In The Matter Of:

APPLICANT: Wilmot Energy Center II PROJECT: 40 MW

Docket No.TBA - LS Case No. TBA

Prefiling Conference
November 21, 2023
Brief Temporary Caption

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Min-U-Script® with Word Index

LS CASE NO. TBA PREFILING CONFERENCE 11/21/2023 Page 1 BEFORE THE ARIZONA POWER PLANT AND TRANSMISSION LINE SITING COMMITTEE 3 APPLICANT: WILMOT ENERGY CENTER II,) DOCKET NO. TBA LLC,	bove-entitled and be heard before the sion Line Siting on the 21st day of ants appearing via
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23 By: Robin L. B. Osterode, CSR, RPR	
24 Arizona CR No. 50695 24	
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LS CASE NO. TBA PREFILING CONFERENCE 11/21/2023 Page 2 03:03:31-03:04:39	Page 4
1 CHMN STAFFORD: Let's	go on the record.
2 NO. DESCRIPTION IDENTIFIED 2 Now's the time set for the prefiling co	
3 1 Project Map 6 3 Wilmot Energy Center II, LLC. I'll s	
4 2 Sign Locations 6 4 appearances.	
5 3 sign Notice 6 5 Mr. Crockett?	
5 Mr. Crockett?	fternoon Chairman
6 MR. CROCKETT: Good a	
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6 MR. CROCKETT: Good a 7 Stafford. Jeff Crockett, appearing on 8 applicant, Wilmot Energy Center II, 1	behalf of the LLC.
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03:04:58-03:06:06 03:07:55-03:08:53 Page 5 Page 7 1 We held a public open house for this 1 County, the City of Tucson, and the Arizona State Land 2 project in mid-October, which was subject to our usual 2 Department. 3 suite of advertising activities, including social media CHMN STAFFORD: Okay. And you prepared the 4 and direct mailings. We had about 15 or 20 people attend 4 notice to file with the Commission, because the 5 the open house, many of whom were residents who lived in Commission actually sends the certified mail out to them, 6 the immediate vicinity of the solar project. doesn't it? I personally spoke with many of the MR. CROCKETT: I think we both do it, 8 attendees, and my impression was that the attendees at actually, which is one of the areas of overlap in this 9 the open house were primarily concerned with the process. 10 placement of the panels and location of the solar **CHMN STAFFORD:** Well, I have high hopes 10 11 project, in general. And were perhaps less interested in 11 that the Commission will complete a rulemaking on the 12 the gen-tie overall. Although we did have information Line Siting rules and move us into the 21st Century. 13 about the gen-tie on display at the open house. So my Fingers crossed. 14 impression from that was low potential for property So the hearing is going to be where? Is it 14 15 owners to intervene in the project. 15 going to be in Tucson or is it going to be Nogales? 16 CHMN STAFFORD: So there weren't any MR. CROCKETT: No, it's going to be in 16 interested parties that would be -- that wanted to come 17 Tucson. This property is just southeast of Tucson, like to the prefiling conference or anything, correct? I said, part of it is within the Tucson city limits and 19 MR. HAZLE: That's correct. so the -- we've made arrangements at the -- I wrote a 20 MR. CROCKETT: Correct. 20 note here. 21 **CHMN STAFFORD:** All right. Now, you'll 21 Dean, where are we having our hearing? 22 provide a draft notice of hearing and e-mail Tod a Word MR. HAZLE: At the Tucson Reid Park 22 23 copy. And, oh, yes, you have some exhibits for the Doubletree, that hotel is right next to Reid Park in 24 prefiling conference; I see three of them. Tucson. And I believe that it's a venue that TEP 25 MR. CROCKETT: We do, Chairman Stafford. 25 frequently uses for their hearings, so perhaps some of

03:06:22-03:07:36 Page 6 03:09:05-03:10:12 Page 8

1 That's correct. Prefiling Exhibit 1 is a map of the 2 project. Prefiling 2 are the proposed locations of signs 3 along the gen-tie route. And Prefiling 3 is the proposed 4 notice that would be printed on those signs. (Exhibits 1 through 3 were marked and 5

6 identified.) 7 CHMN STAFFORD: All right. We'll mark

those as prefilings 1, 2 and 3, and admit those. 9 Robin, do you have a copy of those?

