



Tucson Electric Power

C/O SWCA Environmental Consultants
343 W Franklin Street
Tucson, AZ 85701

Energy Grid Update

Vail to Tortolita 230 Kilovolt Transmission Line Project

November 2020



TEP Seeks Public Input for Proposed Energy Grid Improvements

Tucson Electric Power (TEP) plans to develop and improve existing transmission lines stretching around the south and west sides of Tucson for the Vail to Tortolita 230 Kilovolt (kV) Transmission Line, a joint project with the Western Area Power Administration (WAPA) that will strengthen reliability and serve growing energy needs throughout the Tucson area.

the environmental and visual impacts or costs associated with building a new line. Participation also reduces the need for upgrades to TEP's existing 138-kV system.

New steel monopoles will replace H-frame wood pole structures that are more than 50 years old.

REQUIRED APPROVALS and TIMELINE

TEP is pursuing an agreement to replace an existing single-circuit 115-kV line owned by WAPA with a double-circuit 230-kV line along a 64-mile stretch between TEP's Vail Substation located southeast of Tucson in Pima County and its Tortolita Substation located north of Marana in Pinal County. TEP will own and operate one of the three-conductor 230-kV circuits. WAPA will own and operate the other.

The project is awaiting final agreement from WAPA, a federal agency that markets and delivers hydroelectric power, transmission and related services in Arizona and other western states.

Rebuilding of the WAPA-owned line is authorized under a National Environmental Policy Act Record of Decision approved in April 2016 for the Southline project by the Bureau of Land Management and WAPA. A link to the Record of Decision in that proceeding is available on the Vail to Tortolita project website at tep.com/vail-to-tortolita.

The Arizona Corporation Commission (ACC) must give final approval for TEP to construct and operate the 230-kV circuit. In February 2017, the ACC approved Southline's application for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility (CEC) to build new transmission and interconnection facilities located in Cochise and Pima counties. The CEC, issued in Arizona Power Plant and Transmission Line Siting Committee case number 173, does not authorize the proposed upgrade of WAPA's existing transmission line.

To facilitate construction, TEP will purchase development rights from Southline Transmission L.L.C., which is developing a proposed transmission line designed to transmit electricity across New Mexico and Southern Arizona. Enclosed with this newsletter is an update from WAPA about the Southline Project. The upgraded line will follow the existing WAPA line route except in three locations where the line will be rerouted to address concerns from residents and other local stakeholders.

The line will interconnect with TEP's energy grid at: TEP's Vail, DeMoss-Petrie and Tortolita substations. By upgrading WAPA's existing line, TEP obtains transmission capacity parallel and adjacent to its existing 138-kV system without

Vail to Tortolita 230 Kilovolt Transmission Line Project



Public Hearing

Arizona Power Plant and Transmission Line Siting Committee

Public comment will be taken during a special evening session on Dec. 1, 2020 beginning at 5:30 p.m. See inside for more details.

To attend, visit the project website at tep.com/vail-to-tortolita and click on the Zoom link



Grid Improvements for More Reliable Service

Tucson Electric Power (TEP) plans to develop and improve existing transmission lines stretching around the south and west sides of Tucson to help improve reliability and serve growing energy needs.

In August 2020, TEP and Southline filed a joint application for a CEC amendment that would allow TEP to build, own and operate the 230-kV circuit between its Vail and Tortolita substations. The company expects to begin construction in 2022 and place the line into service in 2023.

PUBLIC HEARING and PARTICIPATION

The Line Siting Committee will consider TEP’s CEC amendment application at a public hearing beginning Dec. 1, 2020 at 1 p.m. at the Doubletree Hotel, 445 S. Alvernon Way in Tucson. The hearing will continue through Dec. 4, 2020 starting at 9 a.m. each day.

Please visit the project webpage to view the notice of hearing for more details. **For public health reasons, the public is encouraged to attend the hearings virtually.**

To participate online, visit the project website at tep.com/vail-to-tortolita and click on the Zoom link.

The Line Siting Committee will take public comments during a special evening session on Dec. 1 beginning at 5:30 p.m. at the Doubletree Hotel. Public comments may also be heard at the beginning of each hearing day, or at other times, at the discretion of the committee chairman. Face coverings will be required for attendees, and access and scheduling will be restricted according to applicable public health guidelines.

TEP encourages residents, property owners and others to share their input by:

- Mailing a letter with comments to:

ATTN: Vail to Tortolita Comments
 C/O Theresa Knoblock
 SWCA Environmental Consultants
 343 W. Franklin Street
 Tucson, AZ 85701

- Calling 833-310-1668 | *Para español, llamar al 1-833-310-1669*
- Sending comments to vail2tortolita@tep.com
- Filling out an online comment form at tep.com/vail-to-tortolita

Comments provided to TEP before the Dec. 1 hearing will be submitted to the Line Siting Committee.

TEP recomienda a los residentes y propietarios a compartir sus opiniones sobre este proyecto de transmisión. Por favor comparta sus ideas utilizando la información de contacto que se menciona arriba. Para ver este boletín en español visite nuestro sitio web al tep.com/vail-to-tortolita/. Si tiene alguna pregunta, comuníquese con nosotros al vail2tortolita@tep.com o 1-833-310-1669. Gracias por su interés en el proyecto.

