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BEFORE THE ARIZONA POWER PLANT

AND TRANSMISSION LINE SITING COMMITTEE

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION) DOCKET NO.
 OF SOLAR PEPPER POWER, LLC, IN) L-21165A-21-0341-00196
 CONFORMANCE WITH THE REQUIREMENTS)
 OF ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES) LS CASE NO. 196
 40-360, ET SEQ., FOR CERTIFICATES)
 OF ENVIRONMENTAL COMPATIBILITY)
 AUTHORIZING THE SERRANO SOLAR)
 PROJECT GEN-TIE, WHICH INCLUDES)
 THE CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW)
 DOUBLE-CIRCUIT TRANSMISSION LINE)
 AND ASSOCIATED FACILITIES)
 ORIGINATING IN EITHER PIMA OR)
 PINAL COUNTY AND INTERCONNECTING)
 AT THE EXISTING APS SAGUARO)
 FACILITY AND/OR THE EXISTING TEP)
 TORTOLITA SUBSTATION IN PINAL)
 COUNTY, ARIZONA.)

At: Tucson, Arizona

Date: November 30, 2021

Filed: December 6, 2021

REPORTER'S TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS
 VOLUME I
 (Pages 1 through 112)

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25			(12)

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 at Embassy Suites, 3110 East Skyline Drive,
5 Tucson, Arizona, commencing at 1:16 p.m. on the 30th day
6 of November, 2021.

7

8 BEFORE: PAUL A. KATZ, Chairman

9

10 ZACHARY BRANUM, Arizona Corporation Commission
 (via videoconference)
11 LEONARD DRAGO, Department of Environmental Quality
 JOHN RIGGINS, Arizona Department of Water Resources
12 (via videoconference)
 JAMES PALMER, Agriculture Interests
13 RICK GRINNELL, Counties
 KARL GENTLES, General Public
14 (via videoconference)
 JACK HAENICHEN, General Public
15 MARGARET "TOBY" LITTLE, PE, General Public
 (via videoconference)

16

17

18 APPEARANCES:

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For the Applicant:

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1 APPEARANCES: (Cont.)

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7 PINNACLE WEST CAPITAL CORPORATION
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1 CHMN. KATZ: This is the time set for hearing
2 Case No. 196 in the matter of the application of Solar
3 Pepper Power, LLC.

4 I would ask first the attorneys who are present
5 to just identify themselves for the record, and then I'll
6 take a roll call vote of the Committee Members who are
7 present.

8 MR. ACKEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Bert
9 Acken of Jennings, Strouss & Salmon on behalf of the
10 applicant, Solar Pepper Power, LLC. You will hear me
11 largely refer to them, the applicant, as Longroad Energy,
12 which is the parent company for Solar Pepper Power, the
13 special purpose entity applicant.

14 CHMN. KATZ: And I'll just ask you while I have
15 you, your exhibits have been numbered and are either
16 available online and the iPads that have been provided or
17 hard copies might be available if anybody needs one?

18 MR. ACKEN: That's correct, Mr. Chairman. We
19 have nine exhibits premarked and happy to go through them
20 if you see fit, but, yes, we --

21 CHMN. KATZ: We don't need to.

22 And I'll ask the other gentleman who's present
23 to identify himself for the record and indicate on whose
24 behalf he is appearing.

25 MR. DERSTINE: Good afternoon, Mr. Chairman,

1 Members of the Committee. Matt Derstine of Snell &
2 Wilmer, appearing on behalf of Arizona Service Company.
3 Also appearing is Linda Benally, regulatory counsel at
4 APS. Ms. Benally is appearing virtually today. She
5 plans to appear in person tomorrow, but she is appearing
6 by WiFi today.

7 CHMN. KATZ: Thank you.

8 I first -- beginning on my right and going from
9 my right down the line, I would ask the members of the
10 Committee, if they could, to identify themselves for the
11 court record -- Committee record.

12 MEMBER PALMER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

13 Jim Palmer representing agriculture.

14 MEMBER DRAGO: Len Drago representing the
15 Arizona Department of Environmental Quality.

16 RICK GRINNELL: Rick Grinnell representing
17 counties.

18 MEMBER HAENICHEN: Jack Haenichen representing
19 the public.

20 CHMN. KATZ: I don't know whether we have any
21 video for our virtual participants, but I would ask -- I
22 know that we have at least two participants appearing
23 virtually, and I would ask them, if they would, to
24 kindly identify themselves. And I think there might be a
25 third now.

1 MEMBER LITTLE: Toby Little representing the
2 public.

3 CHMN. KATZ: Thank you.

4 MEMBER BRANUM: Zachary Branum representing the
5 Arizona Corporation Commission. Thank you.

6 CHMN. KATZ: And I think -- do we have one
7 more?

8 MR. DERSTINE: The third is Ms. Benally, who I
9 indicated would be appearing virtually.

10 CHMN. KATZ: Right. I thought John Riggins --

11 MR. DERSTINE: Oh, you're right. John Riggins
12 is there.

13 CHMN. KATZ: Are you there, John?

14 MEMBER RIGGINS: John Riggins representing
15 Arizona Department of Water Resources.

16 CHMN. KATZ: Thank you very much. I just
17 wanted to make sure that's everybody. We do have a
18 quorum. I'd say we started this about 1:15.

19 (Off the record for technical issue.)

20 CHMN. KATZ: We started at about 1:15. We'll
21 go until about 2:45 and take a 15-minute break plus or
22 minus. And, Carolyn, if you need a break sooner, just
23 holler and we'll take that break.

24 I know that we are here probably today, which
25 is the 30th of November, through this coming -- likely

1 through part of the day Thursday. Maybe we'll be done
2 tomorrow. We'll play it by ear. But this will be
3 probably a two- to three-day hearing.

4 If there are any members of the public that are
5 appearing virtually or are in the room right now, you
6 want to be sure, if you're making a public comment -- if
7 you're appearing virtually, we'll have to have you
8 identify your name. And if you are here in person, there
9 are some sign-in sheets for you to sign in.

10 My understanding is -- and the Committee can
11 decide this. But in light of the route running
12 significantly along Interstate 10, I'm proposing that we
13 not take a tour. But, Mr. Acken, that would be something
14 that you could at least recommend one way or the other.

15 MR. ACKEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As you
16 correctly state, we did evaluate whether an in-person
17 tour would be workable for this project. And the
18 conclusion we reached is that the vast majority of the
19 gen-tie follows Interstate 10, and there is no access
20 along I-10 in which to stop and take testimony as you
21 would for a normal tour.

22 So given the nature of the lack of access and
23 the safety issues with I-10, it was our recommendation
24 that there not be a tour. As you would expect, we do
25 have a robust virtual tour as well as several visual

1 simulations that Ms. Pollio will present, and we're
2 hopeful that you'll see that and you will understand --
3 get a good feel for what the project looks like.

4 CHMN. KATZ: That's fine. And I won't plan on
5 us taking a tour unless I get a motion from one of our
6 in-person members that we do take a tour. And I don't
7 think -- anybody have a motion on that?

8 (No response.)

9 CHMN. KATZ: Hearing silence, we'll move
10 forward.

11 We did receive -- yes.

12 MEMBER HAENICHEN: I'd just like to make a
13 comment on tours. In the past, I found it to be
14 extremely valuable, to me, at least, and other Members
15 I've talked to.

16 And I understand what you said, and this is a
17 good case where we just can't do it. But I hope we don't
18 start setting a precedent and just ignoring tours
19 altogether.

20 CHMN. KATZ: That's fine. And I'd like to see
21 us taking tours where we get a good vantage point of the
22 installation and get a good idea of where the lines might
23 be running or the substation being built, etc.

24 But we did receive a motion or a request for
25 intervention by Arizona Public Service. And I don't

1 know, Mr. Acken, if you have any objection to their
2 intervening.

3 MR. ACKEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No
4 objection.

5 As we will discuss in this proceeding, we are
6 seeking two CECs for one gen-tie. So a portion of the
7 gen-tie that will be the second CEC is actually for APS
8 on land that APS owns. And so not only do we not object,
9 we support their intervention.

10 CHMN. KATZ: But the proposed terms and
11 conditions -- and I haven't given you my edited version
12 yet or the Members -- are basically -- the terms of both
13 are the same. So if we go through the first one in
14 detail, there is a little difference between that and the
15 second proposed CEC; is that correct?

16 MR. ACKEN: That's correct. We mirrored them
17 to be very similar. I think I had one change in the
18 Longroad CEC to require the submittal of reports to the
19 interconnecting agent. That condition wouldn't apply to
20 APS, so you may see one extra condition in the Longroad
21 CEC.

22 CHMN. KATZ: And either later today or
23 tomorrow, I'll give you our edited versions. But what
24 we'll do is on the first CEC, we'll post that on the left
25 screen and again on the right screen, and we'll make our

1 edits to the right screen. And once we approve, if we
2 do, the first CEC -- the first one will be, on the left,
3 Chairman Exhibit 1. The one on the right, Chairman
4 Exhibit 2. And then we'll do 3 and 4, Chairman
5 Exhibits 3 and 4, which will be the second CEC with our
6 edits -- or my edits. And then 4 will be any edits that
7 we make at the request of Committee Members or at the
8 request of counsel.

9 Do we have a motion, though, to allow APS to
10 intervene in these proceedings?

11 MR. PALMER: I would so move.

12 MEMBER HAENICHEN: So moved.

13 CHMN. KATZ: I'll take Jack as the movant --

14 MR. PALMER: I'll second.

15 CHMN. KATZ: -- and Jim Palmer as the second.

16 All in favor say "aye."

17 (A chorus of "ayes.")

18 CHMN. KATZ: Anybody opposed?

19 (No response.)

20 CHMN. KATZ: Hearing no opposition.

21 And I'm assuming we don't have any problems
22 regarding disclosure of witnesses. I have witness
23 disclosures from both APS as well as the applicant, and I
24 think we are ready to proceed unless there's some legal
25 issues that we need to resolve, and I'm not aware of any.

1 MR. ACKEN: Mr. Chairman, no legal
2 considerations to bring up at this time. So when you're
3 ready, we're ready to put on the opening and get started.

4 CHMN. KATZ: In a minute, I'll probably do the
5 openings before we swear in any witnesses.

6 But I also did receive a letter dated November
7 23rd, 2021, from the Corporation Commission, that
8 essentially says: The first phase of the Solar Project
9 is anticipated to interconnect at the APS Saguaro
10 Facility at 230 kilovolts. Subsequent phases of the
11 Solar Project (Phase 2) may interconnect at the APS
12 Saguaro Facility at 230kV or 115kV, or at the TEP
13 Tortolita Substation. Two CECs are required because the
14 applicant and APS would each own and operate a portion of
15 the gen-tie.

16 But they did indicate that there was one phase
17 that wasn't commented on in that letter. I don't know if
18 we need to address that now or not.

19 MR. ACKEN: Mr. Chairman, I can take a swing at
20 it. We have marked that as Serrano-6. So, for
21 completion of the record, your letter requesting comment
22 from Staff is Serrano-5.

23 That study is in progress in the normal course
24 of events and being evaluated. We will present testimony
25 showing that this project has two phases. Phase 1 is

1 further along, and so, of course, studies are done for
2 Phase 1 that are not done for Phase 2 at this time.

3 CHMN. KATZ: Sounds good.

4 Anyhow, I'll just check my notes here. I think
5 we're about ready to begin.

6 Oh, and have notices been given to any and all
7 local government agencies or affected jurisdictions?

8 MR. ACKEN: Mr. Chairman, yes. The two
9 affected jurisdictions -- well, three if you include
10 State Land, are the two counties, Pima County, Pinal
11 County, and the State Land Department. So we provided
12 notice, in accordance with the statutory requirement, to
13 those three entities.

14 CHMN. KATZ: And have you received any negative
15 comments from any of those jurisdictions?

16 MR. ACKEN: We have not. And we will present
17 testimony from an email that a Pinal County supervisor
18 provided to you, also provided to us. So that is hearing
19 Exhibit Serrano-7. And we will present some testimony on
20 that.

21 CHMN. KATZ: Okay. I guess we can begin with
22 your opening statements. And once we're done with that,
23 I'll either affirm or swear in your expected witnesses.

24 MR. ACKEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

25 If we could move to the -- I had a couple

1 slides, but I'll just go on the fly.

2 We can show the screen on the right. This
3 shows the project.

4 The Serrano -- so there's two parts: There's
5 the substation, a new substation, which is shown in
6 yellow, as well as the generation facility, which is
7 shown in -- excuse me, the gen-tie, which is shown in
8 green. That green represents the corridor we are
9 requesting from the project substation.

10 You see most of the land in blue. That is
11 State land, and that's why we talked earlier about that
12 being one of the affected jurisdictions. You'll see that
13 that substation straddles the Pima and Pinal County
14 border, the substation siting area.

15 I-10 is shown in red and black. You have the
16 railroad next to it. Also, I want to point out -- we'll
17 talk about a little bit -- is the Pinal County Airpark,
18 which is to the northwest of the facility.

19 So just to orient you to a little bit of the
20 map, this is Figure 1. It is also the primary figure on
21 your placemat.

22 On the back, you'll see that same figure with a
23 superimposed right-of-way that Ms. Kelly will describe.
24 And then we have a simplified map that we propose to use
25 for the CECs.

1 So there's really only two unique components to
2 this. We are requesting two interconnection points. As
3 you see on the map, we are requesting approval to
4 interconnect at both Tortolita as well as Saguaro, not
5 one or the other. We are requesting approval for both
6 due to the phasing associated with this project that I
7 mentioned earlier. And, again, Ms. Kelly will cover that
8 in her testimony.

9 The second somewhat unique factor, although
10 this Committee has seen it I think a handful of times by
11 now, is that request for two CECs for one gen-tie. This
12 was done in a project I had for Hashknife. I think it
13 was done recently in an APS-AES project as well where you
14 have one entity that has the vast majority of the gen-tie
15 ownership, but APS will own the portion entering its
16 substation.

17 So when you look at that placemat, you will see
18 the green represents the area that will be covered by the
19 applicant's gen-tie. The purple represents APS's
20 gen-tie.

21 We have three witnesses in one panel. You see
22 them up there. They are going to provide testimony
23 regarding the applicant and its parent, Longroad Energy,
24 Longroad's commitment to environmental stewardship, the
25 project itself, the needs and benefits provided by the

1 project, the project's environmental compatibility, and
2 the robust notice and public outreach program conducted
3 for the project.

