

**EXHIBIT B**

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## **EXHIBIT B: ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT**

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*Attach any environmental studies which applicant has made or obtained in connection with the proposed site(s) or route(s). If an environmental report has been prepared for any federal agency or if a federal agency has prepared an environmental statement pursuant to Section 102 of the National Environmental Policy Act, a copy shall be included as a part of this exhibit.*

### **B.1 Introduction**

Environmental studies were conducted for the Project in 2018, and included biological resources, cultural resources, land use, and visual resources. The environmental planning process is described below. The biological, visual, cultural resource and land use studies are discussed in detail in Exhibits C, D, E, and H.

### **B.2 Environmental Planning Process**

#### **B.2.1 Overview**

The Project began with an evaluation by TEP of engineering and system requirements, which identified the need for a new 138 kV transmission line between the planned Cisne Switchyard at the Wilmot Energy Center (WEC) and the planned Sonoran Substation. A study area was identified that would allow development of a range of feasible routes between the planned Cisne Switchyard and the planned Sonoran Substation.

Throughout the planning process, a public involvement program was implemented to disseminate information, determine the acceptability of the alternative routes, and receive feedback. Public participation tools to achieve these objectives included meetings with stakeholders, open house meetings with the public, newsletters, a website, Social Pinpoint web-application, and a telephone information line.

#### **B.2.2 Regional Study/Alternatives Identification**

The Project study area is located southeast of the Tucson International Airport (TIA), on land owned by the TAA in portions of Sections 2, 10, 11, and 15, Township 16 South, Range 14 East, G&SRB&M, as indicated on the Tucson SW, Arizona, 7.5-minute USGS topographic quadrangle. The study area is indicated on Exhibit A-3.

The study area includes land under the jurisdiction of the COT and Pima County. Major features in and near the study area include TIA (2 miles to the north west), Arizona Department of Corrections (adjacent to the study area to the east), Tucson Police Department Academy (1.0 mile to the east), and residential neighborhoods to the south and west. Existing 13.8 kV distribution lines are located on the east side of South Swan Road south to East Mouse Trail and the south side of East Old Vail Connection Road.

#### **Stakeholder and Public Scoping**

TEP received input and data from stakeholders and the public. Public comments were received throughout the process and included two neighborhood meetings and two newsletter mailings. Public comments are summarized and contained in Exhibit J. All input received from stakeholders and the public was used throughout the siting process to help TEP develop the alternative routes.

The alternatives, shown in Exhibit A-3 of the application, were selected based on TEP's objective of linking together the planned Cisne Switchyard to TEP's existing system, while considering landowners plans for future development, environmental concerns, future regional land use plans, and public opinion. The alternatives are distinguished by Northern and Southern and numbers 1 and 2, and can be combined to form four possible combinations.

Northern 2 Alternative (Preferred)

The Northern 2 Alternative is preferred for the northern portion of the Project. It is approximately 1.42 miles in length. This route originates at the existing 138 kV lines on East Old Vail Connection Road and South Swan Road, and continues east on the south side of East Old Vail Connection Road for 0.67 miles, then turns south for 0.65 miles to the planned Sonoran Substation. This alternative also includes rebuilding 0.67 miles of existing transmission lines on the south side of East Old Vail Connection Road. The Northern 2 Alternative is located partially in COT road right-of-way where it crosses South Swan Road and on private land owned by the Tucson Airport Authority (TAA). TAA has indicated that this is its preferred alternative for the northern portion of the Project.

Southern 1 Alternative (Preferred)

The Southern 1 Alternative is preferred for the southern portion of the Project. It is approximately 1.86 miles in length. This route exits the planned Sonoran Substation on the west side, then continues south within the east right-of-way along South Swan Road to the north section line of Section 11. At this point it crosses diagonally southwest over South Swan Road to continue south, partially within the west right-of-way of South Swan Road and partially on private land owned by South Wilmot for approximately 1.3 miles. It then turns east to connect with the planned Cisne Switchyard. The Southern 1 Alternative is located partially in Pima County road right-of-way along the east and west sides of South Swan Road and on private land owned by TAA, South Wilmot Land Investors, LLC (South Wilmot), and Wilmot Energy Center, LLC (WEC LLC). The Southern 1 alternative is preferred by South Wilmot and WEC LLC.

Northern 1 Alternative

The Northern 1 Alternative is an option for the northern portion of the Project. It is approximately 1.07 miles in length. This route originates at the existing 138 kV lines on East Old Vail Connection Road and South Swan Road, and continues south on the east side of South Swan Road for 0.73 miles and then turns east for 1,100 feet to the planned Sonoran Substation. The Northern 1 Alternative is located partially in COT road right-of-way along South Swan Road and on private land owned by TAA.

Southern 2 Alternative

The Southern 2 Alternative is an option for the southern portion of the Project. It is approximately 3.04 miles in length. This route exits the planned Sonoran Substation on the east side, continues east for approximately 0.5 miles to the east section line of Section

11, then turns south to follow the section line to approximately 100 feet south of the southern section line, where it turns west to connect with the planned Cisne Switchyard. The Southern 2 Alternative is located on private land owned by the TAA, South Wilmot, and WEC LLC.

### **B.3 Environmental Statements**

#### **B.3.1 US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)**

The results of the Biological Evaluation (BE) indicate that one federally endangered species, the Pima Pineapple Cactus (PPC), occurs within the Project area. PPC in the transmission line corridors can likely be spanned. Therefore, the Project may affect but is not likely to adversely affect the PPC.

#### **B.3.2 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)**

TEP assessed the Project's potential to impact USACE potentially jurisdictional waters, wetlands, or navigable waters in the study area and determined that all washes could be spanned. No wetlands or navigable waters are present in the study area.

#### **B.3.3 Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)**

TEP will apply to the FAA for an obstruction evaluation of the new transmission line towers once an alternative is approved and designed. Initial analysis has determined that there will be no impacts.

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