

ENERGY STREAMLINING TASK FORCE PROJECT SUMMARY

Name: Sonora-Arizona Interconnection Project

ET-6

Entity Proposing Project: Public Service Company of New Mexico

Category of Project: Electricity Transmission

Brief description of project: construct two 345 kV transmission circuits between the two systems, each circuit approximately 300 miles long; capacity expected to be 1000 MW; both circuits to originate at High Voltage Switchyard adjacent to Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station; connect with transmission facilities in Mexico at existing Santa Ana substation; install AC-DC-AC converter station near international border, which would allow for isolation of disturbances and control of flow between systems.

Agencies that must be consulted and agencies from which approval is needed:

Federal: Department of Energy – lead agency; issues Presidential permit (applied for in December 1998)

U.S. Forest Service – cooperating agency

Bureau of Land Management (BLM) – cooperating agency

Bureau of Reclamation – declined to participate as cooperating agency because of opposition to project due to potential conflicts with commitment to offset construction impacts of Central Arizona Project aqueduct (which company believes is a political motivation)

Nuclear Regulatory Commission

Environmental Protection Agency

Army Corps of Engineers

Fish & Wildlife Service

Soil Conservation Service (USDA)

Federal Highway Administration (DOT)

Federal Aviation Administration

Advisory Council on Historic Preservation

State: Arizona Corporation Commission – issues certificate of environmental compatibility

Departments of: Environmental Quality; Game & Fish; Mines and Mineral Resources, Agriculture; Land; Water Resources

Arizona Parks Board

State Historic Preservation Office

Local: Maricopa County, Pinal County, Pima County, Santa Cruz County

Reasons for bringing project to the task force's attention: would like agencies to be compelled to come to table at early point in process once need for participation identified; would like agencies to respond to lead agency requests concerning potential permitting role; cooperation should not be held up pending funding arrangements with applicant