

SNPO- 2007-1713 (34517) CNAE



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At
OCT 02 2007
10-19-07

RECEIVED

September 28, 2007

OCT 31 2007

James Garrison, State Historic Preservation Officer
Arizona State Parks
State Historic Preservation Office
1300 West Washington
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

EDWARD Z. FOX

SUBJECT: Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station (PVNGS)
Request for Information on Historic and Archaeological Resources

Dear Mr. Garrison:

Arizona Public Service Company (APS) is initiating the steps required to be in a position to file an application with the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) to renew the operating licenses for PVNGS Units 1, 2 and 3. The current operating licenses expire on December 31, 2024 for Unit 1; December 9, 2025 for Unit 2; and March 25, 2027 for Unit 3. The renewal terms would be for an additional 20 years beyond each original license expiration date. The NRC review schedule dictates limited windows of opportunity to submit an application for license renewal, and a submittal window of fourth quarter 2008 is available to APS. However, the decision on whether or not to actually file an application in 2008 would need to be formally agreed upon by the Palo Verde participants.

As part of the license renewal process, NRC requires license applicants to "assess whether any historic or archaeological properties will be affected by the proposed project". The NRC may also request an informal consultation with your office at a later date under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (16 USC 470), and under Federal Advisory Council on Historic Preservation regulations (36 CFR 800). By contacting you early in the application process, we hope to identify any issues that need to be addressed or provide any information your office may need to expedite the NRC consultation.

PVNGS is located in Maricopa County, Arizona, approximately 26 miles west of the nearest boundary of the Phoenix metropolitan area, which is the nearest population center. The town of Buckeye (year 2000 population approximately 6,500) is approximately 16 miles to the east. The nearest town, which is the mailing address for the plant, is Wintersburg. The PVNGS site boundary encloses approximately 4,250 acres (see attached Figure 2-1).

Seven transmission lines connect the station to the regional grid, and are thus relevant to license renewal (see attached Figure 3-2). They include:

- Westwing #1 and #2 – These two 525-kilovolt lines extend east and north for 45 miles in a 330-foot wide corridor to the Westwing Substation northwest of Phoenix.
- Rudd – Starting in a common corridor with Westwing #1 and #2, this 525-kilovolt line runs for 37 miles to the Rudd Substation in Phoenix. After leaving the Westwing corridor, the Rudd corridor width is generally 200 feet.

- Kyrene – This line runs south to the Hassayampa substation for 3 miles, then turns to the southeast for 20 miles to the Jojoba Substation, and then runs another 52 miles to the Kyrene Generating Station south of Tempe, Arizona. The corridor width for this 525-kilovolt line varies from 75 to 200 feet, except that the 3-mile length it shares with Hassayampa #2 (described below) is 330 feet wide.
- Hassayampa #2 – This 525-kilovolt line runs in the same corridor as Hassayampa #1 to the Hassayampa substation, a distance of 3 miles. The combined corridor width is approximately 330 feet.
- Hassayampa #3 – This 525-kilovolt line roughly parallels the Hassayampa #1 and #2 lines to the Hassayampa substation, but in a separate corridor. The corridor width is 200 feet.
- Devers – This 235-mile line runs westward from the plant to the Devers Substation north of Palm Springs, California. The corridor width is typically 200 feet.

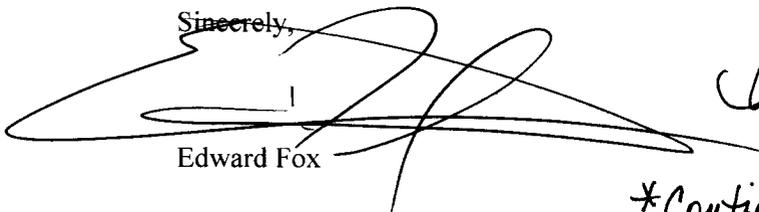
In total, there are approximately 390 miles and approximately 10,000 acres of transmission line corridor. The corridors pass through land that is primarily agricultural and desert. The areas are mostly remote, with low population densities. The lines cross numerous county, state and U.S. highways. Much of the land crossed is Federal property. Corridors that pass through farmlands generally continue to be used as farmland.

Using the National Register Information System (NRIS) on-line database, we have compiled a list of sites on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) within Maricopa County. As of 2006, the NRHP listed 317 locations in Maricopa County (DOI 2006). Of these 317 locations, one (the Hassayampa River Bridge) falls within 6 miles of PVNGS property. The Hassayampa River Bridge was added to the list in 1988 and is located on Old U.S. Highway 80, spanning the Hassayampa River. As of 2006, the NRHP listed 55 locations that have been determined eligible in Maricopa County for inclusion in the NRHP (DOI 2006). Of these 55 locations, none falls within 6 miles of PVNGS property.

APS does not expect PVNGS operations through the license renewal term to adversely affect cultural resources in the area, as APS has no plans to alter current operations for license renewal. No expansion of existing facilities is planned, and no structural modifications have been identified for the purpose of supporting license renewal. Maintenance on the transmission line would continue as currently performed. No additional land-disturbance is anticipated in support of license renewal. *

Please do not hesitate to call Henry Day at (623) 393-6567 if you have any questions or require any additional information. After your review, we would appreciate your input by January 31, 2008 detailing any concerns you may have about cultural resources in the area or confirming APS's conclusion that operation of PVNGS over the license renewal term would have no effect on any threatened or endangered species. This will enable us to meet our application preparation schedule. APS will include a copy of this letter and your response in the Environmental Report that will be submitted to the NRC as part of the PVNGS license renewal application.

Sincerely,



Edward Fox

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CONCUR

Ann V. Howard 10-29-07
 ARIZONA STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER
 ARIZONA STATE PARKS BOARD

**Contingent upon no new ground disturbing activities.*

EZF:bgs

Enclosures: (1) Figure 2-1
 (2) Figure 3-2

Reference:

DOI (U.S. Department of the Interior) 2006. National Register of Historic Places. Available online at <http://www.nr.nps.gov>. Accessed 12/8/2006.