4 I think I've already covered what I wanted to
5 as far as the exhibits. We have nine. We've got the
6 placemat, the application. We have copies of any of that
7 if the Committee has questions.

8 But with that, we are ready to put on our
9 witnesses and let them tell the story.

10 CHMN. KATZ: That's fine.

11 Would you like to, Mr. Derstine, make your
12 opening remarks now or hold off until after the current
13 presentation?

14 MR. DERSTINE: I don't have a lot in the way of
15 opening remarks.

16 I would just say that on behalf of APS that we
17 appreciate the Committee granting APS's intervention.

18 We're here for the reasons counsel stated.

19 There are two CECs that are contemplated by the
20 applicant. A short .3-mile CEC is the CEC No. 2. That's
21 the segment that will ultimately be owned and constructed
22 by APS. It's largely on APS's control area. And so
23 we're here to participate only to the extent you need us
24 and to the extent that we need to provide testimony
25 concerning the CEC No. 2. But we're happy to answer any

1 questions of the Committee as they related to CEC-2 or
2 the interconnection at the APS Saguaro Substation.

3 But you'll probably hear very little from me.
4 And unless someone needs our witnesses to testify, I
5 don't plan on putting on a case.

6 CHMN. KATZ: And do you have any exhibits
7 you've marked, or do we not need to worry about it right
8 now?

9 MR. DERSTINE: We do not.

10 CHMN. KATZ: Okay.

11 I would ask our three witnesses seated to my
12 right whether you would prefer an oath or affirmation.
13 If you all agree to one thing or a couple of you do,
14 we'll do it one way. But I just would like to know, is
15 there anybody that -- what would your preferences be, an
16 oath or affirmation?

17 MS. KELLY: Affirmation.

18 CHMN. KATZ: All three affirmation? That's
19 fine. I'd just ask you to please stand, if you would, so
20 you can get a little exercise, and raise your right
21 hands.

22 (Rebecca Kelly, Deron Lawrence, and Kenda
23 Pollio were all duly affirmed, en masse, by the
24 Chairman.)

25 CHMN. KATZ: You may proceed, Counsel, in

1 calling your first witness.

2 MR. ACKEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And we
3 will call the witnesses in a true panel format where I
4 will go between witnesses for various topics. Obviously,
5 some will cover chunks of testimony.

6 So with that, the first witness I'm going to
7 ask to establish some foundation is Ms. Kelly.

8
9 REBECCA KELLY, DERON LAWRENCE, AND KENDA POLLIO,
10 called as witnesses herein, having been previously
11 affirmed by the Chairman to speak the whole truth and
12 nothing but the truth, were examined and testified as
13 follows:

14

15 DIRECT EXAMINATION

16 BY MR. ACKEN:

17 Q. Would you please state your name and business
18 address for the record.

19 A. (Ms. Kelly) My name is Rebecca Kelly.
20 Business address is 735 Montgomery Street, Suite 480, San
21 Francisco, California.

22 Q. And by whom are you employed and in what
23 capacity?

24 A. (Ms. Kelly) I work for Longroad Energy, and my
25 title is director of development.

1 Q. Please summarize your educational background
2 and work experience.

3 A. (Ms. Kelly) I received a bachelor's in
4 environmental biology from Columbia.

5 I have spent my entire career on large-scale
6 infrastructure for energy generation projects. My first
7 job was in environmental consulting. I worked on
8 planning a wide range of projects, including linear
9 features like transmission lines and pipelines and also
10 generation projects of wind and solar.

11 For the last ten years, I've been working
12 exclusively on utility scale solar and battery storage
13 development in the Western U.S., primarily in California
14 and Arizona, including spending a full year working on a
15 construction site of a 2,000-acre project in the desert
16 in Southern California, which was a fun experience.

17 I've been with Longroad Energy for over two
18 years now, and I lead our development work in the state
19 of Arizona.

20 Q. And what has your role been with respect to the
21 Serrano Gen-tie Project?

22 A. (Ms. Kelly) I'm the project manager. So this
23 means I work with private landowners, the State Land
24 Department, interconnecting utilities, power offtakers,
25 and other local stakeholders to advance development of

1 the project. And I work jointly with my colleagues on
2 the panel here on our public outreach activities.

3 Q. And what topics will you cover in your
4 testimony?

5 A. (Ms. Kelly) I will describe the project
6 overall and also walk through the project need and
7 benefits.

8 Q. Thank you.

9 Mr. Lawrence, you're next. Please state your
10 name and business address.

11 A. (Mr. Lawrence) Good afternoon, Chairman and
12 Committee Members. I appreciate your time to listen to
13 this testimony today. Thank you.

14 My name is Deron Lawrence, and my address is
15 735 Montgomery Street, Suite 480, San Francisco,
16 California 94111. That's a business address.

17 Q. And by whom are you employed and in what
18 capacity?

19 A. (Mr. Lawrence) Longroad Energy. I'm the
20 senior director for natural resources permitting and
21 policy.

22 Q. Summarize your educational background and work
23 experience.

24 A. (Mr. Lawrence) So I started my education by
25 earning a bachelor's and then a master's degree in

1 ecology from Idaho State University. A few years later,
2 I earned a master's in environmental philosophy. And
3 after that, I spent some time teaching, consulting. And
4 then for the last 15 years, I've been working on
5 renewable energy projects.

6 So early on, renewable energy was solely wind
7 energy. And I've had a lot of experience working on BLM
8 federal lands projects, private lands projects, and
9 working through a number of federal and state
10 jurisdictions, not only in the United States but
11 throughout the world.

12 At this point, I've been working for Longroad
13 Energy since 2016, since the company started. Happy to
14 be a part of that original team that started up the
15 company. And have been focused now working closely with
16 our developers throughout the country. So have the
17 opportunity to work on every project that Longroad
18 advances.

19 Q. And so what has your role been with respect to
20 this project?

21 A. (Mr. Lawrence) So I've been in charge of the
22 initial desktop and recon reviews of the site going back
23 about a year and a half when we first identified this
24 site and started advancing studies to determine if it was
25 something that was going to move forward.

1 And then, in the last six months, as Ms. Kelly
2 noted, we've picked up speed with the interconnection and
3 starting to get closer to having all the pieces together
4 for the project, have had our consultants conduct all the
5 studies needed to put together the application that is
6 before you today.

7 Q. And what topics will you cover in your
8 testimony?

9 A. (Mr. Lawrence) I'll be focusing on the
10 environmental compliance and then on the overall
11 application preparation.

12 Q. Ms. Pollio, would you identify yourself for the
13 Committee.

14 A. (Ms. Pollio) Yes. My name is Kenda Pollio.
15 I'm with KP Environmental. I'm a principal with the
16 company. My address is 280 Melba, and that's in
17 Encinitas, California 92024.

18 Q. And next describe your educational and
19 professional background.

20 A. (Ms. Pollio) So I have a bachelor's of science
21 in environmental studies and urban and regional planning
22 from Florida State University. I have a master's of
23 science in environmental policy from the University of
24 South Florida. I'm an American Institute of Certified
25 Planners or an AICP.

1 I have 32 years of environmental consulting
2 experience. And all of my experience is dealing with
3 generation, renewable, and transmission lines and
4 pipelines. So I've had 32 years of that going on.

5 And that really is what I specialize in. I've
6 worked on over 175 transmission line and utility
7 projects. I've testified before this Siting Committee 18
8 times, and I've testified in other states' siting
9 committees or public utilities commissions an additional
10 30 times.

11 Q. And what has been your role in this project?

12 A. (Ms. Pollio) My role and KP Environmental is
13 the environmental consultant, and we were responsible for
14 conducting the environmental assessment and analysis and
15 preparing the CEC application.

16 Q. And what will you cover in your testimony?

17 A. (Ms. Pollio) I will definitely cover the
18 environmental analysis. I will also talk about the
19 statutory filings that we've made and the public process.

20 Q. All right. Thank you.

21 MR. ACKEN: We're going to start off by
22 introducing the applicant. And I believe this is the
23 first time Longroad Energy has sought a CEC from this
24 Committee.

25 Q. BY MR. ACKEN: So, Mr. Lawrence, please take a

1 few minutes and describe your company and its values for
2 the Committee.

3 A. (Mr. Lawrence) Solar Pepper Power, LLC, is the
4 project entity that's applying for a permit today. It's
5 a wholly owned subsidiary of Longroad Energy. So we set
6 up these LLCs for every one of our projects and use them
7 as the applications for reasons that the lawyers can
8 explain much better than I can.

9 Longroad Energy is the company that develops,
10 constructs, owns, and operates wind and solar projects
11 within the U.S. and throughout the U.S. The leadership
12 team has been together for more than 15 years.

13 Originally, it was a company called First Wind Energy.

14 And that company was sold, and the leaders got
15 together after they sold the company and started Longroad
16 Energy in 2016. They brought together a number of the
17 employees they had at First Energy and some new people to
18 then develop this company where we've now developed over
19 3 gigawatts or 3,000 megawatts of wind and solar energy
20 in the last five years, and we also operate more than 3
21 gigawatts of wind and solar. We have a remote operation
22 center in Portland, Maine, that is staffed 24/7/365 to
23 watch all of our projects operating throughout the year.

24 I'll also mention that when we build these
25 projects, we often have gen-tie lines. One of the

1 gen-tie lines, I just point out, in Utah is 90 miles
2 long, and it was a 345kV line that we built for a
3 300-megawatt wind farm. So we do have experience with
4 building gen-tie lines as well as operating them.

5 I think the next exhibit I want to show you is
6 a map of our assets throughout the country just to give
7 you a visual. So you can see we have wind scattered in
8 states throughout the United States. We have solar
9 throughout the country as well, again, Maine to Hawaii,
10 up and down the coast, and a lot, as you see,
11 concentration in California and here in Arizona as well.

12 And speaking of Arizona, we have 20 solar
13 projects that we operate here. They include large
14 rooftop, canopy, ground-mount projects and then one
15 utility project that we just finished recently. It's a
16 150-megawatt Sun Streams 2 solar project in Maricopa
17 County.

18 Q. Next, describe Longroad's commitment to the
19 environment.

20 A. (Mr. Lawrence) So I take this as my role
21 within the company as something I've helped develop and
22 now I oversee for all of our projects very seriously.
23 And it's something that I think we can do uniquely as a
24 company that develops and constructs and operates
25 projects. So I get to work with members of all three

1 parts of the team to make sure that we have an integrated
2 approach to not only the early assessment that we conduct
3 in natural resources, cultural resources, key community
4 stakeholders throughout a project; but I make these
5 assessments so I can also then identify areas that we
6 need to avoid or might need to minimize and then, if we
7 can't minimize, mitigate if there are any potential
8 impacts that people are concerned about at the end of
9 that process.

10 Throughout this assessment process, and
11 specifically when I think about this project, we've
12 looked at the studies that Ms. Pollio has conducted and
13 we've identified best management practices that we would
14 implement for this project. And, again, I do this for
15 every project, and I include a document called a Bird,
16 Bat, and Wildlife Conservation Strategy. I know it's a
17 mouthful. But it's modeled on the wind energy guidelines
18 that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service developed over
19 about a decade and is used for all wind energy siting
20 projects that go through a federal review.

21 My colleagues in other companies and I do use
22 those guidelines to help with the siting assessment and
23 the risk profile for all of our projects. And I, again,
24 representing Longroad, will develop this document for
25 this gen-tie project. So it will include the risk

1 assessment, the best management practices, and will have
2 measures that will be included in the construction
3 contract documents so there are obligations that follow
4 through construction, and then they also would go into
5 the operational phase of the project.

6 So, again, I'm in a unique position where I get
7 to identify these commitments, and I also know that they
8 can be put in a contract document so they're binding and
9 passed on throughout the whole life of a project.

10 I'd like to make one more comment to
11 Mr. Acken's question, and that's that beyond Longroad, we
12 have worked with the American Wind and Wildlife
13 Institute, which, as of last week, has become the
14 Renewable Energy Wildlife Institute, because now they're
15 not just wind, they're wind and solar. And they're an
16 organization of developers, of ENGOs, the environmental
17 organizations, as well as state and Federal Government
18 parties, who identify research topics and identify ways
19 to implement best management practices or even come up
20 with new deterrents, new ways, to minimize effects to
21 wildlife. We're also a member of the Energy and Wildlife
22 Action Committee. Again, a group of renewable energy
23 companies and utilities. And, likewise, we continue to
24 look at regulatory and other technological advances in
25 the industry and find ways to implement them across our

1 companies.

2 I have a picture here on the right side, the
3 left photo of the three on the right side slide of what's
4 called an identify unit. It is a unit that is used to
5 minimize wildlife impacts at wildlife facilities. It's
6 something that we've been doing research on. We've
7 implemented it at our site, and it's only at a few sites
8 around the world right now. But, again, something that
9 we've gone above and beyond the requirements of what's
10 needed for our projects.

11 CHMN. KATZ: And I didn't mention earlier, but
12 we were looking at applicant's Exhibit 7.

13 Q. BY MR. ACKEN: All right. Thank you,
14 Mr. Lawrence.

15 Ms. Kelly, let's next talk about the project
16 description, why we're here. So if you would, let's
17 start off with a high-level overview of the project.

18 A. (Ms. Kelly) Sure.

19 The gen-tie project has two primary components.
20 One is the project substation, and the second is the
21 gen-tie.

22 The project substation will step up electricity
23 that's generated at the solar and battery facility to
24 transmission voltage, and the gen-tie will deliver
25 electricity to the regional transmission grid.

1 You can see in the figure on Slide R11, the
2 substation will be located within the substation siting
3 area, which is depicted on the figure in the yellow box,
4 and the gen-tie route is shown in the green corridor.
5 And the very northern end of the corridor is purple as
6 well. That is part of the proposed gen-tie.

7 Q. And before we go further on the project before
8 the Committee, take a moment and summarize the
9 nonjurisdictional solar and storage facility.

10 A. (Ms. Kelly) The Serrano solar and battery
11 storage facility is an electrical generator with capacity
12 of up to 250 megawatts. 1,000 acres of private land have
13 been secured through a binding lease option with a
14 private landowner.

15 You can see the photo on the right on Slide
16 R12. This is an aerial view of the Sun Streams 2 Solar
17 Project, which Mr. Lawrence mentioned earlier Longroad
18 constructed in Maricopa County. This gives you an idea
19 of what the Serrano facility will look like when
20 constructed.

21 I also wanted to mention that Longroad has a
22 procurement relationship with an Arizona-based company
23 called First Solar, and we procure the vast majority of
24 our modules for our projects from that Arizona-based
25 company, including the ones shown on Slide R12. Those

1 are all First Solar modules.

