

1 BEFORE THE ARIZONA POWER PLANT LS-251

2 AND TRANSMISSION LINE SITING COMMITTEE

3

4 IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION)DOCKET NO.
5 OF WEST CAMP WIND FARM II, LLC, IN)L-21204A-25-0207-00251
6 CONFORMANCE WITH THE REQUIREMENTS)LS CASE NO. 251
7 OF ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES §)
8 40-360, ET SEQ., FOR A CERTIFICATE)
9 OF ENVIRONMENTAL COMPATABILITY)
10 AUTHORIZING THE WEST CAMP 2 WIND)
11 FARM GEN-TIE PROJECT, WHICH)
12 INCLUDES THE CONSTRUCTION OF A 345)
13 KILOVOLT(KV) OR 500 KV)
14 TRANSMISSION LINE AND ASSOCIATED)
15 INTERCONNECTION FACILITIES LOCATED)
16 WITHIN NAVAJO COUNTY, ARIZONA.)
17 _____)

18

19 At: Phoenix, Arizona

20 Date: September 3, 2025

21 Filed: September 23, 2025

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23 REPORTER'S TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

24 (Pages 1 through 21)

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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 Power Plant and Transmission Line Siting
4 Committee, commencing at 11:03 a.m. on September 3, 2025,
5 with all participants appearing via videoconference.

6

7 BEFORE: Adam Stafford, Chairman

8

9 APPEARANCES:

10 For the Applicant:

11 Albert H. Acken
12 ACKEN LAW
13 111 East Dunlap Avenue
14 Suite 1-172
15 Phoenix, Arizona 85020

16

17 ALSO PRESENT:

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19 Jordan Ramljak, AES, Development Manager, Wind Team
20 Colin Agner, SWCA Environmental Consultants,
21 Lead Project Manager
22 Tod Brewer, Assistant to Chairman Stafford

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1 CHMN STAFFORD: Let's go on the record.

2 Now is the time set for the prefiling
3 conference for the West Camp 2 project.

4 Let's start with appearances, Mr. Acken.

5 MR. ACKEN: Good morning, Chairman. Bert
6 Acken of Acken Law on behalf of the applicant West Camp
7 Wind Farm II, LLC. The project is West Camp 2 gen-tie
8 project.

9 Jennifer, for your purposes, the applicant
10 is the Roman numeral II, and the project itself is the
11 Arabic numeral 2.

12 And then I'd like Jordan and then Colin to
13 introduce themselves for the record.

14 MS. RAMLJAK: My name is Jordan Ramljak. I
15 work for AES as a development manager for the wind team.
16 Nice to meet you all.

17 MR. AGNER: And then good afternoon,
18 everyone. Colin Agner with SWCA Environmental
19 Consultants, Lead Project Manager. And we are assisting
20 the applicant on this case.

21 CHMN STAFFORD: Thank you. All right. And
22 you have -- let's see, we have three exhibits for this,
23 Mr. Acken?

24 MR. ACKEN: Yes. I provided three
25 documents.

1 One is the proposed notice of hearing.

2 One is a map, project area map, in color
3 showing the requested corridor, requested siting area for
4 an on-site switchyard, and the overall context of the
5 area including jurisdiction. Also on that map is the two
6 proposed sign locations.

7 The second map is a black-and-white map
8 that we propose to be Exhibit A to the notice of hearing.

9 CHMN STAFFORD: All right. Those are
10 admitted.

11 (Exhibits 1 through 3 were admitted.)

12 CHMN STAFFORD: All right. So do you
13 anticipate any intervenors in this case?

14 MR. ACKEN: At this time, we do not. There
15 has been one -- well, one series of public meetings in
16 the last week for both the wind farm itself as well as
17 this. And based on that meeting and everything we have
18 seen to date, we do not anticipate full-blown
19 intervention at this time.

20 CHMN STAFFORD: Okay. But you had a fair
21 amount of public interact with you on the project?

22 MR. ACKEN: I'm going to ask Jordan to
23 speak with it. I know -- and the first time we did West
24 Camp, that was Case 206, and for reference just to put
25 this one in context, it's just to the east of West Camp.

