



Commentary

by:

Cathy Carlat



BLM - APS Transmission Line Project

*Councilmember – Mesquite District
City of Peoria*

In 2007, Arizona Public Service (APS) submitted an application with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to request the development of an above ground transmission line. The extra high-voltage, 38 mile project is intended to connect APS's Sun Valley Substation near the Town of Buckeye with the Morgan Substation near the City of Peoria.

The original project included a variety of pathways for the lines, including one that passed adjacent to the northern border of Vistancia, through undisturbed, native desert. As expected, this Carefree Highway alignment roused much interest.

With numerous stakeholders involved, the following years proved challenging. The City of Peoria, along with more than a dozen other stakeholders, became "interveners." Through numerous meetings and much give and take, a successful plan emerged. It was a route that considered the needs and opinions of public entities; including three cities, Maricopa County, the State Land Commission, Arizona Department of Transportation and many private land owners. The route was agreed to by APS, all the stakeholders, the Line Siting Committee and the Arizona Corporation Commission.

As the route passes through Peoria, there is a seven mile stretch next to the highway on the southernmost border of Bureau of Land Management land.

BLM took an uncooperative attitude, refusing to comply with the Corporation Commission or the subsequent Judge. Finally, following involvement by Congressman Trent Franks, they agreed to begin their own process. We are now in the middle of BLM's two-year process to add a utility corridor along the existing transportation corridor.

By the looks of BLM's recently publicized range of alternatives, it appears that the previous efforts of many well-informed citizens and public entities have been disregarded. It is again time to speak up.

I encourage you to voice your opinion by calling, emailing or writing Mr. Joe Incardine, National Project Manager: 801-524-3833, joe_incardine@blm.gov. APS Transmission Line Project, Attention: Joe Incardine BLM Phoenix District Office 21605 North Seventh Avenue Phoenix, Arizona 85207.



Commentary
by:
Cathy Carlat



BLM - APS Transmission Line Project

*Councilmember – Mesquite District
City of Peoria*

To receive Mesquite District Updates, visit www.peoriaaz.gov/mesquite. Contact Councilmember Cathy Carlat at Mesquite@peoriaaz.gov or by calling 623-773-7306.