10 THE REPORTER: I do, yes.

CHMN STAFFORD: Now, for the publication of 11 12 the notice, is that going to be in -- which paper is that

going to be in? 13

MR. CROCKETT: It will be in the Arizona 14

15 Daily -- or that -- what is it, the Arizona Daily Star,

which is a newspaper of general circulation in the area

of this project. The project resides partially in Pima 17

County, partially within the city of Tucson.

19 **CHMN STAFFORD:** And does it cross some

20 State Trust Land as well?

MR. CROCKETT: The -- it -- yes, it 21

22 includes State Trust Land and the State Trust Land is

23 located within the city limits of the city of Tucson.

So, Chairman Stafford, probably one of your

25 next questions are affected jurisdictions are Pima

1 the committee members will be familiar with it.

CHMN STAFFORD: Well, we have one in Tucson

on the 4th and 5th, so -- I can't recall if it's the

4 Doubletree or not, but I'll be sure to notice that when I

5 show up.

MR. CROCKETT: And, Chairman Stafford,

since we're talking about the hotel, the hearing dates we

have are January 16th and 17th, assuming we're finished

in two days; we've got the 18th as well, in case we roll

into a third day; Monday the 15th is Martin Luther King

11 Day --

CHMN STAFFORD: Okay. 12

MR. CROCKETT: -- but we have rooms -- we 13

14 have a block of rooms reserved on Monday, so Committee

members could actually come and check in Monday evening

if they would like. Or, typically, I think they come

down the morning of, but they've got the option.

CHMN STAFFORD: Okay. And you've got a 18

19 block of rooms there for the out-of-town Committee

20 members?

MR. CROCKETT: Yes, we do. 21

CHMN STAFFORD: Now, I don't know if we're

going to want to do a tour of this, but it has --

24 typically we have the applicant prepare a plan that's

25 ready to go, and typically it will be on the Tuesday --

22

03:10:26-03:11:44 03:13:29-03:14:18 Page 9 Page 11 1 well, I guess in this case, it would be Wednesday morning 1 anticipate the hearing on the CUP to be? 2 if we decided to do a tour. We'll decide that before the MR. HAZLE: They're scheduled in January. 3 hearing concludes on Tuesday. So if you can know whether 3 I don't have the date at my fingertips right now. 4 to show up at the bus or not the following morning, just 4 **CHMN STAFFORD:** That's fine. 5 make sure you have plans submitted by the time of the 5 MR. HAZLE: Unless some of my colleagues 6 prehearing conference. 6 does. MR. CROCKETT: We will -- we will do that, 7 CHMN STAFFORD: That's fine. And we'll 8 and we will have van transportation on standby for the have the -- I'm sure the hotel has got adequate Wifi. Committee members. And then we'll have Peaks Audio doing the normal setup CHMN STAFFORD: And, Tod, what do we have 10 that they do? 11 for the date of the prehearing conference? MR. CROCKETT: Yes. Peaks Audio will be 11 12 MR. BREWER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We 12 doing the AV work, and they're already engaged. have this scheduled for January the 9th at 3:00. **CHMN STAFFORD:** So you'll have the tablets 13 **CHMN STAFFORD:** I'll prepare the procedural 14 with all the exhibits available for the members? 15 order. And then the draft CEC give me by -- or to Tod by MR. CROCKETT: Yes, we'll have tablets, and 15 16 the time of the prehearing conference. You know the then a couple of extra hard copies in the room. 16 CHMN STAFFORD: Yeah, one for me and then drill, reference the previous CECs. I think by this time 17 I think 222 is on the consent agenda next week, along one for the court reporter of the exhibits, and that 19 with 223. So those will be probably the newest ones to should do it. I'm assuming the filing fee for this was a 20 look at. thousand dollars, if it's a shorter line, correct? 21 We'll be doing public comment at 5:30 on 21 MR. CROCKETT: That's correct. 22 Tuesday. Do you expect a lot of turnout? Anybody from CHMN STAFFORD: As you know, the 22 the City going to come to make comment? Commission's obligated by statute to pay the cost of MR. CROCKETT: We -- we don't expect there reporting and transcribing any application hearing, as 24 25 to be a lot of turnout on this. You know, the -- the well as the actual and necessary expenses incurred by the 03:12:05-03:13:16 Page 10 03:14:32-03:15:32 1 starting portion of the gen-tie is located fairly close

