



Meeting Notes

Transmission Corridor Workshop

Monday June 22, 2009

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CATS HV

1. Introductions and Meeting Purpose

- Joseph Herrera welcomed all in attendance and thanked Pinal County for allowing the workshop to take place at their facility. He then gave a brief update on the status of the Transmission Corridor map and what has been happening since the last meeting.
- Joseph stated that the utilities need information on the different land uses that the cities and counties have planned. He also said that the corridor information that is to be provided by the utilities would be beneficial to the different jurisdictions because it would give them a vague look at where the corridors are going to be and how to plan for them and around them.
- Joseph explained that one of the studies that the CATS-HV Group has completed is a saturation study on the area. He stated that the development of this map would also be useful in the development of the saturation studies in the future.
- Joseph explained how the CATS-HV Group was created and listed several of its participants. Joseph continued by explaining that the CATS-HV group is different from several of the other similar groups out there because they include the local and state governmental entities in their studies and they get feedback from both the transmission owners and the governmental entities. Joseph stated that the inclusion of the governmental representatives allows for more realistic results.
- Joseph gave a brief overview of the current and proposed projects in Pinal County. He stated that as the plan is now Pinal Central will have almost every load serving voltage going into it. This will make Pinal County into a hub for transmission projects in the State of Arizona.
- The purpose of the map that has been proposed is not for use at the ACC or to help the utilities get lines sited faster its purpose is to help eliminate some of the issues between jurisdictions within Pinal County and the utilities.
- Joseph stated that not only will Pinal Central be a hub, Pinal County is expected to be the host for several large generation connections as well as several great corridors for renewables.
- Joseph briefly explained that the ACC currently has set up a committee to evaluate the top three transmission projects within the State of Arizona and that each of the projects being evaluated has a tie into Pinal County. Joseph stated that the need for these projects is currently a large priority because it is possible that by the year 2018 Arizona could have an energy shortage.
- Joseph stated that the purpose of this meeting is to decide what information should be included on the FTP site, the format of that information, the standardization of the data for the site as well as who will be able to view the data. Joseph expanded this further by saying that he has spoken with Jack Tomasik of CAAG to host the site but that will not be possible since the CATS-Group does not have any budget. Joseph also stated that the confidentiality



of the information would be key because some of it is governed by the Federal Government due to homeland security concerns.

- A copy of Joseph's PowerPoint is attached.

2. Line Siting and Route Identification-Jeffrey Loehr

- Jeffrey began his presentation by giving a brief overview of the system, including the connections from generation to the customers.
- Jeffrey then explained that all lines 230 kV or above are required to receive a CE from the ACC. He stated that this process includes lots of public involvement. He continued by stating that GIS information is widely used in the public involvement portions of any project. He explained that first the potential opportunities and constraints are found and added to a map, then opportunities and boundaries are added (including; existing lines and their voltages, Railroad locations and Canals)
- Ruben stated that the maps should also identify land ownership for the proposed area of the line. He stated that this should include State Trust Land as well as BLM land. He stated that it was important to identify this early so that the document can be submitted to the State Land Department early on so that they can be aware of the impacts that the project will have. Jeffrey responded that there are maps that cover this information; it is just not something that is used during the public involvement portion of a project.
- Jeffrey stated that all alternatives are considered and then all possible alternatives are submitted to the ACC for review. The ACC then selects on path out of the several that are submitted. Jeff gave the example that during the siting for Pinal Central to Browning the ACC selected a route that portions had been removed before submittal because the ACC thought it was more viable. Once the ACC has determined which corridor will be used the width or the corridor is selected and the process of securing right of ways begins.
- It was asked the impact that public input has on the ACC decision. Jeffrey responded that public input weighs strongly with the ACC.
- A copy of Jeffrey's presentation is attached.

3. Line Siting and the Arizona State Land Department-Ruben Ojeda

- Ruben began his presentation by saying that there is 9.3 million acres of State Trust Land in the State of Arizona. He stated that because there is so much State Trust Land it is important for the Department to know where the transmission projects will be going so that it can be determined how the line will affect State Land. He said that previously the Department of State Land has been very hands off in these types of situations. Ruben continued by saying that the old ways are changing and the Department is now very interested in transmission corridors and their effect on State Trust Land.
- Ruben stated the State Land Department has several thousand Acres in Pinal County and he explained that importance of State Trust Land. He stated that it is important because it is sold for development and then puts revenue into select areas of the State. He stated that one of the issues is that the land is sold for development after a line has already been built and then the line has an impact on the development. He stated that the State Land Department is very similar to the cities and counties in that it does area planning for the land.
- Ruben stated that it is important to start the application process for purchasing State Land Early because it usually takes between 12 and 16 months to get the permit processed.
- Once the permit is submitted it takes between 2 and three weeks to reach Ruben's desk to be sent to an administrator for review. Ruben continued by saying that it then takes about 1 week to be assigned to an administrator. He stated that it is assigned to an administrator based on geographic location. Ruben stated that he would be happy to get a map with the names of the administrator for each area to anyone that is interested.