1 West Camp had some concerns from local
2 residents that were located primarily southwest of West
3 Camp, and they were concerned primarily with the wind
4 turbines, as you would expect. So those residents are
5 even further away from this project.

6 But, Jordan, if you could speak to public
7 sentiment and public comment you might have received at
8 the open house, that would be great.

9 MS. RAMLJAK: Yeah. At the open house
10 itself, we met just under 10 members of the public. Most
11 of them were residents that either live or own property
12 south of the wind farm project area. Those residents are
13 at least three miles from the CEC corridor, so they --
14 when they came to speak with us, they were much more
15 concerned about the wind project infrastructure and not
16 the gen-tie project specific infrastructure.

17 But outside of the public meetings, we've
18 received very limited comments from the public. A few
19 calls looking for more information. A few property
20 owners interested in participating in the project. But
21 beyond that, nothing that would suggest intervenors at
22 the hearing.

23 CHMN STAFFORD: All right. Thank you. All
24 right. We've got the draft notice of hearing. They've
25 sent it to us in Word.

1 Now, for the notice, what publication will
2 you be using?

3 MR. ACKEN: So we're going to publish twice
4 in the Arizona Republic just to make sure that we can get
5 it done within the statutory time frames.

6 We will also have supplementary notice in a
7 local weekly paper that shares the Holbrook area, but we
8 couldn't -- I didn't feel comfortable relying on it for
9 our official notice.

10 So our official newspaper publication will
11 be the Republic with it supplemented in a local
12 newspaper.

13 CHMN STAFFORD: All right. And then so you
14 have in exhibits, is it -- how did you name them?
15 Because I'm looking at the e-mail and 1 was the map of
16 the sign locations, 2 was notice of hearing, and 3 was
17 the black-and-white map, Exhibit A to the notice of
18 hearing.

19 Did you designate them differently when you
20 introduced them?

21 MR. ACKEN: I did not. I'm fine just using
22 that order if that's easy. And so if we refer to the
23 notice of hearing proposal as Prefiling Exhibit 2.

24 CHMN STAFFORD: All right. So then you got
25 two sign locations, look like they're both off of

1 the 377?

2 MR. ACKEN: Yes. So this is really rural
3 area, right? This is northeast Arizona, ranch land, very
4 little official public access. So we proposed to put two
5 signs along the right-of-way of State Route 377 which is
6 the only designated public access crossing of our entire
7 corridor.

8 It's further complicated by two things.
9 You know, one, we need to stay outside of the ADOT
10 100-foot right-of-way in order to make sure we can get
11 signs posted in time. But I don't think that's a big
12 issue. We propose to do that.

13 The other issue I think you should be aware
14 of on 377 -- and, Jordan, please correct or supplement,
15 but my understanding is that road's under construction,
16 so there's very limited public access to it during
17 weekday hours. But that's the best we can do as far as
18 public access for sign posting.

19 MS. RAMLJAK: Are you looking for
20 additional information on the road closure? Because I
21 can provide some of that if it's helpful.

22 MR. ACKEN: Yeah, please do.

23 MS. RAMLJAK: Yeah. There's pavement
24 rehabilitation work going on right now. So 377 is open
25 to local traffic, but my understanding is roads will be

1 closed in either direction so it's one lane of traffic at
2 a time. So there is still some traffic on 377, but while
3 that road work is ongoing -- it started at the beginning
4 of August and is expected to continue and complete during
5 the fall. But during that time, there may be more
6 limited traffic on 377 but there is still some local
7 traffic on that road. But as Bert said, that's the only
8 public access through the CEC corridor.

9 CHMN STAFFORD: Okay.

10 MR. ACKEN: Thank you.

11 CHMN STAFFORD: So for -- you mentioned the
12 residents that were more involved in the West Camp 1
13 project that was CEC 206. They're further to the west of
14 this project? Or to the east, excuse me.