Page 12

- 2 to some residential areas, and so you never know what
- 3 kind of turnout we'll get there. But, as Dean mentioned,
- 4 people were -- the folks that came out were more
- 5 interested in the solar project itself and not so much
- 6 the gen-tie line.
- **CHMN STAFFORD:** Right.
- Okay. And then what about permit statuses,
- **9** do you need a permit from the County or the City?
- MR. CROCKETT: Dean, do you want to give a 10 11 quick update on permits?
- 12 MR. HAZLE: Sure.
- The solar project will be in unincorporated 13
- 14 Pima County. And most of the solar project will be in a
- county designated renewable energy incentive district,
- which is sort of a, you know, predetermined location
- identified by Pima County as appropriate for solar. 17
- Anyways, the solar project is going through 18
- 19 a Conditional Use Permit review process. Next Era
- 20 submitted its CUP application in late August and plans to
- 21 have hearings in January for the CUP with Pima County.
- 22 So that will not be wrapped up by the time we have
- 23 hearings, but, you know, it's well underway, with
- 24 advanced coordination with the County already.
- 25 CHMN STAFFORD: When did you say you

- 1 Committee members in connection with their participation
- 2 in the Committee meetings from the filing fee. If the
- 3 costs of these exceed the amount of what the fee may be,
- with the applicant's consent incurred by the Committee to
- charge the applicant. Does the applicant consent to
- paying the Commission those costs in excess of the filing 7 fee?
- **MR. CROCKETT:** Yes, they do. 8
- 9 **CHMN STAFFORD:** Thank you.
- All right. And then the transcript 10
- 11 turnaround time will be three days.
- 12 Is there any other issues that you need to
- 13 discuss?
- MR. CROCKETT: Chairman Stafford, the only
- 15 thing I'll bring up is that we are awaiting a System
- Impact Study, which we don't expect to have by the time
- we get to the hearing. They applied for it some time
- ago. From what I understand, it's -- the Tucson Electric
- 19 Power is doing an update or a refresh of a System Impact
- 20 Study that goes back a ways.
- We're assuming that that issue has sort of 21
- 22 been resolved for the time being that moving forward with
- a System Impact Study is not going to be an obstacle or
- an impediment to finishing this CEC process.
 - CHMN STAFFORD: Yeah. I anticipate that as

25

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03:15:48-03:16:14
                                                                         Page 13
 1 well. We will know for certain by the --
                MR. CROCKETT: 29th.
 2
                CHMN STAFFORD: -- the 29th, or the next
 3
 4 day. It's on the consent agenda for the 29th, that's --
 5 so we'll know before the hearing starts, yeah.
                 MR. CROCKETT: Yeah, that one's my case,
    the Obed Meadow case, so I will be there.
                CHMN STAFFORD: I remember.
 8
 9
                MR. CROCKETT: It's on the consent agenda,
10 so that's good.
                CHMN STAFFORD: Yes. Yeah, that one and
11
12 the 223, they're both on there, so -- I think that bodes
    well. I think we'll know for certain. But by the time
14 we get to the hearing, the Commission will already have
    decided it, so I think we're in good shape there.
16
                 Anything else, Tod, that we need?
17
                MR. BREWER: No, Mr. Chairman, thank you.
                CHMN STAFFORD: Well, that's all I have.
18
    With that, let's go off the record.
20
                (The hearing concluded at 3:16 p.m.)
21
22
23
24
25
LS CASE NO. TBA PREFILING CONFERENCE 11/21/2023Page 14
      STATE OF ARIZONA
      COUNTY OF MARICOPA
 2
 3
     BE IT KNOWN that the foregoing proceedings were taken before me; that the foregoing pages are a full, true, and accurate record of the proceedings all done to the best of my skill and ability; that the proceedings were taken down by me in shorthand and thereafter reduced
 4
 5
 6
      to print under my direction.
 7
      I CERTIFY that I am in no way related to any of the parties hereto nor am I in any way interested in the
 8
      outcome hereof.
     I CERTIFY that I have complied with the ethical obligations set forth in ACJA 7-206(F)(3) and ACJA 7-206 (J)(1)(g)(1) and (2). Dated at Phoenix, Arizona, this 24th day of November, 2023.
 9
10
11
12
13
14
                                 ROBIN L. B. OSTERODE, RPR
CA CSR No. 7750
AZ CR No. 50695
15
16
17
      I CERTIFY that Glennie Reporting Services, LLC, has complied with the ethical obligations set forth in ACJA 7-206(J)(1)(g)(1) through (6).
18
19
20
21
22
23
                          GLENNIE REPORTING SERVICES, LLC
Registered Reporting Firm
Arizona RRF No. R1035
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