U.S. Department of Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Phoenix District Office/ Hassayampa Field Office
COMMENT FORM
PUBLIC HEARING - PHOENIX
DECEMBER 13, 2012

Proposed APS Sun Valley to Morgan 500/230kV Transmission Line Project and Proposed Resource Management Plan Amendment

DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

Please Print

[redacted]
NAME

ORGANIZATION

[redacted]
ADDRESS

[redacted]
CITY STATE ZIP

Add to mailing list? ☒YES ☐NO

Withhold personal information*? ☒YES ☐NO

Receive notification of EIS availability? ☐YES ☐NO

COMMENTS: Alternative in addition to those analyzed in EIS: The route would be the same as the Proposed Action to the Lone Mountain Road alignment. From the Lone Mountain alignment proceed northerly, staying on ASLD property to approximately 1/2 mile north of the Joy Ranch alignment, then easterly thru 1/2 mile of private land to the 243rd Ave alignment, then northerly to SR74, then along the south side of SR74 9 miles to the 179th Ave alignment, then follow the route of Alternative 3 to the Morgan Substation. This route would have several positive effects: 1. Minimize the division of ASLD lands by the ROW; 2. Route would not pass near the Thunder Ridge airpark; 3. Route would not pass near residences; 4. Route would put the town of Wittmann outside the 2mile cumulative zone; 5. There would be a substantial reduction of turning structures,

cont. next page

SEND COMMENTS TO:
Proposed APS Sun Valley to Morgan Project
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BLM Phoenix District Office
21605 North 7th Avenue
Phoenix, Arizona 85027
E-mail: SunValley-Morgan@blm.gov | Fax: 623-580-5580

All comments MUST be postmarked by February 8, 2013

*Submittal of comments is completely voluntary and any identifying information provided will become part of the public record, and as such, must be released to any individual upon request. Requests to withhold comments and associated personal identifying information from public review cannot be guaranteed.

required for the project; 6. Route would not require amendment to the EIS/RMP.

Refer to Figure 2.5-1a, The alternative is marked ~~the~~ in blue.

[redacted], 8 Feb, 2013

~~Required~~

		APS SHARE	
APS Palo Verde	4000 MW	X .291 =	1164
APS Red Hawk			530
APS Sundance			450
APS West Phoenix			1000
			3144 MW

500 KV line @ 3000 A

500,000 X 3000 X 1.73 = 2595 MW

Rated @ 525,000 V, 4860 A = 4414 MW

Proposed transmission line

demands by subsidizing efforts, such as buying efficient appliances and home improvements.

The Corporation Commission narrowly approved the Southwest Gas rate increase. It included a rate hike that averages about $3 a month on residential customers that went into effect Jan. 1 and an additional fee to help Southwest Gas make up for sales it loses to energy conservation, which won□t show up on bills until 2013.

That decoupling fee is capped at 5 percent and expected to be about $1.50 a month for residential customers. It will be calculated based on Southwest Gas sales this year.

The Corporation Commission has required that natural-gas companies reduce the amount of fuel they sell by 6 percent by 2020 to enforce conservation.

Opponents of decoupling, including RUCO, say that allowing companies to increase their rates when sales fall doesn□t guarantee conservation and insulates utilities from bad business decisions that might cut into sales.

RUCO wants the issue reconsidered because APS is working toward a more consumer-friendly fee.

APS also asked for a decoupling fee in its pending rate hike, which will help it meet the Corporation Commmission requirement that it reduce energy sales 22 percent by 2020.

But RUCO and other stakeholders have proposed to give APS a more limited fee that will be a strict calculation of how much electricity APS helps customers save. The APS settlement agreement is now under consideration by regulators.

The fee would ensure that APS is covering fixed expenses even as it encourages customers to save power or to generate their own power with rooftop solar panels.

The fee is capped at 1 percent a year and would not be charged until April 2013. A 1 percent cap on the increases would mean it could not be more than about $1.30 a month on the average APS residential customer.

The APS proposal also includes an □opt-out□ for customers who don□t want to be associated with decoupling. They would pay a simple increase in their basic service charge to cover the utility□s fixed costs.

