

In The Matter Of:

Wilmot Energy Center II - LSC 228
Docket No. L-21282A-23-0326-00228

Prehearing Conference
January 9, 2024

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1 BEFORE THE ARIZONA POWER PLANT LS-335
2 AND TRANSMISSION LINE SITING COMMITTEE
3 IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION DOCKET NO.
4 OF WILMOT ENERGY CENTER II, LLC,) L-21282A-23-0326-
5 IN CONFORMANCE WITH THE) 00228
6 REQUIREMENTS OF ARIZONA REVISED)
7 STATUTES SECTION 40-360, ET SEQ,)
8 FOR A CERTIFICATE OF)
9 ENVIRONMENTAL COMPATIBILITY)
10 AUTHORIZING CONSTRUCTION OF THE)
11 WILMOT ENERGY CENTER II)
12 INTERCONNECTION PROJECT)
13 CONNECTING THE PLANNED WILMOT)
14 ENERGY CENTER II SOLAR ENERGY)
15 GENERATING STATION AND BATTERY)
16 ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEM TO THE)
17 REGIONAL ELECTRIC GRID THROUGH)
18 THE EXISTING TUCSON ELECTRIC)
19 POWER, 138 KV CISNE SWITCHYARD,) PREHEARING
20 ALL LOCATED WITHIN THE CITY OF) CONFERENCE
21 TUCSON AND PIMA COUNTY, ARIZONA)
22
23 At: Phoenix, Arizona
24 Date: January 9, 2024
25 Filed: January 12, 2024

26 REPORTER'S TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS
27 (Pages 1 through 11)

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33 By: Robin L. B. Osterode, CSR, RPR
34 Arizona CR No. 50695
35

1 CHMN STAFFORD: Let's go on the record.
2 Now is the time set for the prehearing conference for
3 docket number L-21282A-23-0326-00228. Or Line Siting
4 Case 228.
5 Let's start by taking appearances.
6 Mr. Crockett.
7 MR. CROCKETT: Good afternoon, Chairman
8 Stafford.
9 Jeff Crockett, appearing on behalf of the
10 applicant, Wilmot Energy Center II, LLC, and I'll just
11 introduce our team. We've got Stephanie Rush, who is the
12 project lead; Anna Galanis is in-house counsel with Next
13 Era Energy Resources, and then Dean Hazle is outside
14 consultant, SWCA.
15 CHMN STAFFORD: Thank you.
16 All right. So you've got the lodging
17 arranged for the Committee members for the hearing in
18 Tucson?
19 MR. CROCKETT: Yes. And I'll let -- Dean
20 has been in charge of that. I'll let him speak to that.
21 MR. HAZLE: We sent a reservation link and
22 a direct contact at the Reid Park Doubletree to
23 Mr. Brewer. And as far as I know, that was disseminated
24 to the Committee members. So if any Committee members
25 are having difficulties with rooms, please let me know

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03:03:36-03:04:30

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1 BE IT REMEMBERED that the above-entitled and
2 numbered matter came on regularly to be heard before the
3 Arizona Corporation Commission, 1200 West Washington
4 Street, Phoenix, Arizona, commencing at 3:00 p.m. on
5 January 9, 2024. All parties attended via
6 videoconference.
7
8 BEFORE: ADAM STAFFORD, Chairman
9
10 APPEARANCES:
11 For the Applicant:
12 CROCKETT LAW GROUP
13 By: Jeffrey Crockett
14 2198 East Camelback Road, Suite 305
15 Phoenix, Arizona 85016
16 Also Present:
17 Anna Galanis, Next Era Energy
18 Dean Hazle, SWCA
19 Stephanie Rush, Next Era Energy
20 Alex Simons, Next Era Energy
21 Tod Brewer, Assistant to Chairman Stafford
22
23
24
25