2 Q. Thank you.

3 Now let's talk about the route for the gen-tie.

4 A. (Ms. Kelly) The project substation siting area
5 is on private land along the county line. So you can see
6 on the figure on Slide R13, this line that I'm
7 highlighting with the laser pointer is the County
8 boundary. So south of that line is Pima County. North
9 of that line is Pinal County.

10 The gen-tie will begin at the project
11 substation and extend within the green corridor that's
12 shown to the ultimate points of interconnection, which
13 are the Saguaro Substation and the Tortolita Substation.

14 I wanted to note that the green -- excuse me,
15 the blue that's shown on this map is all land that's
16 owned by the State of Arizona. So the vast majority of
17 our gen-tie line will be routed on State Trust land. We
18 are in process with the State Land Department to obtain
19 the right-of-way for that. And as I'm sure Members of
20 the Committee are aware and certainly the Chairman, all
21 of the revenue that is realized associated with
22 development on State Trust land is disseminated to the
23 schools in Arizona.

24 And I also wanted to note that our gen-tie line
25 has been strategically sited so it is collocated with

1 existing features. So it parallels an existing county
2 road right here and then the I-10, and the railroad
3 corridor shown right here. And there's also a mine right
4 here and the airpark. So we believe that this is a
5 well-sited project because of the adjacent industrial
6 activity and existing linear features.

7 Q. Next describe the land ownership and
8 jurisdictions along the route.

9 A. (Ms. Kelly) The project substation siting area
10 is on private land in Pima and Pinal Counties. The
11 gen-tie will extend from that substation across State
12 lands to Pinal County at the points of interconnection at
13 the Saguaro facility and the Tortolita Substation. Over
14 90 percent of the gen-tie right-of-way is located on
15 State Trust land.

16 Q. What is the requested right-of-way and corridor
17 width for the gen-tie?

18 A. (Ms. Kelly) We are requesting a 1,000-foot
19 corridor. The 1,000-foot corridor is what's depicted in
20 green on Slide R14. Within that 1,000-foot corridor, we
21 are requesting a 150-foot right-of-way with a wider
22 right-of-way at crossings or turning structures.

23 So you can see on the figure on Slide R14 --
24 whoops, wrong button -- there is a pink route, a
25 corridor, that's shown within the green corridor. And

1 that depicts the conceptual right-of-way that the project
2 will ultimately occupy within the requested corridor.

3 This is also shown in hard copy on the back
4 side of the placemat to give you an idea of the increased
5 right-of-way that's being requested at those turning
6 structures. And that is now being requested based on
7 some advanced -- or more advanced engineering designs.

8 CHMN. KATZ: And I just wanted to interject, I
9 believe that most of the Committee knows and I think
10 counsel do, I also represent the Arizona State Land
11 Department. And I do work on rights-of-way and leases
12 and sales but have been totally removed from any projects
13 that involve solar or wind and battery storage units. So
14 I have no prior knowledge and haven't worked on any
15 easements that have been applied for or have been
16 received by the applicant. And I just wanted to disclose
17 that for the record.

18 MEMBER HAENICHEN: Mr. Chairman.

19 CHMN. KATZ: Yes, sir.

20 MEMBER HAENICHEN: I'd like to ask you a
21 question.

22 CHMN. KATZ: Yes, sir.

23 MEMBER HAENICHEN: Not you. Maybe later.

24 CHMN. KATZ: At dinner.

25 MEMBER HAENICHEN: Since most of the trajectory

1 of that line is along a very straight, linear feature,
2 why are you requesting a 1,000-foot corridor?

3 MS. KELLY: The 1,000-foot corridor is being
4 requested so that when our surveying and engineering
5 teams go out and do the final design, they have some
6 flexibility to route around topographical features like
7 streams or other features that may exist in the field.

8 MEMBER HAENICHEN: Do you anticipate such
9 features to be present there? Have you looked at it?

10 MS. POLLIO: I'll do say from an environmental
11 perspective, it is pretty disturbed. But, you know,
12 again, I think based on the engineering, they just wanted
13 that flexibility. But we do not anticipate there's
14 anything from an environmental sensitivity -- necessarily
15 environmental sensitivity that could not be spanned.

16 CHMN. KATZ: And that was Ms. Pollio.

17 MR. LAWRENCE: And if I could just add a little
18 more, I would also add in our experience, once the
19 construction team and engineering team gets out in the
20 field and actually starts putting in the line, they find
21 reason to microsite and move things around within even a
22 corridor like this that may not have shown up even in the
23 preliminary reconnaissance and engineering design.

24 So our thought was rather than have a narrow
25 corridor and risk needing to ask for an amendment, it

1 might be easier to start with a wider area within which
2 to provide the destructions we want to put in the ground.
3 And you might know, we want to have this as straight as
4 possible. Every turning structure costs more money. But
5 if we run into some reason that we need to have a bit of
6 a jig or a jag in the line, then I guess we'd ask that we
7 have that flexibility within this wider corridor.

8 MEMBER HAENICHEN: Another reason why an onsite
9 visit by our Committee is valuable. We could look at the
10 area along that linear feature and see if there are such
11 obstructions.

12 Will your flyover show that clearly?

13 MS. POLLIO: The flyover does a pretty good job
14 in my opinion of showing the aerial features, and we can
15 actually slow that down and take it very slow so we can
16 look at it in fairly good detail.

17 MR. HAENICHEN: Thank you.

18 MR. ACKEN: The short answer is yes.

19 MEMBER HAENICHEN: I think she said I'm slow.

20 CHMN. KATZ: Yes, Mr. Palmer.

21 MEMBER PALMER: In relation to the substation,
22 is the solar generating facility in that general area?

23 MS. KELLY: Yes.

24 MEMBER HAENICHEN: Could you point out with a
25 laser pointer where the termination ...

1 MS. KELLY: Sure. Yeah.

2 So the final footprint is subject to
3 engineering refinement. But the area that we have
4 secured under option is being highlighted right here and
5 in addition right here. And we are also in talks with
6 some additional adjacent landowners. But since any
7 further agreements have not been signed and recorded, I'm
8 only showing the ones that have been signed under binding
9 option agreements.

10 MEMBER HAENICHEN: And will it cross the county
11 line there?

12 MS. KELLY: We expect that the generating
13 facility will have components in Pinal and Pima County.

14 MEMBER HAENICHEN: And what is roughly the
15 ownership of the land that it will be on?

16 MS. KELLY: Private. So we look at the figure
17 on Slide R14, all the blue land is State land. And all
18 of the other land in the facility of the gen-tie
19 substation siting area is private land.

20 MEMBER HAENICHEN: Thank you.

21 MEMBER GRINNELL: Mr. Chairman.

22 CHMN. KATZ: Yes.

23 MEMBER GRINNELL: What is the total distance
24 from, let's say, the County line separation to the
25 Saguaro facility? Is it about 5, 6 miles?

1 MS. KELLY: We're confirming the precise number
2 with the documents.

3 MS. POLLIO: 4.93. So very good. Very close.

4 Q. BY MR. ACKEN: If there are no further
5 questions on that topic, let's turn to the phasing.

6 Why are you requesting authorization to
7 interconnect at both the APS Saguaro facility and TEP
8 Tortolita substation?

9 A. (Ms. Kelly) The solar project is planned to be
10 built in two phases. The first phase will interconnect
11 at the APS Saguaro facility at 230kV. The second phase
12 will interconnect at the Saguaro facility at 230kV or
13 115kV or at the Tortolita substation at 138kV.

14 You can see on the figure on Slide R15 how the
15 gen-tie has extensions that connect both to the Saguaro
16 facility and the TEP Tortolita facility. And those will
17 enable both phases of the project.

18 MEMBER HAENICHEN: Since TEP is involved, will
19 we be hearing from them in this hearing?

20 MS. KELLY: No. The TEP interconnection
21 facilities do not include any gen-tie that will be owned
22 by TEP at all. We will run a line directly into their
23 Tortolita Substation facility, and they will take
24 ownership of the line within the fenceline of their
25 existing substation.

1 MEMBER HAENICHEN: And they're okay with all
2 this?

3 MS. KELLY: I'm not sure I understand the
4 question. I can't speak on behalf of TEP.

5 MEMBER HAENICHEN: Well, that's why I asked if
6 we would be hearing from someone at TEP that we can ask
7 questions of.

8 MR. ACKEN: Mr. Chairman, Committee Member
9 Haenichen, maybe I can take a swing at it.

10 The factual predicate is different for the APS
11 interconnection and TEP interconnection.

12 APS is here because they are actually going to
13 own a component of the gen-tie. TEP is not going to own
14 a component of the gen-tie. And so that's the
15 distinction why you see APS and not TEP.

16 In my prior experience, unless the entity with
17 whom you're interconnecting is going to own a portion,
18 they don't participate as a matter of course or weigh in
19 because they have obligations to provide
20 nondiscriminatory access in any event.

21 So TEP is going to take the application as it
22 comes and process it and evaluate it, and that's been why
23 you don't typically see the interconnect entity in a CEC
24 hearing unless they're going to have ownership interest.

25 MEMBER HAENICHEN: Could you amplify your

1 discussion a little bit on what "nondiscriminatory"
2 means.

3 MR. ACKEN: Yes. I can try, but I may be
4 mixing my terminology, getting some FERC terminology that
5 gets outside of my expertise pretty quickly. But my
6 understanding on the interconnection process is TEP, when
7 they get an interconnection request from anyone, they
8 have to process it. Now, they have a queue in which it
9 comes, and then they process it in order and things like
10 that. But they can't say, We're not going to process
11 yours. We're going to look at somebody else's. They
12 just look at them as they come in the order in which they
13 come, and that's how they handle it.

14 Which is one of the reasons -- well, no, we do
15 have some TEP studies that I believe have been provided
16 to Commission Staff if you go back and look at the
17 Commission Staff letter. Some of that work has already
18 been done. And TEP didn't identify any concerns. Staff
19 didn't identify any concerns in their review of what was
20 provided as far as the TEP analysis.

21 MEMBER HAENICHEN: When they do -- not just
22 TEP, but anybody, as a substation, gets an
23 interconnection request, can they refuse it?

24 MR. ACKEN: My understanding is no. They can
25 talk about your limitations on capacity. They can say,

1 Well, we don't have the capacity. But then even there, I
2 think the answer is they tell the applicant -- you know,
3 they do the studies, and they say, Well, you don't have
4 the capacity for this. You need to build the capacity.
5 So that is my understanding how that works.

6 MEMBER HAENICHEN: Wow.

7 MR. ACKEN: When you operate a transmission
8 system, you have to provide access.

9 If someone else knows better in this project,
10 please correct me.

11 MEMBER HAENICHEN: If you were going to put
12 1,000 megawatts into that substation, they'd certainly
13 have to -- they may not even have the ability to do that.

14 MR. ACKEN: Yes, Member Haenichen, that's
15 correct. You have to have the physical engineering
16 ability to do that. So if someone were to make a
17 request -- and let's use TEP as an example -- says, We
18 don't have the capacity, well, how would you come up with
19 that analysis? You've done some study that shows you
20 don't have the capacity.

21 Then it becomes the applicant's burden. So
22 then TEP says, If you want to interconnect here, here's
23 all the other things you need to do to build the
24 infrastructure so that you can interconnect where you
25 want.

1 So it's not like they have to take it as it
2 comes without any cost recovery or anything like that.
3 It says, if there's capacity, great. If not, you,
4 applicant, you, seeking interconnection, you have to pay
5 for those improvements.

6 MEMBER HAENICHEN: Even if those improvements
7 are on TEP property?

8 MR. ACKEN: Yes.

9 MEMBER HAENICHEN: Thank you.

10 Q. BY MR. ACKEN: I think we covered this a little
11 bit, but I want to make sure it's on the evidentiary
12 record, the request for two CECs. Would you explain
13 that.

14 A. (Ms. Kelly) Yes.

15 We are requesting two CECs because APS will own
16 the northern segment of this gen-tie line as it
17 approaches the Saguaro facility.

18 So the APS-owned portion of the line is shown
19 on the figure on Slide R14 in blue -- or, excuse me,
20 purple. That is the APS-owned portion, and that is
21 CEC-2. The portion that is owned by Longroad is the
22 portion shown in green, and that is CEC-1.

23 Q. And would you describe -- you have the acronym
24 POCO. That is a POCO?

25 A. (Ms. Kelly) Sure. So a POCO is a point of

1 change of ownership. It matters how we describe where
2 the ownership transitions from one entity to another. So
3 that point is depicted on the Slide R15 as Node N4. That
4 is the POCO where the ownership will change from Longroad
5 to APS. Slide R15 is also included on one side of the
6 placemat.

7 Q. Next, what are the typical power structures
8 that you anticipate using?

9 A. (Ms. Kelly) The typical power structures are
10 wood or steel, and they're capable of carrying two
11 transmission circuits. So that means they are capable of
12 holding conductors on both sides of the poles, and the
13 conductors would be 230kV or lower. The structures will
14 be 90 to 150 feet tall and spaced 400 to 1,000 feet
15 apart.

16 Some common structure types are shown on Slide
17 R16 and additional structure types are shown in appendix
18 Exhibit G.

19 MEMBER GRINNELL: Mr. Chairman.

20 CHMN. KATZ: Yes.

21 MEMBER GRINNELL: You said in your opening, the
22 lines were going to following existing utility lines
23 along that corridor?

24 MR. ACKEN: Existing linear infrastructure,
25 Member Grinnell. So primarily roads, the I-10, the Union

1 Pacific Railroad. I do think -- and Ms. Kelly can speak
2 to this -- some of the crossings may be parallel to
3 existing transmission. And perhaps you can go back to
4 the figure showing all of the other existing transmission
5 lines in the area when you answer that question.

6 MEMBER GRINNELL: So I guess what I'm trying to
7 get at, are we going to see parallel power lines along
8 I-10?

9 MS. KELLY: We have a section later on in the
10 testimony that talks about visual impacts. I can affirm
11 what Mr. Acken was just describing. The lines associated
12 with the gen-tie are proposed to run adjacent to the I-10
13 and the railroad corridor. And then these lines that are
14 straight lines with circles on them over here, those are
15 existing transmission lines. So you'll see that our
16 gen-tie line is paralleling other existing linear
17 infrastructure such as the highway and the railroad, and
18 there are also existing transmission lines in the area.