□The difference between full decoupling (given to Southwest Gas) and the (APS fee) is that the (APS fee) is a narrowly tailored mechanism that allows the utility to collect lost revenues only associated with their energy-efficiency programs,□ Jerich said. □The Southwest Gas decoupling allows

NON-solar
From 4-8
APS Generators
Phoenix area
3180 MW
X.22
699.6MW
decrease!

Business

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- Most Popular

Advocate: Reopen utility-rate case

by Ryan Randazzo Feb. 8, 2012 06:25 PM
The Republic | azcentral.com

A major Arizona consumer advocate has asked to reopen a rate case for Southwest Gas Corp. that was decided in December and eventually could raise customers bills about $4.50 a month.

The Residential Utility Consumer Office has asked the elected officials who oversee utility prices to reopen the case because a similar rate case for Arizona Public Service Co. has generated a better compromise for consumers, Director Jodi Jerich said.

The Arizona Corporation Commission regulates utility rates, and RUCO is a state office established by the Legislature to represent residential utility customers at the rate cases, which proceed much like court cases. The RUCO director is appointed by the governor.

RUCO opposed a small part of the Southwest Gas rate request known as decoupling, an industry term that refers to separating utility profits from the volume of natural gas or electricity sold.

The concept aims to allow utilities to pay for their fixed exenses, such as pipelines and power lines, while reducing the amount of energy they supply, which keeps prices down for all customers and minimizes environmental impacts from energy development. They reduce energy

the company to recover lost revenues due to outages, due to the economy, due to weather and due to energy efficiency.□

She said ratepayers would see lower costs if Southwest Gas were forced to calculate its fees in the same way as the APS proposal.

The five, elected corporation commissioners split their vote 3-2 on the Southwest Gas case in December.

Bob Stump said that many utility customers were already □beyond the breaking point□ and couldn't handle a rate increase, and Brenda Burns said the company hadn't explained decoupling well enough.

Chairman Gary Pierce, Sandra Kennedy and Paul Newman approved the increase.

Now that a better way for utilities to deal with conservation has been proposed in the APS case, Jerich said, it makes sense to revisit the Southwest Gas case. Another southern Arizona natural-gas company also has proposed to follow the example in the APS case, she said, showing that it is workable for gas utilities.

□The APS case came forward (after Southwest Gas), and there were more parties,□ she said. □We had AARP, the Federal Executive Agencies, the mines, Kroger, Walmart and Arizonans for Electric Choice and Competition. So RUCO was not the lone voice. □

RUCO filed its petition to reopen the case Jan. 25, and the commissioners have 20 days to decide whether they will do so. If they don□t make a decision by Tuesday, the petition is denied.

Southwest Gas officials said they don□t support reopening the case.

□We thought it was a very inclusive settlement process that was thoroughly vetted by the partners at the table,□ Southwest Gas spokeswoman Ann Seiden said, adding that representatives of low-income customers, energy-efficiency advocates and the Corporation Commission staff approved the settlement.

Many consumers were unhappy with the case, however, especially the decoupling provision.

□The thing that got me all along is that they are selling less and less natural gas, since the 1980s, and they admit that,□ said Larry Woods of Sun City West. □People are building more energy-efficient homes and so forth. It has nothing to do with decoupling. This was a way to cover their losses that were happening anyway.□

Woods said he agreed that the utilties should encourage energy efficiency and that doing so keeps prices down, but he said allowing utilities to charge a decoupling fee does not guarantee they will step up their conservation efforts.

□There is nothing that guarantees that,□ he said. □You get the possibility of energy efficiency. Unless you really monitor this and make sure it happens, then all that happened was Southwest Gas got guaranteed income.□

Others have continued to write letters to the commisisoners to oppose decoupling for Southwest Gas.

□Not only have you wiped out any savings we would have seen and saddled us with higher bills going forward, you□re making us pay for any revenue (Southwest Gas) lost due to improved energy efficiency,□ customer Leslie Durnell said in a letter to the commission shortly after the case was approved, adding that he and his wife decided not to decorate for Christmas to save on utilities.

□Christmas morning, as you sit around your beautifully decorated trees with friends and family, think of those of us that are thankful to still have a roof over our heads,□ he said.