15 MR. ACKEN: Right -- to the west. Many,
16 many miles to the west.

17 To provide some context of the area, the
18 applicant's team sent out mailers for the public open
19 house last week, and it was less than 90, I think,
20 residents within one mile of the wind project boundary,
21 which is a much larger area than the corridor. So very
22 sparsely populated, very few landowners outside the
23 landowner with whom the applicant is working.

24 CHMN STAFFORD: Right. Okay. And then so
25 that brings us to the next question. What are the areas

1 of affected jurisdiction?

2 MR. ACKEN: Navajo County and state land.

3 THE COURT REPORTER: I'm sorry, what
4 county?

5 MR. ACKEN: Navajo.

6 THE COURT REPORTER: Thank you.

7 CHMN STAFFORD: And then for the hearing,
8 looks like we're planning on holding it in Flagstaff;
9 correct?

10 MR. ACKEN: That's correct. Every time I'm
11 hopeful that maybe a good venue will appear in the
12 Holbrook area, but it's just we haven't been able to find
13 space for this hearing or any others that I'm aware of
14 that would be available for the time periods we would
15 need it. And so that's why we're proposing the Drury.
16 It is -- we have reserved space at the Drury for lodging
17 as well as the adjacent High Country Conference Center
18 for the conference itself.

19 CHMN STAFFORD: Drury Inn would be the --
20 where the lodging would be for out-of-town members? Is
21 that the one that's across the street from it?

22 MR. ACKEN: It's next door. You cross the
23 parking lot. It's right there.

24 CHMN STAFFORD: Okay. I seem to recall
25 doing a couple hearings there in the past.

1 MR. ACKEN: I have done at least two
2 myself, including West Camp, the adjacent project. And
3 another one for this applicant's parent Chevelon. And I
4 believe other applicants who have interconnected at
5 Cholla have also typically done hearings in Flagstaff.

6 I had another one for another applicant,
7 Hashknife was also at that location.

8 CHMN STAFFORD: I think I remember the one.

9 All right. So looks like we're scheduled
10 from the 27th through the 29th.

11 MR. ACKEN: Yes. In the absence of
12 significant opposition, we thought three days was more
13 than sufficient for this. That provides time to even do
14 an all-day tour, which would it be an all-day tour given
15 the distance, if the committee wanted to do that and
16 still get this project -- the hearing done in three days.

17 CHMN STAFFORD: Okay. All right. So I
18 guess let's have you submit a plan for the tour at the
19 prehearing conference. I'm sure we'll do the virtual
20 tour, and at that point the committee will make the call
21 whether they want to actually do an actual tour. It
22 looks like the tour would be pretty -- what's the
23 distance from the hotel -- well, from the venue to where
24 the project would be?

25 MR. ACKEN: It's about two hours driving

1 each way, you know, give or take maybe a little less on
2 the east side, a little further on the west side. And
3 you've got to take private access roads to get in there.
4 It's doable, but it's time consuming. I think -- I think
5 Jordan put together a plan already, and it would take
6 pretty much all day.

7 CHMN STAFFORD: All right.

8 MR. ACKEN: The two -- just for reference,
9 the two other projects that I referenced, Chevelon we did
10 do a tour. That was the first one, and it was much
11 closer to Winslow so it wasn't -- the drive distance was
12 not nearly as far. Plus, that project had facilities on
13 either side of the publicly accessible roads so it lended
14 itself well to it.

15 For West Camp, I don't think we did for the
16 same reason that I'm suggesting. It's tough, period.
17 It's far. It's remote. Just not easy to see much.

18 CHMN STAFFORD: All right. The only place
19 where the public really could see it would be on that 377
20 where you're putting the signs, and that's going to be
21 under construction, so.

22 MR. ACKEN: Yes. For yet another added
23 complication here.

24 CHMN STAFFORD: Well, let's just be
25 prepared. To me, it seems a tour wouldn't be very

1 productive given the remoteness and the amount of time it
2 would take up, so. But be prepared. We'll take a look
3 at the virtual tour first and then make a decision. I'm
4 leaning towards not.