19 MEMBER GRINNELL: I need better glasses here.
20 That's okay. No, I got it. Thank you.

21 MEMBER HAENICHEN: Chairman.

22 CHMN. KATZ: Yes.

23 MEMBER HAENICHEN: I'm sorry, but I have to go
24 back to the discussion we had a few moments ago.

25 You said that APS will own a portion of that

1 line. Why isn't the same thing true of TEP at their
2 substation?

3 MS. KELLY: So the TEP substation can be -- let
4 me go to the other figure, actually. Here we go.

5 So you can see the TEP substation.

6 MR. ACKEN: This is R14. Sorry to interrupt.

7 MS. KELLY: Thank you.

8 On R14, you can see the TEP Tortolita
9 Substation is here. And on the south of that substation
10 is more or less vacant land and same on the west.

11 The Saguaro facility owned and operated by APS
12 has more components than exist in the field, so we have
13 to route our gen-tie through some other APS-owned
14 facilities. So that point of change of ownership that I
15 was describing before is at the point where the line will
16 transition basically inside the fenceline of operating
17 APS facilities. So APS will own that portion that's
18 within their other facilities. And that's not the case
19 at the Tortolita Substation because we have free and
20 clear access to the fenceline of the Tortolita
21 Substation.

22 MEMBER HAENICHEN: Thank you.

23 MS. KELLY: You're welcome.

24 Q. BY MR. ACKEN: Speaking of substations, let's
25 talk about the one that's part of this application, the

1 new one. Can you describe it.

2 A. (Ms. Kelly) Yes. The project substation will
3 step up electricity generated by the solar project to
4 transmission voltage. So the solar project generates
5 electricity at 34.5kV, and at the substation it will be
6 stepped up to 230kV and 115 or 138kV as needed.

7 The project substation will occupy an area of
8 approximately 10 acres within the substation siting area.

9 And the image shown on Slide R17 depicts a
10 substation and an operational Longroad project. This
11 substation is similar to the project substation that will
12 be built at the Serrano project. So it gives you an idea
13 of what the substation will look like.

14 MEMBER HAENICHEN: I have a question. I have a
15 lot of questions.

16 CHMN. KATZ: Yes.

17 MEMBER HAENICHEN: The energy that's generated
18 by the photovoltaic cells is DC. Now, is it inverted
19 into AC right at the site of the generation or --

20 MS. KELLY: Yes.

21 MEMBER HAENICHEN: It is.

22 MS. KELLY: Let me go back to that drone photo.
23 This. So I'm looking at Slide R12. This is the Sun
24 Streams 2 project in Maricopa County but is an
25 illustrative example.

1 So the solar modules are connected, you're
2 correct, in direct current conductors, and they're strung
3 together into circuits.

4 And then over here, there are small inverter
5 and transformer stations. So that's where the
6 low-voltage direct current electricity is both
7 transformed and inverted. So from these stations to the
8 project substation, it is conducted at 34.5kV and AC.

9 CHMN. KATZ: Let me just ask you, the
10 Saguaro -- is the substation that you're building on your
11 property, is that the Saguaro Substation, or is this just
12 independent of the two utility-owned substations?

13 MS. KELLY: The project substation will be
14 located inside of the substation siting area in the
15 yellow box shown here. So it is separate from the APS
16 Saguaro facility and the TEP Tortolita facility.

17 CHMN. KATZ: Gotcha. Thanks.

18 MEMBER HAENICHEN: So I've got another
19 question.

20 So you start out with DC, which is what the
21 sunlight makes. You invert it onsite and then add --
22 jumble them all together and come up with a voltage that
23 is suitable for transmission.

24 But correct me if I'm wrong, is there not a
25 storage facility on the site? Where is that? Is that in

1 your little substation?

2 MS. KELLY: So the storage facility will be
3 built in conjunction with the solar facility on the
4 private land that I was highlighting previously in Pima
5 and Pinal Counties.

6 MEMBER HAENICHEN: But that has to store DC
7 again, so you're going back to DC?

8 MS. KELLY: Yes.

9 MEMBER HAENICHEN: At what voltage?

10 MS. KELLY: So I'm a little bit stepping
11 outside of my area of expertise here. There are two ways
12 that you can charge a battery with solar-generated
13 electricity. So you can either AC couple or DC couple
14 the systems. Both technologies are proven. And so I
15 think the answer is it can be done with either.

16 MEMBER HAENICHEN: But the energy has to be DC
17 when you put it into the batteries?

18 MS. KELLY: Yes. So it would be connected at
19 AC, and then you would convert it back to DC.

20 MEMBER HAENICHEN: I'm just wondering if
21 there's some way to eliminate some of these steps, keep
22 it DC all along until you get to your little green box
23 there or yellow box. But how are those decisions made?

24 MS. KELLY: So our electrical design team
25 optimizes the design of the generating facility and also

1 the substation and gen-tie to make the project as
2 efficient as possible. So it's kind of done on a
3 site-specific basis, and one of the key contributing
4 factors on both sides, so the generating facility and the
5 gen-tie, is an evaluation of projected losses associated
6 with --

7 MEMBER HAENICHEN: And costs?

8 MS. KELLY: Yes. Associated with the voltage
9 and the form.

10 MEMBER HAENICHEN: At some point in this
11 presentation, are we going to get the costs estimated for
12 all this?

13 MS. KELLY: Our application includes projected
14 costs of the jurisdictional component of the facility, so
15 the substation and gen-tie.

16 Q. BY MR. ACKEN: All right. Thank you.

17 Is there anything else on project description,
18 or are you ready to move to the next topic of your
19 testimony, need and benefits?

20 A. (Ms. Kelly) I am ready.

21 Q. All right. Describe the needs met by this
22 project.

23 A. (Ms. Kelly) The gen-tie project would
24 interconnect the proposed Serrano solar and storage
25 project with the regional electrical grid. The Serrano

1 solar and storage project is a hybrid solar and battery
2 storage electric generator that will produce up to 250
3 megawatts of power.

4 The project will provide the people of Arizona
5 with a renewable energy resource and electrical capacity
6 to help meet clean energy goals and electrical
7 reliability requirements, which are especially important
8 in the hot summer months.

9 Q. Describe the benefits provided by the project.

10 A. (Ms. Kelly) There are a number of benefits
11 associated with this project.

12 The project will provide revenues to Arizona
13 schools as the trustees of State Trust land.

14 In addition, the project is considered a
15 desirable neighbor for the military and civilian
16 operations that work out of the Pinal Airpark. Also, the
17 project will have low water use during operations, and we
18 have support of the affected private landowners.

19 I also wanted to raise that supporting
20 renewable development we believe will enable further
21 economic growth in the state of Arizona because high tech
22 manufacturing and datacenters, they want to be sited --
23 the owners of those projects wanted to site their
24 projects where they can procure reliable renewable
25 energy.

1 I also wanted to mention that as part of our
2 stakeholder outreach associated with the project, we've
3 met with a number of local officials and other key
4 stakeholders, and the supervisor from this district in
5 Pinal County sent an email to Mr. Katz expressing his
6 support of the project. And I'll read the key sentence
7 from that email.

8 He said: I'm comfortable with this project
9 because the design of the solar array will not impede
10 future industrial expansion of Pinal Airpark or
11 commercial use along Airpark Road.

12 This email is included as Exhibit Serrano-7,
13 and it's shown here on Slide R21.

14 Q. Thank you.

15 Mr. Lawrence, coming back to you, I'd like you
16 to set the foundation in the application before we move
17 into environmental analysis.

18 Was the CEC application prepared under your
19 direction and supervision?

20 A. (Mr. Lawrence) Yes, it was.

21 Q. And do you have any corrections or changes at
22 this time?

23 A. (Mr. Lawrence) Earlier today, you heard from
24 Ms. Kelly that we asked for a change from that
25 right-of-way to include turning structure radiuses that

1 are larger than what's written. That's the only change
2 that we have, the only amendment we would make to the
3 application as filed.

4 Q. And with that change, is the CEC application
5 true and accurate to the best of your knowledge?

6 A. (Mr. Lawrence) Yes.

7 Q. Thank you.

8 MEMBER LITTLE: Chairman.

9 CHMN. KATZ: Yes, Ms. Little.

10 MEMBER LITTLE: I have a question. I notice
11 that the Ten Year Plan filing with the Commission was
12 done very recently. And I'm just wondering when the
13 planning for this project was initiated, when you became
14 fairly certain that you were going to built in project.

15 MR. ACKEN: Chairman and Committee Member
16 Little, let me take a first swing at that, and then I'll
17 ask the panel to address.

18 You're right, we did not file a Ten Year Plan
19 at the end of January of it would have been 2021. I
20 think there's a few reasons for planning and figuring out
21 when to file the application. And part of it, quite
22 honestly, is this Committee's schedule and trying to make
23 sure that we were able to get on the schedule within the
24 time frame we needed. We had an opportunity to get into
25 a hearing window at this time and year, so we sought it.

1 You are correct as far as the timeliness of it.
2 I would ask that the Committee look at it from the
3 standpoint of this isn't the first time. It happens with
4 more and more regularity, given the docket where
5 applicants are submitting their Ten Year Plans and then
6 coming in -- submitting their Ten Year Plans after
7 January 31 and still bringing the application.

8 I will note that we were in communication with
9 Commission Staff. They even reached out to us with some
10 follow-up questions, and we were responsive to everything
11 there. And so if there had been a concern I think from
12 Staff that we were moving too quickly, we would have
13 heard that, and I did not.

14 MEMBER LITTLE: I'd just like to note that the
15 Ten Year Plans are -- the timing of them is designed to
16 help with transmission planning in the entire state. And
17 when the plans come in just a few months before the
18 project comes to the Line Siting Committee, it makes it
19 more difficult to evaluate the impact on the system.

20 Thank you.

21 CHMN. KATZ: Thank you.

22 Q. BY MR. ACKEN: Okay. We are going to turn to
23 the next portion of testimony, the environmental analysis
24 for the CEC.

25 So starting with you again, Mr. Lawrence,

1 describe the environmental analysis conducted to support
2 the CEC application.

3 A. (Mr. Lawrence) So Longroad Energy retained
4 Ms. Pollio to conduct all the studies that have been put
5 together into this application. Those studies included
6 biological resources, all the other natural resources.
7 It included reaching out to the state and federal
8 governments and review for protected resources, desktop
9 cultural resources, and then stakeholder outreach. We've
10 reached out to the jurisdictions that would be affected
11 by this project.

12 And as you can see on Exhibit R23, here's a
13 list of exhibits we filed as part of this application
14 labeled Exhibits A through I. So information that we've
15 collected that is pertinent to this filing was included
16 in the application as filed.

17 Q. Let's start with Exhibit A. Are there any
18 other land entitlements or permits required for the
19 project?

20 A. (Mr. Lawrence) There's not a permit required
21 for the gen-tie line. But since most of the project is
22 on ASLD lands, then we do need to get a right-of-way
23 grant for that gen-tie line.

24 And then, additionally, for the substation
25 part -- and this is where I want to distinguish between

1 the application before you today and then the generating
2 facility, which is the solar panels and the battery
3 storage part of the project. Or not this application,
4 but the other part of the Serrano project.

5 We also will need to get a minor zoning
6 amendment and a minor comprehensive plan amendment for
7 just that part of the substation that is also in Pinal
8 County. So that application is going to be filed with
9 the whole solar project together as one application.

10 Q. And what about a NEPA analysis? Do you have a
11 federal component to this?

12 A. (Mr. Lawrence) We do not. There's no NEPA
13 nexus because there's no federal lands, there's no
14 federal permit that's required and, therefore, no nexus
15 that would trigger the need for an environmental
16 assessment or an Environmental Impact Statement.

17 Q. Ms. Pollio, you've been waiting patiently.
18 Would you summarize the jurisdictions and existing land
19 use in the vicinity of the project.

20 A. (Ms. Pollio) Yes.

21 So a number of things that I'm going to talk
22 about with the jurisdictions and the ownership first, and
23 then we'll go to land use, has been covered. But, again,
24 we'll just make sure that we go over it one more time.
25 And you can see that on R26, which is also figure A-2 in

1 Exhibit A of the application.

2 And, basically, from the jurisdictional point,
3 as we discussed, the substation siting area is both in
4 Pima and Pinal County. You can see the gray line on R26
5 represents the county boundary. You can also see that
6 within the two-mile buffer, I want to point out, is the
7 jurisdiction of the Town of Marana. We are not or there
8 is no land included within those town limits, but I did
9 want to point out where those town limits were.

10 As we mentioned, the substation siting area is
11 on private land. And then as you leave the substation
12 siting area or the -- ultimately the substation, the line
13 would be on State land, follow Pinal Airpark Road,
14 Interstate 10, cross Interstate 10, and then enter in
15 APS-owned land at the Saguaro generating facility.

16 MEMBER GRINNELL: Mr. Chairman.

17 CHMN. KATZ: Yes.

18 MEMBER GRINNELL: Ms. Pollio, Marana, if they
19 were to decide to annex into that region west of the
20 town, which, over the years, they have done, they've been
21 annexing more and more, would that affect any of the
22 environmental assessment issues? And have they been
23 discussed -- have you discussed with them what's going
24 on? Because that is not a very far distance from the
25 existing town line.

1 MS. POLLIO: You are correct. It is fairly
2 close. I will turn to Longroad, because they have been
3 speaking to the Town. But I will also answer that in
4 Exhibit H, and I will get to that, which is existing
5 plans, the Town of Marana does have in their 2040 plans
6 plan for annexation not only -- back up -- not only in
7 this area, but it actually extends pretty far up into
8 Pinal Airpark into that Pinal County and Pinal Airpark.

9 So there are some pretty significant plans. I
10 don't think that they are necessarily consistent with
11 what we're seeing from Pinal County's planned area
12 developments with the Pinal Airpark, but I don't think
13 that would change any analysis that we're doing. It
14 really is just how the Town of Marana, Pima County, and
15 Pinal County are handling annexations over the next 25
16 years. We have --

17 MEMBER GRINNELL: I'm sorry. Go ahead, please.

18 MS. KELLY: We have met with the Town of Marana
19 a couple different times because some of the private land
20 that we have optioned for the solar facility is within
21 the boundary of the town. So we've been in talks with
22 them for the permitting process for that. But as
23 Ms. Pollio mentioned, they don't have any jurisdiction
24 over the proposed gen-tie or substation siting area.

25 MEMBER GRINNELL: Okay. Thank you.

1 MS. POLLIO: So that covered ownership and
2 jurisdiction. I think we've covered that extensively.

3 I'll also talk about land use. And this really
4 focuses on the land use associated with Pinal and Pima
5 County. And as we've spoken on existing land use, so
6 let's just talk about what's out there. And we'll see
7 this in the virtual route tour, and we'll see this in the
8 aerial photographs on your map.