- Ruben continued his timeline for the approval of an application by stating that once it is assigned to an administrator it will take between 15 and 20 days for a package to be put together and sent out for review.
- He stated that then there is a 30 to 45 day period that is used to respond. It is then a 45 to 60 day span to analyze the comments that were submitted and then look for solutions to any objections.
- 30-90 days later an archaeological review will be completed. Ruben stated that at the time there is only one person that can do an archeological review so it is a process that can take quite a long period of time. He continued by saying that the State Land Department is currently working with ADOT and SRP to get this process completed in a shorter amount of time.
- The appraisal takes about 120 days. Ruben explained that the land has to go to public auction and that there must be board approval for any lease over 10 years. He stated that if the lease does need board approval that could add another 30 to 60 days to the process. Ruben explained that not only does the land need to go to public auction it also has to be advertised for 10 to 13 weeks before the auction.
- Ruben stated that the State Land Department is not against all corridors they would just like to be brought into the process earlier. Ruben said that if State Land gets involved in the process early they will be able to submit a letter to the ACC stating whether or not they agree or disagree with a particular route. He stated that this could be beneficial to the utility because the State Land Department does not have to accept a corridor siting by the ACC.
- Ruben suggested beginning the application process with the State Land Department before the utility receives it's CEC from the ACC.
- Joseph asked Ruben what advice he would have for the CATS-HV group when organizing their map. Ruben replied that this map will be a huge help for the State Land department. Ruben also said that the State Land department also has conceptual plans that should be included because they do not always mirror the plans that the individual jurisdictions have for the land.

4. Line siting and Route Identification-Greg Bernosky

- Greg began his presentation with the Sundance to Pinal Central project. He stated that this process dealt mostly with unincorporated Pinal County but that all jurisdictions were given an opportunity to give comments.
- Greg said that APS tried to gather as much information as possible and to input as much of it into GIS as was possible.
- GIS was used to include active land use in the area and this was helpful in getting a baseline for what is already in the area.
- Greg stressed the fact that the GIS information is very important but that most of the raw data is not made publically available. He did say however, that several of the maps are turned into a .pdf and added to the project website.
- Karen also stated that AGIC could announce on their website that there has been new information added to the CATS-HV database.

5. Pinal County Projects-Jim Burson

- Jim began his presentation by explaining how Southwest Transmission Cooperative, Inc was created. He explained that in 1963 the Co-Op was started when four different co-ops joined to form AZEPC. In the year 200 the generation and transmission segments of AZEPC were split. The Generation section includes the Apache Station generation site and the transmission section includes 600 miles of transmission.
- Jim explained the SPPR group and that as a part of the SPPR study Western is looking into upgrading its 115kV to 230kV in the areas that they serve.
- Jim spoke about the San Manuel interconnection, stating that the line is being built as an 115kV but its specs are for operations of 230kV. He continued that said the construction is currently set to begin in January of 2010.



- The second portion of Jim's presentation focused on the Saguaro to North Loop line. He stated that this is a joint project with TEP and that it will be changing from a multicircuit H structure to a monostructure quad circuit. Jim stated that it is all planned to be within an existing TEP corridor.

6. FTP Site Hosting and Security Issues-Steve Frazier

- Steve stated that currently the management of the information is in the air. He stated that there are a couple of options that can be looked at. He said that one of the major issues is going to be the Standards and that this is a decision that the members of CATS-HV are going to need to make.
- Steve said that it would be possible for both Pinal County and CAAG to host the data but that with either entity there would be some administration involved. He continued by saying that Pinal County can easily provide an FTP site location as well as a password but that all of the administration for the site as well as the access to the site would need to come from the members of the CATS-HV.
- Steve stressed the importance of the distribution of data but stated that Pinal County is currently not staffed to be a policing organization. He said that CATS-HV would need to create the rules.
- Joseph asked if maybe CAAG should host the site since they already have some of the information. Steve replied that it would be the same thing for either Pinal County or CAAG to host the site.
- Joseph asked who would be able to print the data. Steve replied that anyone who is given access to the site and that with Pinal County the information will be available for purchase by the private sector.
- Steve stated that anyone CATS-HV wanted to have access to the data could gain access and that he could add static maps or raw data.
- Joseph stated that he plans to bring up the administrative issues at the next CATS-HV meeting to see where the group stands.

7. Open Discussion

- Ken stated that the County wanted to make sure that there is a base map of all known electrical corridors and then to update the map as projects are approved by the ACC. He stated that the information from the cities and the counties of when pads are approved also need to be shared. He stated that this would greatly benefit the utilities. Steve stated that Pinal County could easily upload this information on the ftp site on a rather regular basis because the information is sent to his department.

