No. R1035