9 But in the actual land use out there is,
10 predominantly, at the substation site, there is some
11 agricultural land on that private piece. And then, as we
12 move up, the existing land use is really industrial,
13 employment, and commercial in nature associated with the
14 airpark, the sand and gravel mining operation, the
15 roadway, the interstate, the railroad corridor, and all
16 of the different transmission lines and substation
17 electrical infrastructure in that northern portion of the
18 project study area or the project corridor.

19 So, really, it is a mix of industrial and
20 commercial employment that is what's out there right now
21 and is in a disturbed infrastructure corridor nature. So
22 that's really the existing land use.

23 The planned land use, which is what's on figure
24 A-3 on R27, that's, again, in Exhibit A of the
25 application, you can see this is the Pinal County piece.

1 So what we've done is identified what the land use is in
2 the Pinal County.

3 And you can see the land use underneath the
4 project components are employment; airport reserve, which
5 is gray; and then general public utilities and services.
6 So, again, we feel that's very compatible with
7 infrastructure in Pinal County.

8 Next we have the Pima County plan, and that is
9 R28. That's also on Figure A-4 in your application. And
10 you can see the area and the substation siting area
11 that's in Pima County, and that is all considered low
12 intensity rural. So, again, just mention that's the
13 private portion, and there's some agricultural land
14 underneath that area.

15 Q. I'm assuming, since you're flipping slides,
16 you're ready to talk about biological resources.

17 A. (Ms. Pollio) I am.

18 Q. Would you describe your analysis.

19 A. (Ms. Pollio) Yes, I will.

20 So from a biological perspective, biology is
21 included in Exhibit C and Exhibit D of the application.

22 Exhibit C is biological wealth and really deals
23 with threat of endangered species, species of special
24 concern. And then we've got Exhibit D, which is
25 biological resources. And that's more of the general

1 biology in the area. And so we talk about those
2 together, really.

3 The first thing we did was coordinate with
4 Arizona Game and Fish Department and U.S. Fish and
5 Wildlife Service by using their online tool to pull
6 information about potential sensitive species that are in
7 this project study area. Those are included in
8 Exhibit C-1 and C-2 of your application.

9 So this basically says: What could possibly be
10 out there in the area that would be coming -- that would
11 be considered a sensitive species?

12 Q. So in addition to the online analysis, did you
13 conduct a field study?

14 A. (Ms. Pollio) We did. We went out and
15 conducted a biological field survey of the area.

16 The project supports vegetation that's typical
17 of Sonoran Desert scrub with creosote bush, mesquite,
18 being the dominant species in the area.

19 With the corridor being along Airpark Road,
20 where there's a sand and gravel line along Interstate 10,
21 and then going up into areas where there's numerous
22 high-voltage lines into substations, the quality of the
23 habitat is low. It's very disturbed. But, again, it is
24 very similar to most of our desert habitats.

25 Q. Are there any special status species in the

1 area of the project?

2 A. (Ms. Pollio) There were no threatened and
3 endangered species. There were some sensitive species
4 that were identified by Arizona Game and Fish. That's
5 like the burrowing owl is a good example of a species
6 that could be out there.

7 In the field visit and our field surveys, we
8 did not see any special status species or even signs of
9 special status species, but we know that they could
10 occur. And with mitigation measures and BMP, or best
11 management practices, we feel like the impacts to those
12 species would be negative or very, very minimal.

13 Q. Let's talk about the mitigation measures and
14 best management practices.

15 Mr. Lawrence, could you shed some insight on
16 that.

17 A. (Mr. Lawrence) Right.

18 So, as I mentioned earlier, Longroad, meaning
19 me when it comes to environmental BMPs, makes sure that
20 we do implement construction measures, operation
21 measures, that are protective of these natural resources.
22 So I've listed five points here that are commitments that
23 will be going into our documents.

24 Construction worker training for special status
25 species is really important. And what we do is we come

1 up with pictures so that staff can be trained and see
2 what a burrowing owl looks like, for example. These
3 educational moments come up on the tailgates in the
4 morning when they do the safety talks and they show, for
5 example, what a burrowing owl looks like.

6 And then, if the burrowing owl is seen, then
7 the next point is that they're reported to the
8 construction manager, who is the environmental manager,
9 and then steps are taken to protect it.

10 For example, at a construction site recently,
11 we put up a buffer of cones around an active, growing owl
12 area and were able to protect it during construction
13 until we found a way to relocate the owl and then
14 continue with construction.

15 So those are the kind of measures that we might
16 implement.

17 The applicable APLIC design standards -- and,
18 as you know, they get updated every few years -- will be
19 implemented at the site, mainly to protect against
20 electrocution.

21 And then, lastly, a 25-mile-an-hour speed limit
22 for all project-specific roads. So, you know, up and
23 down the gen-tie line when work is going on, we want to
24 reduce that risk that low animals that could get out of
25 the way have a chance to get out of the way but might not

1 be able to for vehicles that are traveling much faster.

2 Q. Thank you.

3 MR. ACKEN: Mr. Chairman, we're going to switch
4 now to another topic, visual resources. And I may ask my
5 witness if she has -- and Chairman and the court reporter
6 if you want to get started with some of this or take a
7 break now.

8 CHMN. KATZ: We were probably going to take a
9 break within the next five to ten minutes. If now is a
10 good point to do that, we can take about 15 minutes. I'm
11 showing at about 2:40 or 2:41. So figure that we'll
12 start at about -- between five of 3 and 3:00 and then run
13 until about 4:30.

14 MR. ACKEN: Thank you.

15 CHMN. KATZ: And see where we're at. And I
16 don't know if there will be any public comments, but
17 there will be a break between 4:30 and 5 for us to wait
18 for public input.

19 MEMBER GENTLES: Mr. Chairman.

20 CHMN. KATZ: Yes.

21 MEMBER GENTLES: This is Member Gentles. I
22 just wanted the official record to reflect that I have
23 been on the call since 1:30.

24 CHMN. KATZ: You have been on the call since
25 1:30. Thank you for letting us know that.

1 (A recess was taken from 2:41 p.m. to
2 3:00 p.m.)

3 CHMN. KATZ: I think we have ironed out at
4 least most of the glitches in our electronics here. We
5 can get going. We can resume, Mr. Acken.

6 MR. ACKEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

7 We are going to turn to the next environmental
8 resource in our testimony, visual resources. And so what
9 I'd like to do is turn it over to Ms. Pollio to describe
10 the evaluation, present some simulations, as well as the
11 virtual tour.

12 MS. POLLIO: So we'll get started. This is the
13 fun stuff.

14 So visual and aesthetics are included in
15 Exhibit E of the application. And, specifically, we look
16 at trying to simulate what the project is going to look
17 like from sensitive viewers.

18 In this case, this is a pretty unique project,
19 as we've described. There are really no residential-type
20 viewers in the area. The closest residence is over a
21 mile away. And as you can see, they're very, very
22 sporadic in this area as it predominantly being State
23 land.

24 So the predominant viewer that would see the
25 project would be travelers along Airpark Road and,

1 predominantly, with the major length of the line
2 following I-10, would be travelers on I-10. So we looked
3 at establishing key observation points along the area to
4 simulate the project.

5 So Figure A-1 in the application includes those
6 key observation points, and they're also on L27 and R23.
7 So I'll go through each one, and we'll talk about where
8 the main key observation points are as we proceed.

9 So we'll start with key observation point or
10 KOP 1. You can see KOP 1 is located on Pinal Airpark
11 Road. It is looking east towards the interstate.

12 On the left screen, we have the existing
13 photograph and on the right screen, we have the simulated
14 structures or the proposed project.

15 So first, let's look at L28, which is the
16 existing conditions or the existing photograph. You can
17 see this is along Pinal Airpark Road looking east.
18 Behind the photographer, or to the west of where that
19 point is, is the actual airpark itself. We'll see a
20 little bit more of that in detail on the virtual route
21 tour, and we've seen that on the aerial photography.

22 This is looking towards I-5, and you can see
23 I-5 in the far background.

24 I want to point out, and we'll see that also on
25 the virtual route tour, the sand and gravel operation.

1 This is basically part of it right here. And this is on
2 the south side of Pinal Airpark Road. It's a pretty
3 extensive facility, and, again, we'll see this pretty
4 clearly on the aerial photography on the virtual route
5 tour.

6 MEMBER GRINNELL: Mr. Chairman.

7 Is that the granite aggregate --

8 MS. POLLIO: Is that run Granite Construction?

9 MEMBER GRINNELL: I don't think so, but I can
10 find out the name, specifically, the name of that
11 operation.

12 And we'll see it on the aerial photograph.
13 It's very, very visible on the aerial photography.

14 MEMBER HAENICHEN: What is that road?

15 MS. POLLIO: This is Pinal Airpark Road, so
16 it's the road or the exit that comes off of Interstate 10
17 and actually goes into that airpark. And we'll see that
18 on the virtual route tour. I know I keep referring to
19 the virtual route tour. I know you can see it very
20 clearly, and you'll see it on your maps. It's a very
21 extensive airpark.

22 KOP 2, and you'll see the exit specifically on
23 this next KOP. This is going to be looking south along
24 Interstate 10. So you'll see on L30 the existing
25 conditions, and you can see exactly what I was referring

1 to. In the foreground, you can see the exit sign, the
2 Pinal Airpark Road. And in the foreground, you can also
3 see the simulated structures on R36 along the interstate.

4 You can see it following the interstate and the
5 corridor that we've identified for the gen-tie project.
6 And then this is actually where it turns to the west
7 along Pinal Airpark Road, and basically back in this area
8 was where the last photograph was taken.

9 The next is KOP 3. This is actually looking
10 north along the interstate. So you can see on the left
11 screen L32, the existing conditions. If you were
12 traveling from the Phoenix Metro area down to here, the
13 hotel, there's a pretty obvious area where you can see
14 all of these transmission line crossings. So you can see
15 on the left screen, that's a number of high-voltage lines
16 crossing over the interstate from the east side to the
17 west side, and you can see them going into the Saguaro
18 facility. You can see the Saguaro facility in the
19 background over here.

20 So you've got the existing facilities on L32
21 and then the simulated structure on L38. So, whereas,
22 you can see the new structure that we simulated in with
23 all this existing infrastructure, it is really hard to
24 see the new line in the area.

25 The next is KOP 4. This is in a very similar

1 location as KOP 3. There it is. Just one second.

2 So on the left screen, L34, we wanted to show
3 this. We didn't simulate structures in here, but we
4 wanted to make sure that you could see the relationship
5 of the transmission corridor, the interstate, and the
6 railroad corridor. You can see that it is an active rail
7 corridor. While we were out there, we were able to see
8 that. So, again, we wanted to get that proximity of the
9 rail corridor to where the existing lines would be
10 located.

11 MEMBER HAENICHEN: What direction are we
12 looking?

13 MS. POLLIO: This is looking north. So you can
14 see -- so you're looking north along the interstate, and
15 you can see on the east side of the interstate the
16 structures in the background is the Saguaro facility,
17 which is on the east side of the I-10.

18 So the next one is KOP 5. And I'll go back.
19 This is -- you can see this KOP 5 is right here. So this
20 is a little farther north of the corridor looking south.
21 So here was 4, looking north. This is 5, looking south.
22 And you can see -- again, I'm going to reference the --
23 calling the blue line the existing transmission lines.
24 So you can see there's a lot of existing transmission
25 lines in there.

1 And, again -- so this is looking south along
2 the interstate. So the existing photograph is on L36.
3 Simulated structures are on R41. You can see the
4 crossing. These are the new structures and the crossing.
5 And those would go down the interstate. So those are
6 simulated structures in the area.

7 CHMN. KATZ: And further south are the existing
8 lines?

9 MS. POLLIO: Yes, that is correct.

10 So those are the key observation points that we
11 simulated and analyzed as associated with Exhibit E of
12 the application.

13 Q. BY MR. ACKEN: So next, we are going to present
14 the virtual tour. And while that gets set up, I'm going
15 to have Ms. Pollio establish a little foundation and
16 describe how it was done for the Committee.

17 A. (Ms. Pollio) Yes.

18 So, basically, we used aerial photography to
19 conduct or complete the virtual route tour.

20 If you could hold just one second.

21 We superimposed the substation siting area.

22 And you'll see the corridor on the aerial photography so
23 you can get a sense of exactly what the ground looks like
24 and where the facilities are in relation to the aerial
25 photography. So almost like flying a drone over top of

1 the project.

2 Q. Please present the tour.

3 A. (Ms. Pollio) So we'll go ahead and present the
4 tour.

5 (Presentation of virtual route tour.)

6 A. (Ms. Pollio) And if we can slow it down or
7 stop at any time.

8 So as we start, I want to mention that you can
9 see the Pinal Airpark. This is what we were talking
10 about to the west of the gen-tie. So this whole area is
11 that Pinal Airpark.

12 Here's Pinal Airpark Road coming off the
13 interstate where we just talked about. So that road,
14 there's an exit, comes off of the interstate, and goes
15 right into the Pinal Airpark.

16 So we're going to come down and first look at
17 the gen-tie substation siting area, which is in the
18 yellow box. You can see this is the private land. The
19 Pinal County-Pima County boundary is right there. And,
20 again, you can see vacant agricultural land, no
21 residences. But, again, this area is where the private
22 land and the substation would be located, inside that
23 yellow box.

24 As we fly in, you'll see the green outline is
25 the outline of the corridor that we are requesting.

1 First, you're going to see again the road. So
2 that's Pinal Airpark Road. I just want to point out some
3 of the questions that we've been discussing. And you can
4 see clearly the Pinal Airpark Road itself. You can see
5 parts of the airpark even right here in the foreground of
6 the aerial.

7 And as you look, here is that sand and gravel
8 operation. You can see how extensive that is as we fly
9 much faster over that area.

10 But, again, we're going due east, and you can
11 see the interstate intersection here or off-ramps that go
12 back onto Pinal Airpark Road.

13 You can also see as we go up the -- just to
14 point out -- the interstate. You can see the rail
15 corridor. There are areas where there are pipelines.
16 You can see the scars of the pipelines. You will see
17 transmission lines, transmission access roads in the
18 area.

19 You can see parts of Tortolita. We'll go back
20 and see that over to the east.

21 As we're moving up, you can see again some of
22 the disturbed kind of nature of the area with a number of
23 different I'll call them existing linear feature scars.