5 MR. ACKEN: Thank you. Appreciate that.
6 We will be prepared. And as you would expect, SWCA is
7 going to put together a great virtual tour for the
8 committee's consideration as well.

9 CHMN STAFFORD: Now, what's -- Tod, what do
10 we have for the prehearing conference date?

11 MR. BREWER: We have this scheduled for
12 October 17 at two o'clock, Mr. Chairman.

13 CHMN STAFFORD: Okay. Now, there's no
14 other litigations or disputes on this project, are there?

15 MR. ACKEN: That's correct.

16 CHMN STAFFORD: And the West Camp 1, that
17 one's operational; right?

18 MR. ACKEN: Not yet. Big portions of it
19 are constructed. We just filed a compliance filing that
20 was due yesterday and can provide a little update. My
21 understanding and -- again, Jordan correct me -- is most
22 construction including for the gen-tie as well as wind
23 turbines will be done this year with operations
24 anticipated. So if the committee wanted to see it, they
25 would see West Camp 1 well under construction and close

1 to operation.

2 MS. RAMLJAK: And that's correct, Bert, on
3 the status.

4 CHMN STAFFORD: All right. And what date
5 do you plan on filing the application?

6 MR. ACKEN: We're targeting September 15,
7 that Monday. I like to file on a Monday just to give us
8 time for publication so we don't lose two days over the
9 weekend. So that's our targeted date.

10 CHMN STAFFORD: Okay. All right. Then,
11 we'll do the procedural order.

12 And so you'll have a draft CEC by the time
13 of the prehearing conference.

14 And I took your suggestion, Mr. Acken. I
15 see you did it again in this one too, to take out the
16 specific COVID reference with the notices of hearings.

17 MR. ACKEN: Thank you.

18 CHMN STAFFORD: Since I haven't invoked
19 that in several years now, it seems unnecessary to keep
20 that in there.

21 MR. ACKEN: Speaking of Hashknife, that was
22 the first one, I think. That's where it all originated,
23 Hashknife hearing at the High Country Conference Center
24 where we had the largest conference room in the entire
25 place.

1 CHMN STAFFORD: And then so we'll do public
2 comment that first day at 5:30.

3 Are there any public officials that are
4 going to come make public comments?

5 MR. ACKEN: I'm not aware of that at this
6 time.

7 Jordan, if you know somebody wants to, a
8 public official, let us know.

9 But this project will be going through
10 concurrently the county approval process, so I'd be
11 surprised if they come and speak at our hearing since
12 they'll have their own process going concurrently.

13 But, Jordan, please speak up if my
14 understanding is incorrect.

15 MS. RAMLJAK: No, I agree with what you
16 said there, Bert.

17 CHMN STAFFORD: That's kind of a nice segue
18 to the next question I ask about the permit status. So
19 does the county -- what specific are you getting from the
20 county? Is it for the gen-tie or for the wind project?

21 MR. ACKEN: For the wind project. As far
22 as the specifics, there's a couple options that we're --
23 the applicant's considering. And so we'll be in a
24 position to better speak to selection of options by the
25 time of the hearing.

1 It used to be you had to go through
2 entitlement process. They now have another option that
3 the applicant is considering as well.

4 CHMN STAFFORD: That's going on
5 concurrently with the CEC process for the county?

6 MR. ACKEN: That's correct. The
7 application hasn't been filed. Preapplication meetings
8 have occurred. Public meeting last week was for both
9 processes.

10 CHMN STAFFORD: Okay. But the gen-tie is a
11 permitted use for the county; correct?

12 MR. ACKEN: Correct.

13 CHMN STAFFORD: All right. And then ASLD,
14 are you doing a lease for portions of the wind project
15 and then rights-of-way for the transmission line?

16 MR. ACKEN: Right-of-way for the
17 transmission line. Preapplication materials have been --
18 were submitted in July. You know, access rights and that
19 kind of thing, anticipating approvals towards the end of
20 this year.

