

August 19, 2009

Adrian Garcia, Project Manager  
SunZia Transmission Line Project  
PO Box 27115  
Santa Fe, NM 97502-0115

Dear Mr. Garcia,

We write as property owners in the Lower San Pedro River Valley, with the following concerns and recommendations.

We specifically oppose both proposed Aravaipa-San Pedro Routes of the proposed SunZia Transmission Line, for the following reasons:

1. The transmission line corridor would be a visual scar in an otherwise almost pristine landscape, thus reducing property values and impacting eco-tourism.
2. With its adjacent wild areas, the Middle San Pedro River Valley is one of the largest intact landscapes in the continental US. The San Pedro River, the last major free-flowing river in the desert southwest, provides the principle migration corridor for neo-tropical birds and a great diversity of mammals. In fact, it shelters the greatest biodiversity of any landlocked area in the US, including relatively rare native fish and raptors. As has been demonstrated elsewhere, the powerline corridor would seriously impact ecosystem sustainability, and mitigation is both expensive and uncertain.
3. Aravaipa Canyon is very remote and undeveloped, and provides critical habitat for several species of native fish and birds. It is also situated among several designated wilderness areas and national forests. The power corridor would severely affect this area as well.
4. There are about 500 documented archeological sites between Benson and Winkelman, many not yet extensively studied. Construction of the necessary service roads would encourage ATV access and subsequent abuse of both the land and the cultural/historic resources found in the valley.

We urge that transmission line corridors, rather than invading pristine and ecologically sensitive areas, instead be placed along already established rail and highway transportation corridors.

Sincerely,

Arden L. and Elizabeth A. Buck  
PO Box 1685  
Nederland, CO 80466