24 You can see here some of the existing
25 transmission towers that are here.

1 And you can also see the area where we
2 delineate the green, which is CEC-1, and the purple area,
3 which moves into CEC-2, or the Saguaro facility, which is
4 the APS portion.

5 You can also see parts of the Saguaro facility.
6 It's a very large facility. And as we mentioned, as
7 you're traveling south, if you're traveling south,
8 actually, or north along the interstate, it's very clear
9 what this is. Obviously, you can see parts of these
10 facilities from the interstate, but you can clearly
11 denote where the transmission lines cross the road as
12 you're approaching, you know, several miles from that
13 Airpark Road exit.

14 Here is the Tortolita Substation. This is the
15 TEP Substation. You can see where the existing
16 structures come in from the north. You can see existing
17 structures and some of the transmission lines that come
18 basically in this south-to-north direction. And you can
19 see our corridor, how it crosses the interstate and
20 enters into Tortolita.

21 MEMBER GRINNELL: Mr. Chairman.

22 Forgive my ignorance here, but the Pinal area
23 gen-tie substation, I don't see -- does that actually
24 exist yet?

25 MS. POLLIO: So this yellow?

1 MEMBER GRINNELL: The yellow.

2 MS. POLLIO: The gen-tie substation siting
3 area?

4 MEMBER GRINNELL: Yeah.

5 MS. POLLIO: So that is a proposed area where
6 the proposed substation -- so there is no substation
7 there now, but that would be built inside that box.

8 MEMBER GRINNELL: Okay. And, Mr. Chairman,
9 does that have to come before the Committee as well, that
10 substation?

11 MR. ACKEN: That's part of --

12 MEMBER GRINNELL: Is that included in this
13 proposal? Because, forgive me, I was trying to figure
14 out -- I know where Tortolita is and I know where the
15 other one is, but --

16 CHMN. KATZ: Correct me if I'm wrong. The
17 application is for both the building of the substation
18 and the gen-tie, correct? That's Phase 1?

19 MR. ACKEN: Well, Phase 1 and Phase 2.

20 So, Chairman and Member Grinnell, my position
21 is that you have to site -- well, this is what the
22 statute says: You have to site a transmission line and
23 any new associated switchyard. So if you have a new
24 switchyard, that must also be sited.

25 When you have -- so we use "substation"

1 somewhat interchangeably because the substation has some
2 switchyard components to it. So whenever there is a new
3 substation, it's my position that that needs to be sited,
4 and so we seek your approval for it.

5 The existing substations have already gone
6 through siting or predate the siting statutory regime, so
7 we do not seek authority for the existing infrastructure.

8 MEMBER GRINNELL: That's why I was a little --
9 because when I read this, I guess I was looking
10 constantly at gen-ties, and I missed the substation up at
11 Pinal Airpark Road or switchyard or whatever you want to
12 call it.

13 And is the design of that substation going to
14 be available to us?

15 MR. ACKEN: So, Chairman and Member Grinnell,
16 it's early in the process. Typically, the way these
17 proceedings work is you may have, like, 10 percent
18 designed, but you've got to get a route before you would
19 spend the money go to 30, to 70 percent design, and that
20 would include the new substation.

21 So earlier, in Ms. Kelly's testimony, she
22 presented an overview of what that substation is going to
23 look like, an example of what another substation is going
24 to look like. In Exhibit G, we have a diagram for a
25 typical substation. And that is, generally, how we

1 handle it because at this stage in the development of a
2 project, you aren't going to often have final design for
3 the substation.

4 So we're seeking -- the ask of the Committee is
5 that yellow rectangle. We are asking authority to put a
6 substation, that step-up project substation, within that
7 yellow rectangle. We're asking for your approval to do
8 so.

9 CHMN. KATZ: And that's significantly to the
10 south of what we're looking at on the screen at this
11 point?

12 MEMBER GRINNELL: That's south of Pinal
13 Airpark?

14 MR. ACKEN: South of Pinal Airpark Road.

15 MEMBER GRINNELL: So let me clarify for myself.

16 What's being asked of us here is to approve
17 something that we really don't have a full picture of
18 what it's going to look like or what it's going to -- I
19 understand, I saw your stuff early on, and now I'm seeing
20 the correlation.

21 I guess my question is, are we -- I can
22 understand the tie-ins. That's not a major production
23 here. It's just 10 percent of a physical outlay. It's
24 just sort of like we're betting on a horse that probably
25 should win.

1 MR. ACKEN: I guess I would describe it this
2 way: A substation -- maybe this is the layperson
3 lawyer's view of the world. A substation is a
4 substation. And you have a general idea of what they're
5 going to look like. And is this a 500/230 substation?
6 No. This is a step up from low voltage up to 230 or up
7 to 115/138. But it's going to be a substation like any
8 other in that sense. That's why we thought that the
9 schematic and the diagram of an existing one was a good
10 conceptual representation of what we're asking for
11 approval here.

12 Because, remember, in the statutory regime,
13 it's the transmission line and associated structure. So
14 the application, it talks about it wants power heights,
15 it wants spans, it wants things of that nature. It
16 doesn't request that level of detail with respect to
17 switchyards.

18 But we do still say, Here's where we think
19 we're going to put the switchyard. Here's what it's
20 going to look like.

21 MEMBER GRINNELL: Okay. Will that substation
22 be available to service future development south and west
23 of that area?

24 MR. ACKEN: That I'm going to ask Ms. Kelly to
25 answer. I think the answer is no because it's an --

1 unlike the utility's regional infrastructure, this is
2 project-specific. And, typically, a new project-specific
3 substation for a gen-tie isn't typically done that way in
4 my experience, but Ms. Kelly can address it.

5 MS. KELLY: That's correct. It will be a
6 private substation with private ownership just like the
7 generating facility.

8 MEMBER HAENICHEN: Can someone explain to me
9 what exactly is going to go on -- I'm trying to determine
10 in my mind whether this is a substation or just a
11 switchyard. Is there transformers there?

12 MR. ACKEN: No.

13 MEMBER HAENICHEN: What comes in and what goes
14 out?

15 MR. ACKEN: You bet. And we still have on the
16 video Tortolita Substation, which is -- we are talking
17 about the project substation.

18 MS. POLLIO: Do you want to go back to the
19 photograph of the similar substation?

20 CHMN. KATZ: I think that might be helpful, and
21 then we'll continue with the tour.

22 MR. ACKEN: So I made this more confusing,
23 Member Haenichen, when I was talking about the statutory
24 reference to a switchyard. We are siting a substation.
25 It's my legal interpretation that a substation is

1 within -- a substation is a switchyard. A switchyard
2 might not be a substation. So we take the position that
3 a substation must be sited when it's a new substation
4 when it's associated with a new transmission line.

5 MEMBER HAENICHEN: I just want to know what's
6 going on there, voltages and everything.

7 MR. ACKEN: Ms. Kelly can describe that best.
8 And I think what he's asking, if I understand the
9 question, is the voltage coming into the project
10 substation, the step-up, which will be then to 115, 138,
11 230, as it leaves?

12 MS. KELLY: So this is an example substation
13 that -- Longroad project. So it's a solar facility. You
14 can see that on the edge there. And as I was describing
15 it before, the power that is generated at the solar
16 facility is inverted and transformed within the solar
17 array by medium voltage inverters and transformers. So
18 when it runs into the substation -- it actually runs into
19 this station. You can see some overhead lines right
20 here. These are collection lines. These are 34.5kV AC.
21 And so they run into the station.

22 And I have to say I'm not an electrical
23 engineer, so I can't explain every little piece here, but
24 I can tell you there are a series of breakers and then a
25 setup transformer that transforms the voltage from 34.5

1 AC to -- in this case, this is a 115kV interconnection,
2 so it steps up to 115kV. This is the high-side bus at
3 the station, and then this is the overhead transmission
4 line that goes outside of the substation to interconnect
5 with the transmission system.

6 MEMBER HAENICHEN: At what voltage?

7 MS. KELLY: This example station is 115kV on
8 the high side, 34.5kV on the low side. And there are
9 actually three phases to this project. So you see
10 they're three separate step-up transformers. And then
11 the power from the three phases, after it's stepped up to
12 transmission voltage, shares this high-side bus. And
13 then that's a shared transmission line from the
14 substation for all three phases of the project.

15 MEMBER HAENICHEN: And that's at what voltage?

16 MS. KELLY: This is 115.

17 MEMBER HAENICHEN: 115.

18 CHMN. KATZ: But the current substation will be
19 115 or 230.

20 MR. ACKEN: Or 138.

21 CHMN. KATZ: Right.

22 MEMBER GRINNELL: Okay. So that goes to my
23 second question. You made a remark about that
24 substations have to accept gen-ties, correct? And you're
25 saying this is private, but you don't have to accept

1 somebody else's desire to tie into that property. So can
2 you clarify or verify what the real difference is because
3 I realize TEP is a publicly traded company as well as
4 probably APS and Salt River Project is, basically.
5 They're all -- so what differentiates your, I guess,
6 selective connections over theirs?

7 MR. ACKEN: I'll take a swing at it. I may
8 need to take this as a homework assignment to correct my
9 mistakes.

10 The way I understand it, and, again, the
11 layperson lawyer, is you have a gen-tie project
12 substation. That's what we're siting. It's dedicated
13 and built for one project, the generation facility.
14 Those are not used to interconnect other facilities to
15 the regional transmission grid. It could be a function
16 of what's jurisdictional at FERC or things like that that
17 I'm not familiar with, but I'll see if I can get you that
18 answer.

19 But that's why you don't see -- what these are,
20 these small project-specific, generator-specific step-up
21 substations are not used to interconnect other
22 facilities. The ones that are are Tortolita or Saguaro
23 has built additional infrastructure to allow for
24 interconnections. You have seen some other projects that
25 are dedicated switchyards and substations built by the

1 transmission line owner to allow for interconnection.
2 It's the nature of the interconnection, it's the nature
3 of the project, and I think there's probably a
4 jurisdictional component as well at FERC.

5 CHMN. KATZ: And if I can clarify, if we go
6 back to our last hearing at Intel, they have a substation
7 on their property, which is strictly there to transform
8 or to bring in power and transform it to the needs of the
9 factory or the fab.

10 MEMBER HAENICHEN: It was basically an Intel
11 project.

12 CHMN. KATZ: Right. And, similarly, this
13 substation is strictly to allow the interconnection of
14 the -- .

15 MEMBER GRINNELL: I understand. My concern is
16 that the future development of this area, which -- Marana
17 is just growing leaps and bounds right now. And if they
18 want some power down to that other part of the region,
19 then they have to develop a whole new substation.

20 MR. ACKEN: Oh, I think I can answer this a
21 little bit better.

22 TEP is responsible to provide power to Marana.

23 MEMBER GRINNELL: Correct.

24 MR. ACKEN: Longroad couldn't provide power to
25 Marana if it wanted to. TEP has the exclusive right to

1 serve. And so that may be a simple way to explain it.
2 It's a matter of who has the right to serve, and Longroad
3 couldn't serve if they wanted to. So Marana couldn't --
4 they have to go through TEP anyway to get power.

5 CHMN. KATZ: And TEP can get its power to the
6 customer from any number of different sources,
7 traditional generation stations as well as solar.

8 MEMBER HAENICHEN: So, Ms. Kelly, so what goes
9 on in this substation, it winds up building -- making
10 115-kilovolt electricity. And then that goes to TEP and
11 the APS substation; is that correct?

12 MS. KELLY: So this substation shown on Slide
13 R17 steps up the power to 115kV and interconnects -- this
14 is in California. This interconnects with Pacific Gas
15 and Electric.

16 MEMBER HAENICHEN: What?

17 MS. KELLY: This is an example photo of a
18 substation to give the Committee an idea what our
19 substation will appear like.

20 MEMBER HAENICHEN: I don't care about the
21 appearance. Your proposed substation is going to wind up
22 producing 115-kilovolt electricity; is that correct?

23 MS. KELLY: I'm going to go back to the slide
24 that summarizes the substation component of the project
25 on the left screen here. It will take me a couple

1 clicks.

2 MEMBER HAENICHEN: That's all right. Click
3 away.

4 MS. KELLY: Okay. Here we go. So the project
5 substation will step up the electricity from 34.5kV to
6 230kV; and for the future phase of the project, 115 or
7 138kV as needed.

8 So the way that that will look, looking back in
9 the right slide, R17, the power will come in at 34.5kV.
10 This will be a step-up transformer that will transform
11 the power to 230kV. And then the gen-tie will continue
12 and interconnect with APS at Saguaro at 230kV.

13 MEMBER HAENICHEN: But a moment ago, we didn't
14 say anything about 230. We were talking about 115.

15 MS. KELLY: I apologize for the confusion.
16 It's that we were using this example photograph. You
17 were asking about the parts and pieces of this particular
18 substation, so I apologize if I was misunderstanding the
19 question, but this substation on R17 is a depiction of a
20 substation. This substation at the Serrano project has
21 not yet been built.

22 MEMBER HAENICHEN: Oh, I understand that
23 clearly.

24 MS. KELLY: Okay.

25 MEMBER HAENICHEN: There's no 115 involved at

1 your proposed substation.

2 MS. KELLY: So there are two phases to the
3 project. The first phase will interconnect with APS
4 Saguaro at 230kV.

5 MEMBER HAENICHEN: Right.

6 MS. KELLY: And there will be a second phase to
7 the project which may interconnect with APS at 115kV or
8 may interconnect with TEP at 138kV.

9 MEMBER HAENICHEN: Then along this transmission
10 path, there's going to be both 115 and 230 in the far
11 future. Could be.

12 MS. KELLY: That's correct. So that's why we
13 are requesting approval for poles that are capable of
14 carrying double circuit.

15 MEMBER HAENICHEN: Two circuits.

16 MS. KELLY: Yeah, exactly. So one side will be
17 230, and then the second side will be the appropriate
18 voltage for the second phase of the project. If the
19 second phase of the project interconnects with APS at
20 115kV, the second set of conductors that's strung on the
21 lines will be at 115. If the second phase of the project
22 is with TEP at Tortolita, the second set of conductors
23 strung on the line will be at 138kV.

24 MEMBER HAENICHEN: New voltage.

25 MS. KELLY: Well, it's been in the slides, but

1 I admit there's quite a bit of detail in here.

2 MR. LAWRENCE: And I'd like to just speak to
3 one other question that came up, and I think it was
4 Member Haenichen.

5 You were asking about what kind of detail we
6 had in the application. And what we prepared were the
7 maximum dimensions of that proposed substation. So we
8 said it will be up to 10 acres, it will be up to 150 feet
9 tall with the poles, and it will include voltages that go
10 up to 230. So at least with respect to the request
11 before this Committee, I think we've expressed the
12 maximum sort of extents of any diagram that we have, and
13 then it would be up to or less than those limits.