1 and I will help problem-solve.
2 CHMN STAFFORD: Excellent.
3 All right. I haven't seen any requests to
4 intervene.
5 MR. CROCKETT: Yeah, there have not been
6 any.
7 CHMN STAFFORD: Okay. All right.
8 Nor any limited appearances. Would you
9 agree that May 29, 2024, is the time limit for the
10 Committee to act under the statute?
11 MR. CROCKETT: Yes.
12 CHMN STAFFORD: Now, you've got -- I've
13 seen your -- you filed the witness summaries, the
14 proposed CEC, the public outreach, and a route tour map
15 itinerary?
16 MR. CROCKETT: Yes.
17 And, Chairman Stafford, as you might
18 suspect, we do have the virtual tour that's -- that we'll
19 be prepared to present, and so I'm not sure there will be
20 a need for a tour, of an in-person tour, after seeing the
21 virtual tour. But we're ready to proceed. We've got
22 transportation arranged if the Committee votes to go on a
23 tour.
24 CHMN STAFFORD: All right. That may -- I
25 mean, I looked at the itinerary, it's like a two-hour

<p>03:04:45-03:05:32 Page 5</p> <p>1 round trip. It's not terribly long. It's a little 2 longer than the last tour we went on. We'll have a new 3 member this time. The governor's Energy Office has 4 appointed Nicole Hill. Also, we'll have the full 5 complement of 11 Committee members. 6 MR. CROCKETT: Wow. I've not -- I don't 7 know when the last time the governor had an appointee on 8 the Committee. 9 CHMN STAFFORD: Yeah, I think it's been 10 since 2015, because I think Ducey -- Governor Ducey 11 eliminated the Energy Office. 12 MR. CROCKETT: Hm. 13 CHMN STAFFORD: So it's been restored, it's 14 the Office of Resiliency, and it's got an Energy 15 Department, and so they have a designee on the Committee 16 now. So there may be -- there may be some interest in a 17 tour. We shall see what the Committee wants. 18 And you've complied with the notice to the 19 affected jurisdictions, which are County of -- City of 20 Tucson, Pima County, and the State Land Department? 21 MR. HAZLE: Yes. 22 CHMN STAFFORD: And you've got the -- I see 23 your filing you've complied with the posting and 24 publishing requirements? 25 MR. CROCKETT: Yes.</p>	<p>03:07:05-03:08:05 Page 7</p> <p>1 MR. CROCKETT: Yes. 2 CHMN STAFFORD: Just make sure you have a 3 box that checks "Do you wish to speak or not," because 4 sometimes people will fill out the form, because they're 5 attending, but they don't actually intend to speak. 6 MR. CROCKETT: We'll make sure we have that 7 box. 8 CHMN STAFFORD: And then we've got the 9 witness summaries, exhibits will be numbered WEM-1, 2, 3. 10 MR. CROCKETT: Yeah, Chairman, I noticed 11 "WEM," I'm not sure if that's a typo, because it's Wilmot 12 Energy Center, so should it be WEC? 13 CHMN STAFFORD: Yeah, let's make it WEC. 14 I'll make a note. 15 MR. CROCKETT: Okay. That's what we're 16 planning. 17 CHMN STAFFORD: Okay. And approximately 18 how many exhibits do you anticipate introducing? 19 MR. CROCKETT: Dean, how many do we have? 20 MR. HAZLE: Nine. Nine exhibits on the 21 draft list right now. 22 CHMN STAFFORD: Okay. There's no legal 23 issues that we need to resolve today? 24 MR. CROCKETT: Not that I'm aware of, no. 25 CHMN STAFFORD: All right. And you've made</p>
<p>03:05:47-03:06:53 Page 6</p> <p>1 CHMN STAFFORD: All right. Any objections 2 or suggested changes to the agenda? 3 MR. CROCKETT: No. None. 4 CHMN STAFFORD: All right. So we're all 5 set to have the hearing start at 1:00 on Tuesday, 6 the 16th. I think it's noticed through the 17th, but I 7 assume we'll probably wrap up on the 17th. 8 MR. CROCKETT: That's our assumption as 9 well. It's a relatively straightforward application. 10 CHMN STAFFORD: Yeah. 11 And so we'll do the public comment on 12 Monday evening -- if we do the tour, it will be that 13 Tuesday -- on Tuesday evening -- I'm used to saying 14 Monday, because we usually start on Mondays, but it's a 15 holiday, so we're starting on Tuesday. 16 So if we do do a tour, it will be that 17 Wednesday morning, and even with that I still anticipate 18 finishing on Wednesday without any problem. You've got 19 the ballroom or conference room booked already with, let 20 me guess, Peaks Audio will be handling all our 21 audiovisual needs, right? 22 MR. CROCKETT: Yes. We have contracted 23 with Peaks and they will be ready. 24 CHMN STAFFORD: Okay. And you'll have the 25 sign-in forms for public comment?</p>	<p>03:08:14-03:09:11 Page 8</p> <p>1 the financial arrangements with the Commission, correct? 2 MR. CROCKETT: Yes. 3 CHMN STAFFORD: All right. Now, I haven't 4 seen Staff -- they haven't filed a response to my letter 5 yet. 6 MR. CROCKETT: They have not, no. We 7 did -- we did provide a response to a data request maybe 8 10 days ago. 9 CHMN STAFFORD: Okay. And they had their 10 open meeting today, so it will probably get filed later 11 this week? 12 MR. CROCKETT: Yeah. 13 CHMN STAFFORD: You've got your proposed 14 CEC. I think we talked about this at the prior, like, 15 the prefiling conference, about the permit status? 16 MR. CROCKETT: Yeah, we've got -- we 17 need -- we need to work out an agreement with the Arizona 18 State Land Department, and then the solar project itself, 19 which is nonjurisdictional, needs a Conditional Use 20 Permit. 21 CHMN STAFFORD: Right. From the County or 22 the City? The County, right? 23 MR. CROCKETT: That is from the County. 24 CHMN STAFFORD: Okay. And that's also 25 pending?</p>

