



Commissioner Lea Marquez-Peterson, Chairwoman
Commissioner Sandra D. Kennedy
Commissioner Justin Olson
Commissioner Anna Tovar
Commissioner Jim O'Connor

June 22, 2022

Re: SunZia Transmission Docket No. L-00000YY-15-0318-00171
Case No. 171

Dear Chairwoman Marquez-Peterson and Commissioners:

I am writing on behalf of the Arizona Competitive Power Alliance (AZCPA) to express support for the SunZia Southwest Transmission Project. With the increased attention in the Southwest on possible power supply shortages as reported by numerous news sources and reflected at the Arizona Corporation Commission's annual April 27th Summer Preparedness meeting, the SunZia project provides a timely and cost-effective solution, with a projected start of construction in 2023 and commercial operation in 2025.

The SunZia Southwest Transmission project and associated interconnection facilities will provide a path for new clean generation resources. These resources except during construction, will not require use of local water resources, and will bring late-day New Mexico wind and potentially local solar resources to the Southwestern regional grid. New Mexico wind ramps up when Arizona solar ramps down, making for a perfect pairing of renewable resources that incrementally reduces the need for coupling renewables with natural gas and storage. The four billion dollar, privately-funded Project will also provide substantial economic benefits to the states of Arizona and New Mexico. Those include significant employment opportunities during construction and substantial tax revenues to state and local jurisdictions.

The SunZia Project increases southwestern energy and power transfer capability, as well as improves transmission reliability and resiliency. Specifically, the Project will reduce existing transmission congestion and support the development and transmission of renewable energy resources. SunZia will also provide capacity and energy to help meet future electricity load growth and peak demand in the summer as well as provide a strategic option for utilities and municipalities to comply with federal and state air quality standards as well as meet their clean energy goals.

We urge to the Commission to support the SunZia's application for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility amendment. The project is a critical piece for enhancing transmission grid in the Desert Southwest. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Greg Patterson
Director of AZCPA