14 And then the other thing I would mention is
15 above and beyond just this Committee, we still will be
16 going back with the Saguaro generating facility with an
17 application to Pinal County and to Pima County, and that
18 will also have the substation included. So the counties
19 will also have a chance to review and see the limits of
20 those as well. And, again, they're all outside of
21 Marana's jurisdiction currently.

22 MEMBER GRINNELL: To your point there, when you
23 say go back to the two, Pinal and Pima Counties, you're
24 talking about the solar field?

25 MR. LAWRENCE: That's correct. That's right.

1 And the substation. They both would be subject to -- in
2 Pinal County, a minor comprehensive plan amendment and a
3 minor rezoning. Or in the case of Pima County, it will
4 be subject to a conditional use permit category II. So
5 they'll be a part of the facility, the substation, the
6 bus, everything hopefully in there. But not the gen-tie
7 line.

8 MEMBER HAENICHEN: Should the Committee approve
9 this project, where is this electricity going to go?
10 Who's going to buy it?

11 MS. KELLY: Good question. So because the
12 project has proposed points of interconnection with both
13 APS and TEP, it's conceivable that the phases will have
14 separate power purchase arrangements with APS and/or TEP.

15 MEMBER HAENICHEN: But there's no agreements
16 yet inked for sale of this electricity?

17 MS. KELLY: Correct.

18 Q. BY MR. ACKEN: All right. Ms. Pollio, we can
19 reload the tour. Or are you done with the tour?

20 A. (Ms. Pollio) We actually finished the tour.

21 MEMBER HAENICHEN: I have a question about the
22 tour.

23 MS. POLLIO: Okay.

24 MEMBER HAENICHEN: Reverting back to a question
25 I asked earlier in the day. The bulk of this is a

1 completely linear straight feature that you're following.
2 And I said, then why does the corridor have to be so
3 wide? And somebody pointed out, we don't know what we're
4 going to find. And looking at the tour, it looked like
5 it was just a flat piece of dirt with bushes on it. I
6 can't see the likelihood for the need for that wide of a
7 corridor.

8 MS. KELLY: I think that's right. I will say
9 sometimes geotechnical studies sometimes can surprise us
10 for what's underground. So that's part of the reason
11 that we're requesting a wider corridor, so that our
12 engineering teams have the flexibility to optimize the
13 design.

14 MEMBER HAENICHEN: You mean there might be a
15 pipeline or something and you don't want to --

16 MS. KELLY: Oh, sorry. No. I wasn't referring
17 to pipelines. I was referring to geology.

18 MR. ACKEN: If we can go to that image of the
19 virtual tour which is showing a view south of the route.
20 I-10 is on the left side of the screen. The corridor is
21 on the right.

22 And, Mr. Lawrence, if you would, I just heard a
23 reference to pipelines. And I see some access roads in
24 the requested corridor. Can you speak to what else is in
25 there in that corridor area that we need to be mindful

1 of.

2 MR. LAWRENCE: So, Member, I would just point
3 to a signature on the ground here. It looks like some
4 cleared area here. This is one. Here's a second one.
5 There are actually two pipelines in the ground in this
6 area. And in a previous incarnation, I worked for a
7 company where we did some pipeline work. And one of the
8 things they have is cathode protection for integrity
9 along pipelines, which you're probably familiar with as
10 an electrical engineer.

11 MEMBER HAENICHEN: Yes.

12 MR. LAWRENCE: And they often put in these
13 cathode protection areas that could be 50, 80 feet away
14 from the pipelines. And we don't have that mapped. So
15 just by way of example, we're wedged between two
16 pipelines and an interstate, and we haven't done the work
17 to find out exactly what we need to avoid.

18 So I think what we're requesting is a wider
19 corridor, again, of which we'll only use 150 feet when we
20 finally have it sited. But we'd like to have the
21 flexibility to avoid anything we find when we get out in
22 the field. And when I say "we," what I mean is the
23 engineers, the construction personnel, the people that
24 know what to look out for and, again, coordinating with
25 any other right-of-way entitlements that might encroach

1 in that area too that we also would need to avoid.

2 So we'd rather have the flexibility now than
3 bother the Committee at some future date if we had a
4 narrower corridor and then found we need to go outside of
5 it because of something that would preclude our ability
6 to put a pole in the ground.

7 CHMN. KATZ: Does the company already have a
8 right-of-way for the 1,000-foot corridor granted by the
9 Land Department?

10 MR. LAWRENCE: Not yet.

11 CHMN. KATZ: Okay.

12 Q. BY MR. ACKEN: And will you be requesting a
13 1,000-foot corridor or a right-of-way consistent with the
14 CEC request?

15 A. (Ms. Kelly) We have requested a right-of-way
16 from the State Land Department, and we are finalizing the
17 exact legal description for the right-of-way. But the
18 right-of-way will be 100 feet in width with 200 feet at
19 the turning structures as outlined in the CEC.

20 MEMBER HAENICHEN: But the bulk of it will be
21 narrow?

22 MS. KELLY: Oh, yes, that's correct.

23 Q. BY MR. ACKEN: All right. Ms. Pollio, let's
24 talk about cultural resources.

25 A. (Ms. Pollio) Okay.

1 If you can give me a second, we'll have to get
2 the slides back up.

3 So cultural resources are also included as part
4 of Exhibit E of the application.

5 So the project conducted a Class I cultural
6 survey, which is a database search. We search data from
7 Arizona State Museum to find out what is known about the
8 project study area and what previous cultural surveys
9 have been conducted and what cultural resources have been
10 identified.

11 So we conducted that Class I survey. A
12 redacted version of the Class I survey is included in
13 Exhibit E-1 of your application.

14 This is a unique project because on State land,
15 as we have mentioned many a time, there are requirements
16 to do Class III pedestrian surveys, and that is what you
17 see on the right screen on R44. That area in red is the
18 area that we conducted our Class I database search on,
19 and you can see all of the blue lines are actually
20 previous archeological surveys that were conducted.

21 So about 80 percent of the route has already
22 had pedestrian, which means archeologists walking the
23 ground and determining what is out there on the ground.

24 So we do know a lot about the area, and most
25 of the cultural resources that have been identified

1 through previous surveys are actually associated with the
2 development of linear infrastructure. As you can see,
3 these are lines which will be the transmission lines, the
4 gas pipelines, I-10, and the Union Pacific Railroad.

5 So, again, this is -- it's a good depiction of
6 what's already been done out there. But, as I mentioned,
7 State land does require, to obtain the right-of-way, a
8 Class III cultural survey. So Longroad will be
9 conducting a Class III cultural survey to obtain that
10 Arizona State Land Department right-of-way.

11 In addition to the Class I survey in
12 Exhibit E-2 of your application, we have a list of tribes
13 that we sent the Class I survey to. And, again, you can
14 see those in Exhibit E-2 of your application.

15 Q. Describe your outreach to tribes in the area.

16 A. (Ms. Pollio) So we consulted with tribes by
17 going on -- there's a database that describes what tribes
18 in the area would like to be consulted about. And there
19 were a number of different tribes that were listed, so we
20 sent all of those tribes a letter as well as the Class I
21 survey. So they were given a opportunity to review it
22 and provide comments.

23 MEMBER HAENICHEN: Did they provide comment?

24 MS. POLLIO: There were two tribes that did
25 provide comments. The White Mountain Apache Tribe sent

1 us a letter and said that based on their review, they saw
2 no adverse effects of the project associated with what
3 they consider tribal resources.

4 Tohono O'odham did identify, when they
5 reviewed, there is one site that was identified in a
6 previous survey. It was a scatter, and it was
7 unevaluated. They asked that if the project was in that
8 area that it would be evaluated. And, actually, it is a
9 site on the other side of the interstate, so it is not a
10 site that would be in the area of the project. So there
11 would be no direct effect. But we will be sending the
12 Class III cultural survey results to the tribes, so they
13 will be able to see that.

14 MEMBER HAENICHEN: The White Mountain Apache
15 Tribe, isn't that hundreds of miles away?

16 MS. POLLIO: It is.

17 MEMBER HAENICHEN: So why are they part of
18 this?

19 MS. POLLIO: Basically, the tribes in the state
20 of Arizona do claim affiliation with land all throughout
21 the state. So it is a very useful tool that is online.
22 You can actually go online, zoom in to your project area,
23 and it identifies all the tribes that would like to --
24 that claim affiliation and would like to be consulted
25 with. And that is a tribe that is listed.

1 Q. BY MR. ACKEN: All right. Let's talk about
2 recreation, Exhibit F.

3 A. (Ms. Pollio) Okay. As can be expected,
4 there's not a lot of private land and subsequently not a
5 lot of recreational facilities in the area. There are no
6 designated recreational facilities affected by the
7 project.

8 The closest recreational facility is an RV park
9 that is located about three-quarters of a mile from the
10 project substation very near Pinal Airpark. It's over in
11 this area. And it's a very small RV park that seems to
12 be associated with travelers or people staying that would
13 visit the airpark or be working at the airpark.

14 We also can note the CAP canal is located about
15 2 miles to the east. As many people know, this is used
16 for passive recreation. There are people that walk and
17 hike along this canal. But the closest trailhead is
18 actually 5 miles to the north of the farthestmost limits
19 of the project.

20 So, in conclusion, the project will not be
21 available for public recreational purposes. The project
22 would not preclude recreational uses and would not have
23 any negative effects on recreational uses in the area.

24 Q. Next describe existing plans in the area.

25 A. (Ms. Pollio) Okay. So existing plans is

1 Exhibit H in the application. And this is where we
2 usually talk about planned area developments, so we
3 consult with Pinal County and Pima County to see what
4 kind of PADs or planned area developments there are or
5 growth plans in the area.

6 The first one, which is identified in the
7 purple hash pattern on R48, which is also Exhibit H-1, is
8 an area that is a planned area development all associated
9 with the Pinal Airpark.

10 So in Pinal County, you can see all of this
11 area is -- this hatch pattern. You can also see up in
12 the corner, there's a table. And, basically, what that
13 is showing is that in Pinal County, they are looking to
14 change or rezone these parcels into areas that are
15 compatible or more compatible with the airpark itself.

16 So going to activity center, industrial, and
17 general commercial. And if you recall the email that a
18 supervisor in Pinal County had sent to Chairman Katz,
19 Pinal County identified that this airpark -- that our
20 project is compatible with the airpark and the associated
21 uses I just mentioned. And, specifically, these uses do
22 preclude residential. So, again, they're looking at this
23 area as more of an industrial, commercial,
24 employment-type center that's more compatible with our
25 project. So I did want to point that out.

1 I'll also note that the Town of Marana, that we
2 previously talked about in testimony in the land use
3 section, their town limits are close to the project site,
4 and they have identified growth areas that fall into
5 Pinal County and in their 2040 plan do identify
6 annexation or growth areas ultimately.

7 And then last, I will just conclude that there
8 are no additional local, state, or federal plans that are
9 in this area. It really is dominated by this Pinal
10 Airpark.

11 MEMBER GRINNELL: Mr. Chairman.

12 The Evergreen Airpark would be south and west.
13 Are you familiar with that property? Is that correct?

14 MR. LAWRENCE: It's to the west of the line
15 there. You can --

16 MEMBER GRINNELL: And it would be south of Pima
17 County?

18 MS. KELLY: Evergreen?

19 MR. LAWRENCE: It was Evergreen, and now it's
20 Pinal Airpark. Please someone correct me if that's not
21 true. I've heard that reference to Pinal Airpark.

22 MEMBER GRINNELL: Is it in Pinal? I thought it
23 was in Pima County.

24 MR. LAWRENCE: It's in Pinal.

25 MEMBER GRINNELL: So it's north and west of the

1 airfield?

2 MR. LAWRENCE: I can just answer what I know
3 and what I was told. So I met with the airfield. I met
4 with the Army's heliports. I met with the parachute
5 group. I met with the airpark.

6 And what they referenced to me was that there
7 was an Evergreen Corporation related to government
8 activities that also operated at the airfield and to the
9 west of it. But they didn't draw on a map exactly where
10 it was, and it seemed like there was some overlap of the
11 airpark and the uses.

12 MEMBER GRINNELL: Because that airpark there
13 facilities the rehab facility.

14 MR. LAWRENCE: That's my understanding as well.

15 MEMBER GRINNELL: I thought it was Pima, but my
16 mistake.

17 MS. POLLIO: And just to point out, the Pinal
18 County-Pima County line is this line that I just
19 mentioned. And the airpark is this PAD. So this is,
20 again, the airpark's kind of ultimate plans.

21 But to your point, you can see the aerial
22 features underneath where you would see the airpark and
23 you can see a lot of the different aircraft that are
24 sitting there almost like a museum is the best way to
25 describe it, is that they're sitting there, and you can

1 drive up and see them.

2 MEMBER GRINNELL: Okay.

3 Q. BY MR. ACKEN: Let's turn to your evaluation of
4 noise and communications.

5 A. (Ms. Pollio) Okay. So similarly with a number
6 of other resource areas, when we look at noise, we look
7 at what the noise impacts would be on sensitive
8 receptors. As we've mentioned, in this area, there are
9 no residences. The closest residence is over a mile
10 away. And it is really -- based on noise generated from
11 a substation or a gen-tie in this area, there would be no
12 perceived increase in noise from any type of sensitive
13 receptor in this area.

14 That same thing would go for either radio
15 interference and communication interference. We would
16 not expect that to happen based on the fact that there
17 are no sensitive receptors close enough to be affected by
18 the gen-tie or substation.

19 Q. Bring us home. Would you summarize your
20 environmental conclusions.

21 A. (Ms. Pollio) Yes.

22 So summarize basically each portion of the
23 application here and identify that feeling very
24 comfortable that we can say that there are no significant
25 or detrimental effects to land use or jurisdictions.

1 There's no significant or detrimental effects
2 to fish, wildlife, plantlife, and associated forms of
3 life upon which they are dependent.

4 There's no significant or detrimental effects
5 to existing scenic areas, historic sites and structures,
6 or archeological sites at or in the vicinity of the
7 project.

8 There are no plans for future development of
9 recreational facilities associated with the project or
10 detrimental effects to any type of planned areas or area
11 plans.

12 There are no significant or detrimental effects
13 associated with noise emission levels and interference
14 with communication signals.

15 So I feel very comfortable saying that the
16 project is environmentally compatible with the total
17 environment of the area.

