

Post Office Box 958
Benson, AZ 85602
November 25, 2009

The U.S. Department of Interior, Bureau of Land Management
Adrian Garcia, Project Manager
SunZia Southwest Transmission Project
c/o EPG, Inc.
4141 N. 32nd Street
Suite 102
Phoenix, AZ 85018

Please include these comments in the Scoping phase of the SunZia Southwest Transmission Project process:

Dear Mr. Garcia:

I am grateful that the period during which we may comment on the proposal to run a SunZia transmission line through the San Pedro River Valley has been extended so that I may once again voice my opposition to that project. By now you have heard many times about the adverse environmental, archaeological, social, and other effects that such a transmission line will have if it is built through this valley, so I shall not belabor those points here. By now you are well aware of the importance of this valley to the residents who live here, as well as its importance to the State of Arizona and to the people of our Nation as a whole. I am sure that all of these factors will be taken into consideration when the final route for that transmission line is selected.

I would like to reemphasize the importance of the San Pedro River Valley to the residents who live here, and the importance of maintaining the pristine condition of our surroundings. Most of us who live here do so because we recognize the importance of living in a natural setting that is relatively free of the trappings of city life; we have no highway noise, our area is virtually free of crime, and the air is clear much of the time. I would much prefer to be awakened at night by the voices of coyotes than by the sirens of emergency vehicles.

The kind of lifestyle that we have here is rapidly disappearing throughout the West, as our passion for development and for building more houses and shopping malls seems to be limited only the availability of easy financing and potable drinking water. Those of us who prefer a quieter place to live are finding that the availability of such places is rapidly diminishing. Constructing power lines through places like the San Pedro River Valley, and the kinds of development that will inevitably follow such construction, will jeopardize the lifestyle that I and my neighbors hold dear. Surely, there is some other way to build this power line.

I have noticed on some of the maps that have appeared on the SunZia website that the power line corridor follows the Interstate highway right-of-way for much of its course through western New Mexico and eastern Arizona, but departs near Willcox and runs through the San Pedro River Valley. It seems to me that it would be more advantageous for the power line to continue along the highway right-of-way for the rest of its course. Following the existing corridor would be far less disturbing to the natural environment and far less disruptive to the lives of the residents of the San Pedro River Valley. I therefore request that you reconsider the course of the transmission line, and consider using already existing rights-of-way instead of creating new ones.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

Robert D. Evans
6035 North Canyon Road
Post Office Box 958
Benson, Arizona 85602