21 CHMN STAFFORD: Okay. It looks like the
22 map that the wind project footprint contains a mixture of
23 private, state, and BLM land. Does that mean that you
24 can have turbines in all those different types of land or
25 not?

1 MR. ACKEN: I'll let Jordan speak to
2 turbine locations.

3 I will -- while she's collecting her
4 thoughts, I will say our corridor does not cross BLM
5 lands -- well, it's near, adjacent to BLM lands, but we
6 are not requesting siting authority over BLM lands.

7 MS. RAMLJAK: Yeah, for both wind project
8 infrastructure and gen-tie project infrastructure, we
9 don't intend to site anything on BLM land.

10 Specific to the gen-tie project, there is
11 one state land section that we will need to site
12 infrastructure on.

13 But for the wind project, there may be
14 either access roads and collection lines sited on state
15 land. We're also discussing the possibility of siting
16 turbines on state land with the state land department,
17 but we have not conclusively determined if turbines would
18 be sited on state land.

19 CHMN STAFFORD: Okay. You're steering
20 clear of the BLM land for all aspects of the project?

21 MS. RAMLJAK: That is accurate, yes.

22 CHMN STAFFORD: Okay. So that means
23 there's no federal permitting involved at all for this
24 project; correct?

25 MS. RAMLJAK: That's correct. Beyond

1 coordination with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Services,
2 there's no federal permitting nexus.

3 CHMN STAFFORD: All right. So I guess --
4 so for the hearing itself, I'm sure you'll be using Peaks
5 Audio since this is their home turf in Flagstaff. It'll
6 make it easier for them.

7 MR. ACKEN: That's correct.

8 CHMN STAFFORD: With the iPads for the
9 exhibits for the members?

10 MR. ACKEN: Yes.

11 CHMN STAFFORD: Okay. All right. And the
12 filing fee for this project is \$1,000; right?

13 MR. ACKEN: That's correct. I have to
14 respond to an e-mail from ACC -- I think it came in
15 yesterday -- about coordination on that filing fee, but
16 that's in progress. I need to send a follow-up e-mail
17 after this, but we will take care of that.

18 CHMN STAFFORD: Okay. And the Commission
19 is obligated by statute to pay the cost of reporting and
20 transcribing any application hearing as well as the
21 actual and necessary expenses incurred by the committee
22 members in connection with their participation in
23 committee meetings from that filing fee. Costs and fees
24 exceeding that amount may, with the applicant's consent,
25 be incurred by the committee and charged to the

1 applicant. Does the applicant consent to pay the
2 Commission those costs in excess of the filing fee?

3 MR. ACKEN: Yes, it does.

4 CHMN STAFFORD: All right. Thank you. All
5 right. So for the transcripts, will be the three-day
6 turnaround from the end of the hearing.

7 Is there anything else that we need to
8 cover, Mr. Acken?

9 MR. ACKEN: Just looking at my list. No,
10 that's everything I think I wanted to cover.

11 Jordan or Colin, did I miss anything?

12 MS. RAMLJAK: You have everything from my
13 list, so I'm all set. Thanks.

14 MR. AGNER: I'm set as well. Thanks.

15 CHMN STAFFORD: Okay. One more thing. So
16 you'll have the application and the information available
17 to the public at -- in addition to the project website --
18 at the Holbrook Public Library?

19 MR. ACKEN: Yes, that's correct.

20 CHMN STAFFORD: All right. I think that's
21 everything I have.

22 Tod, do you need anything else?

23 MR. BREWER: No, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

24 CHMN STAFFORD: Jennifer?

25 THE COURT REPORTER: No, thank you.

1 CHMN STAFFORD: All right. Thank you very
2 much. With that, we are adjourned, and we'll see you at
3 the prehearing conference.

4 (Proceedings concluded at 11:24 a.m.)

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1 STATE OF ARIZONA)
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2 COUNTY OF MARICOPA)

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15 Dated at Phoenix, Arizona, September 19, 2025.

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JENNIFER HONN, RPR
Arizona Certified Reporter
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