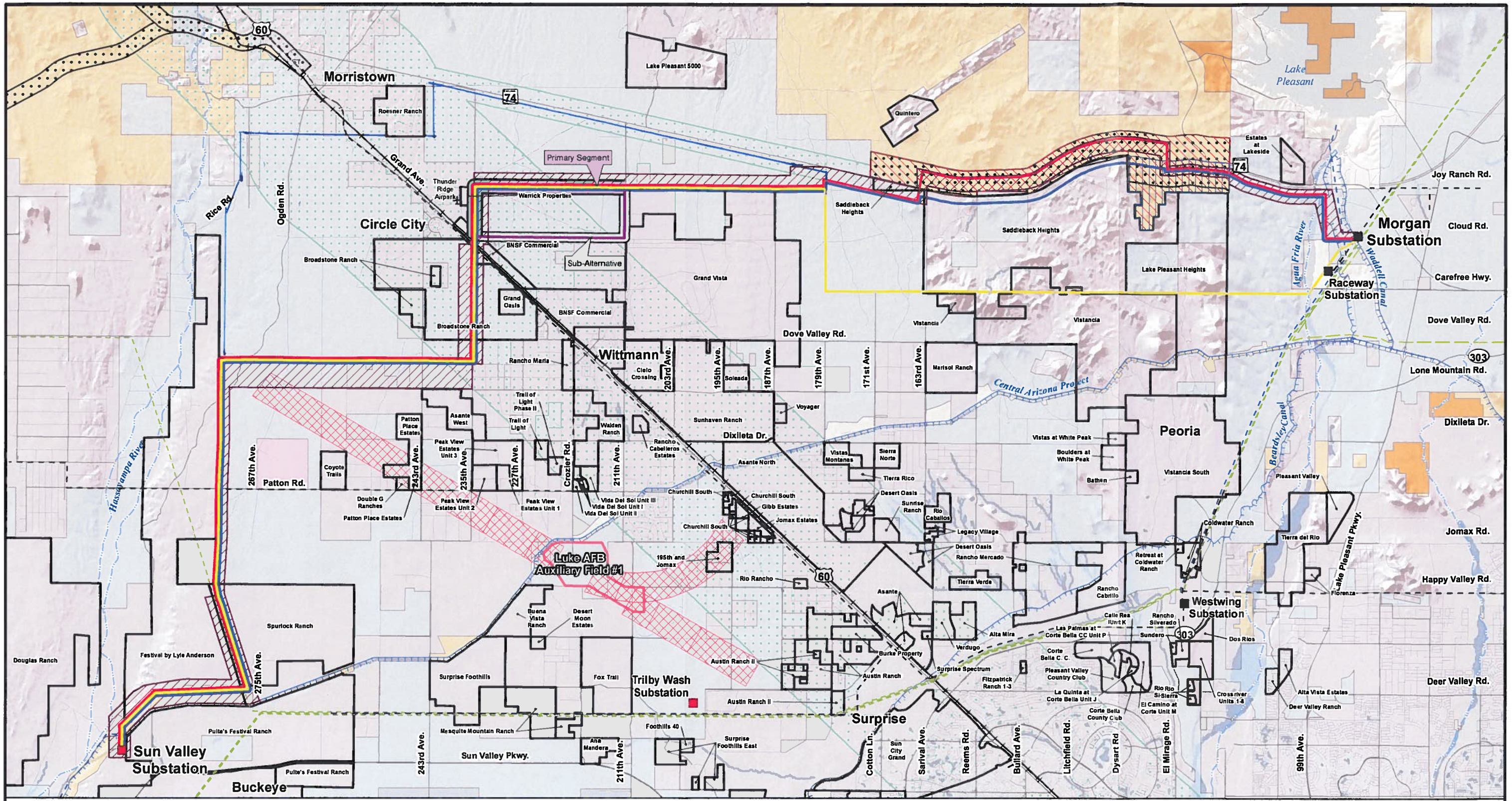

Figure 2.5-1a
Action Alternatives
Sun Valley to Morgan 500/230kV Transmission Line EIS Project