18 Q. Thank you.

19 And I said bring it home, and then I realized
20 that's only the environmental piece.

21 And so now let's talk about the notice of
22 both -- first, I'd like to talk about the notice provided
23 for the hearing that is required by statute and
24 Procedural Order.

25 A. (Ms. Pollio) So first, we'll talk about

1 newspaper publications. So, as we mentioned, we straddle
2 both Pinal and Pima County. We advertised the hearing
3 notice in both counties, Casa Grande Dispatch on October
4 26th and October 28th, The Daily Territorial, which has a
5 Pima County circulation, October 25th through the 27th.

6 We also put up signs that identified
7 information about the hearing and about the project. You
8 can see on L49 the locations of the signs. We put up
9 three signs. On R55, you can see a copy of what the sign
10 looks like.

11 We did provide notice of filing to the affected
12 jurisdictions, as we've mentioned. This includes Pinal
13 County, Pima County, and Arizona State Land Department.

14 We have provided public availability of the CEC
15 application in hard copy and in digital copy via thumb
16 drive at ACC Docket Control Center in the Phoenix office,
17 at the Wheeler Taft Library, the Oro Valley Library, and
18 the Eloy Santa Cruz Pinal County Library. We have
19 certified mail receipts included on R56.

20 Q. And can additional information regarding the
21 publication affidavits be found in Serrano-4?

22 A. (Ms. Pollio) Correct.

23 Q. So next, let's talk about the public process
24 which you conducted for the project and the hearing.

25 A. Yes. So this project, as we've stated, is a

1 little unique because of the limited number of private
2 landowners within the project area. So the project
3 overall really focused on the stakeholder meetings. And
4 both Ms. Kelly and Mr. Lawrence have spoken about meeting
5 with stakeholders that included the State Land
6 Department, obviously the Pinal Airpark and associated
7 groups inside that airpark or part of that airpark, Pima
8 County, Town of Marana, and Pinal County as well. And I
9 want to mention that because it's definitely a
10 significant portion of our outreach associated with the
11 project.

12 However, we did want to conduct the more
13 traditional public process associated with the private
14 landowners or private property owners in the area, and so
15 we did a number of things to try to make sure that we
16 engaged and got the word out about the project.

17 We have a project website. And you can see
18 clips from this project website on R59. And I'll note
19 that there is a place for public comment on the website.
20 You can type in your public comment, and we could provide
21 a response.

22 I want to make sure that it's noted that in
23 this case, we only had one public comment, and that was a
24 job inquiry.

25 In addition to the website, we have a 1-800

1 information line that we have someone available to answer
2 real time, and that, again, had one phone call into it,
3 and it was also a job inquiry.

4 So, you know, we didn't stop there. We wanted
5 to keep going and make sure, again, we could check the
6 box and make sure that everyone was aware of the project,
7 so we also sent out postcards. This is a more
8 traditional approach where we did a mile radius,
9 identified all the property owners within that mile
10 radius, and sent out postcards that identified the
11 website as well as that 1-800 project hotline number on
12 it. So we did that.

13 Lastly, we did social media ads. And in this
14 area, a lot of times, there's some targeted email
15 addresses associated with customers. We did not have
16 that luxury here. So I think it's fair to say that we
17 went above and beyond. We actually targeted three ZIP
18 codes. The project straddles three different ZIP codes.
19 And we targeted social media for all three of those ZIP
20 codes.

21 So it was a farther reach, but we felt like it
22 was important that we got word out and made sure that
23 those ads identified where this was, where this hearing
24 was, the time, and more specifically, the public
25 informational session that would be held this evening.

1 MEMBER GENTLES: Mr. Chair.

2 CHMN. KATZ: Yes, Mr. Gentles.

3 MEMBER GENTLES: Typically, when the applicants
4 come before our Committee, they also bring with them some
5 analytics around website traffic and postcard numbers,
6 etc. Do we have any of that available just for our
7 background?

8 MS. POLLIO: So on the postcards, within a mile
9 radius, there were about -- and I'm going to say this --
10 30 property owners that were deduplicated. And what I
11 mean by that is when we pulled the parcel information
12 within that distance, there were more. It was closer to
13 about 40 or 50. But when you deduplicate it down,
14 meaning take out the same property owners so they don't
15 receive multiple postcards, it came down to about 30
16 postcards that were sent out.

17 I did mention the website. We did not have
18 many hits on the website. We had the one comment, so we
19 knew that people were seeing the website. But, again,
20 the comment was a job inquiry as well as the 1-800
21 number.

22 The social media ads, I do not have the actual
23 number of hits that we received on that. I think we
24 can --

25 MR. LAWRENCE: Get it.

1 MS. POLLIO: We could get that information.

2 But we did not have any hits entering into the

3 Thanksgiving holiday. So we can try to refresh that data

4 and get that information.

5 MEMBER GENTLES: That would be helpful to just

6 have an idea of the traffic. It gives us a little more

7 context, particularly on the website and total number of

8 people that actually visited the site.

9 And then, of course, what your social media

10 posts look like and also the analytics around that.

11 That's fairly easy to get without any problems.

12 And the other question is that you mentioned

13 the Indian Nations in the outreach around some of the --

14 some of the other work that you did.

15 Did you have any outreach with the four Indian

16 Nations in this section as far as stakeholder outreach

17 and communication.

18 MS. POLLIO: We did not. We used the letter,

19 the mailer. And in many cases, we also sent emails to

20 those tribes. It is included in E-2, the different -- if

21 it was a letter or an email that was sent. The online

22 tool that we use to try to identify tribal affiliation is

23 pretty specific in how they want to receive it. In some

24 cases, the cultural resource lead will want it to be a

25 hard copy or via email or vice versa.

1 So we followed that protocol, and that -- you
2 know, who we sent it to and any cc's. If we carbon
3 copied an additional tribal council or the cultural
4 resource person at the tribe, that is included in
5 Exhibit E. But that is the way we reached out to the
6 tribes.

7 MEMBER GENTLES: So Tohono O'odham and White
8 Mountain Apache, they were communicated with about the
9 cultural sites specifically. As part of the stakeholder
10 outreach and engagement, they weren't involved in that?

11 MS. POLLIO: There was not a separate
12 stakeholder involvement. We did respond when they
13 reached back out to us, saying that we appreciated their
14 comment and we would be providing the Class III report to
15 them, which is what they requested. But we did not have
16 a separate stakeholder meeting.

17 MEMBER GENTLES: All right. Thank you.

18 MEMBER LITTLE: Chairman.

19 CHMN. KATZ: Yes.

20 MEMBER LITTLE: I have a question about the
21 website. I have had some difficulty in accessing
22 information about the project on the internet.

23 If I specifically Google the gen-tie, I get a
24 page that talks about this hearing and how stakeholders
25 can make comments. But I -- if I just go to Longroad

1 Energy or I just Googled the project itself, I really
2 have been unable to find out anything about the project,
3 the solar project itself, and the history.

4 Am I missing something?

5 MR. ACKEN: Let me make sure I understand the
6 question.

7 So we have a website dedicated to the gen-tie.
8 When you're asking about the solar storage facility, that
9 would not be part of the information that we provide
10 pursuant to like the notice of filing and putting up a
11 website that has all the information that's required for
12 this proceeding. Where that is done is through your
13 local entitlement process. And Mr. Lawrence talked about
14 the local entitlement process with both Pinal and Pima
15 County. So that would be a separate notice, a separate
16 website, a separate stakeholder process when you get to
17 the entitlements for the actual solar and storage
18 facility.

19 Is that response?

20 MEMBER LITTLE: Yes. I guess what I'm more
21 interested in, though -- and I appreciate your answer.
22 Thank you -- is just if I were just to -- you know,
23 somebody lived in the area and was interested in
24 information about the project itself. And I was trying
25 to find that information.

1 You know, when I go to the Longroad website,
2 there are proposed projects that are listed there with
3 information, one in Maine, a couple in Hawaii, one in
4 Virginia. But this one is not listed there. And I was
5 just curious how I would find out information about the
6 project if I were interested in that.

7 MR. ACKEN: Again, I'm going to turn it over to
8 the panel to determine how their generation projects are
9 posted on the website.

10 Again, the Notice of Hearing that was
11 published, provided to affected jurisdictions on the
12 signage, even the social media, referenced the specific
13 link where people could get this information.

14 So I'm hopeful that we had enough channels to
15 get it to folks who were interested, but I'll ask the
16 panel to answer the question about when do -- I guess the
17 Google analytics and how that is done when a project
18 would appear under its list of projects.

19 MEMBER LITTLE: Thank you.

20 MS. KELLY: With respect to the Longroad
21 website, the lists on the website are focused on projects
22 that are in operations. And in response to your question
23 about how local residents may learn more about the
24 generation facility, that would be more through the local
25 entitlement process with the counties and the public

1 posting process that the counties implement as part of
2 entitlement projects.

3 MEMBER LITTLE: Thank you.

4 Q. BY MR. ACKEN: Ms. Kelly, I know we have a
5 couple -- do you still want to talk about the website
6 further? Okay.

7 A. (Ms. Pollio) No.

8 I did want to mention that -- just to clear up
9 the record, a question that was asked earlier of me was
10 about the name of the sand and gravel operation. It is
11 PNP Materials is the name of that. So I just wanted to
12 clean up the record there.

13 Q. Ms. Pollio, does that conclude your testimony?

14 A. (Ms. Pollio) Yes.

15 Q. Okay.

16 Now, Ms. Kelly, I think we have a couple
17 cleanup items, some homework we may have to take tonight
18 on analytics for the social media and website.

19 But understanding that we'll bring that back
20 tomorrow, do you have any final comments that you would
21 like to share with the Committee regarding the project at
22 this time?

23 A. (Ms. Kelly) First, we'd like to thank you for
24 your time to come here and learn about this project.

25 And I guess I'd like to step back and talk

1 about what's happening with this project in the state of
2 Arizona and really the Southwest U.S. as a whole.

3 There are legitimate and serious concerns about
4 electrical capacity and reliability, especially in the
5 hot summer months of the Southwest U.S. And we see this
6 project, this electrical generator, as part of the
7 solution to that challenge that lies ahead.

8 This project is sited on previously disturbed
9 land, the gen-tie is routed, it's collocated with
10 existing linear facilities so it minimizes environmental
11 impacts, and it also provides revenue to the schools of
12 the state of Arizona.

13 Further, the project can support reliability
14 needs both on the APS and TEP system.

15 So we think it is a unique and exciting
16 project, and thank you again for your time and
17 consideration.

18 CHMN. KATZ: Do any of the Committee Members --
19 obviously, we have some things that we're going to hear
20 about tomorrow morning. Do any of the Committee Members,
21 either virtual or in the room, have any specific
22 questions to ask any of the three panel members?

23 MEMBER GRINNELL: This may be addressed
24 tomorrow, so I don't want to jump ahead, but the cost of
25 this is going to be borne by Longroad; is that correct?

1 By your company?

2 MS. KELLY: The construction cost?

3 MEMBER GRINNELL: The construction cost.

4 MS. KELLY: Yes. We will build the project.

5 MEMBER GRINNELL: You will build the project.

6 And eventually, who's going to maintain the
7 cost and operation of that? Which consumers are going to
8 be --

9 MS. KELLY: Longroad plans to own and operate
10 the project in the long term.

11 MEMBER GRINNELL: And then you're going to be
12 providing power potentially to APS and to TEP; is that
13 correct?

14 MS. KELLY: That's right.

15 MEMBER GRINNELL: So, eventually, the
16 ratepayers down the road will be paying for this in
17 recovering the costs?

18 MR. ACKEN: I can speak to that. Ms. Kelly,
19 you can probably answer it too because you follow it
20 closely.

21 It is a Commission proceeding. At least for
22 some of the utilities, particularly when you have a
23 battery project, it goes through their power supply
24 adjuster, so it's vetted by the Commission at that time
25 as part of the power supply adjuster, the PPA.

1 Ms. Kelly, correct me if I'm wrong.

2 MS. KELLY: That's correct as far as I
3 understand it.

4 CHMN. KATZ: And I don't know whether you,
5 Mr. Derstine or Ms. Benally, if you have any questions
6 you want to ask of any of the panel members?

7 MR. DERSTINE: We do not.

8 CHMN. KATZ: Should we call it quits until
9 5:30? Unless there's more that we can present today.

10 MR. ACKEN: Mr. Chairman, we do not have
11 anything further. A couple cleanup items in the morning,
12 but thank you for your time and attention.

13 CHMN. KATZ: So it looks like by tomorrow
14 morning, we'll be able to review the CEC?

15 MR. ACKEN: Mr. Chairman, our cleanup will be
16 brief. I would anticipate that we will be ready to close
17 our case in early/mid morning, and the Committee can
18 deliberate from that time forward.

19 CHMN. KATZ: That's okay. We have plenty of
20 time tomorrow, and hopefully we can wrap things up and go
21 home. And we have Thursday as another option, but it
22 looks like we'll be able to finish things up tomorrow.

23 We're going to stand in recess in the main
24 proceedings until 9:00 a.m. tomorrow. However, at 5:30,
25 we will have public input.

1 I don't see -- are there any members of the
2 public that are present in the room?

3 (No response.)

4 CHMN. KATZ: I don't see any show of hands or
5 new faces that have arrived. Have we any -- well, we
6 wouldn't know yet if we have any people that would appear
7 virtually. Too early.

8 (No response.)

9 CHMN. KATZ: Well, we have a good hour and 15
10 minutes before we have to resume. It doesn't appear like
11 there's a lot of community interest, so maybe nothing
12 will happen. But we have to -- because of our agenda, we
13 have to stick to it and have that public input if there
14 is any.

15 Okay. So we stand in recess until 5:30. Thank
16 you all.

17 (A recess was taken from 4:15 p.m. to
18 5:32 p.m.)

19 CHMN. KATZ: Ladies and gentlemen, it is now,
20 according to my watch, about 5:33.

21 And are there any members of the public
22 present?

23 Seeing none, do we have anybody participating
24 virtually?

25 AUDIO TECHNICIAN: Mr. Chairman, we do not.

1 CHMN. KATZ: The answer was we do not. And,
2 accordingly, we're going to recess for the day and begin
3 tomorrow morning about 9:00.

4 Unless there's anything further, enjoy your
5 evening.

6 (The hearing recessed at 5:33 p.m.)

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2 COUNTY OF MARICOPA)

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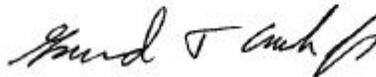
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