

Date: November 19, 2009 11:34:11 AM MST

To: Adrian Garcia <Adrian_Garcia@blm.gov>

Subject: SunZia and the BLM

Dear BLM:

Thanks for extending your comment period again. You have probably read my comments before, but I wanted to reiterate some thoughts that still concern me and my family.

The BLM helped me to secure a conservation easement on my 38.58 Acre little place at Cascabel. The Hot Springs Wash runs through my property. I have done some erosion control work to help restore and stabilize the banks there. My father recently passed away, but he used to take us hunting out there in the Middle San Pedro Valley, back in the 60's, that's why I bought property out there, because I was familiar the area. My great Great Grandfather came from Switzerland to enlist in the US Infantry, in the late 1800s. Among the outposts he was stationed were: Fort Bowie, Fort Lowell and Agua Caliente.

During his years as a soldier, he spent a good portion of his life in the San Pedro Valley. He helped stave off Apache raids, as settlers came into the area. After his military career, he eventually, would build a small brewery, then became one of the first school teachers in Tucson. His name was John Spring. He would marry a Mexican lady who was my Great Great Grandmother. I am an eight generation Tucsonan. I feel I have the right to voice a strong opinion here. So please forgive me if I sometimes sound a bit passionate or sentimental when I write about this territory.

My place out there at Cascabel already has electric power lines running through it, North & South to a distant place called Hayden. There are no other offshoots all along the 100 ft wide easement, it goes only to Hayden, Arizona. Recently I asked to meet with Southwest Transmission officials to discuss the erosion problems which exist, due to their "regular maintenance". They were polite and cordial, but that was over a year ago. All they said was, the erosion may not have been caused by their regular maintenance crews, and it would be too expensive to restore the land anyway. I have aerial photographs from before and after, these photos clearly document what has happened. I had a similar bad experience when SSVEC replaced two power poles, they went off their easement and left the place in a mess. A mess I would never leave on another man's property. This was inside a federal conservation easement! The BLM said they would investigate. I am waiting to present my evidence. I truly would rather get along with these entities, but they so far give me no reason to reciprocate. I bring up this negative stuff to remind you of what you are proposing. This will definitely, absolutely, have a major impact on the Middle San Pedro Valley. I know FIRST HAND! It will lower property values. Why in the hell did the BLM promote the preservation of my property? In perpetuity? This SunZia proposed 500 kV transmission line is AGAINST EVERYTHING the BLM initially wanted. The BLM would be a very convenient conduit to provide access through a good portion of our lands, no doubt about it, it would even save certain entities a lot of money. However, I feel this might turn out to be a case of MULTIPLE ABUSE, NOT MULTIPLE USE. SunZia will profit - no doubt about it! This proposed project route, through the Middle San Pedro

Valley, would open the door for serious exploitation. It makes no sense; to compromise the values of one valley, so profits will be made in distant places. Will you want to take your children, or grandchildren, camping in an area divided with huge transmission lines? Think about it. This proposed SunZia route would devastate our community. It would have severe long term detrimental effects on our thriving ecotourism. Virtually no resident wants this to go through. The Middle San Pedro Proposed Route is not the place for this type of infrastructural industrialized development. Find another way - like along existing freeways and highways. To push this proposed route through one of the richest and diverse remaining Sonoran Desert riparian habitats, would be ludicrous.

Gilbert Urias, Jr.

Gilbert Urias Living Pictures