03:09:23-03:10:09

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1 **MR. CROCKETT:** Yes.
2 **CHMN STAFFORD:** As I recall, you said you
3 submitted it in August, and the hearing on it is going to
4 be this month?
5 **MR. HAZLE:** The hearing date is to be
6 determined. They're -- we're working through a few
7 issues with County staff before scheduling the hearing
8 date.
9 **CHMN STAFFORD:** Okay. And there's no need
10 to process serve for this matter at all, correct?
11 **MR. CROCKETT:** No, there is not.
12 **CHMN STAFFORD:** Okay. And then for the
13 Committee members, you'll have the typical -- the iPad or
14 tablet with all the exhibits available for them and
15 everything?
16 **MR. CROCKETT:** Yes. We'll use what Peaks
17 Audio usually has available.
18 **CHMN STAFFORD:** Okay. And you'll bring two
19 hard copies of the exhibits, one for me and one for the
20 court reporter?
21 **MR. CROCKETT:** Yes.
22 **CHMN STAFFORD:** Okay.
23 All right. Are there any other issues that
24 we need to cover?
25 **MR. CROCKETT:** None that I am aware of.

03:10:20-03:10:40

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1 **CHMN STAFFORD:** Tod, anything else?
2 **MR. BREWER:** No, Mr. Chairman, that's it.
3 Thank you.
4 **CHMN STAFFORD:** Okay. All right.
5 Well, I think we're all ready to go.
6 Anything -- anything else? Anything at all?
7 **MR. CROCKETT:** Anything from my team?
8 (No audible response.)
9 **MR. CROCKETT:** I'm not seeing anything. I
10 think that's it.
11 Thank you, Chairman Stafford.
12 **CHMN STAFFORD:** Thank you very much. I
13 will see you all on the 16th.
14 **MR. CROCKETT:** All right.
15 **CHMN STAFFORD:** Have a good day. Thanks.
16 We can go off the record.
17 (The hearing concluded at 3:10 p.m.)
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1 STATE OF ARIZONA)
2 COUNTY OF MARICOPA)
3
4 BE IT KNOWN that the foregoing proceedings were
5 taken before me; that the foregoing pages are a full,
6 true, and accurate record of the proceedings all done to
7 the best of my skill and ability; that the proceedings
8 were taken down by me in shorthand and thereafter reduced
9 to print under my direction.
10 I CERTIFY that I am in no way related to any of
11 the parties hereto nor am I in any way interested in the
12 outcome hereof.
13 I CERTIFY that I have complied with the ethical
14 obligations set forth in ACJA 7-206(F)(3) and ACJA 7-206
15 (J)(1)(g)(1) and (2). Dated at Phoenix, Arizona, this
16 10th day of January, 2024.
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

ROBIN L. B. OSTERODE, RPR
CA CSR No. 7750
AZ CR No. 50695

* * * * *

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).

GLENNIE REPORTING SERVICES, LLC
Registered Reporting Firm
Arizona RRF No. R1035

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