U.S. Department
Transportation

Federal Aviation
Administration

Southern Arizona
System Support Unit

7081 S. PLUMER
Tucson, AZ 85706

January 28, 2002

Dr. H. Mark Blauer
Deputy Project Manager
4840 Ringnecked Path
Manlius, NY 13104-9603

Subject: Proposed Tucson Power Transmission Line

Dr. Blauer:

The Air Traffic Control manager at Tucson Airport and myself has reviewed the plans, which you submitted to me in regards to above subject. To the best of our knowledge, your plans would not affect air traffic due to location and height of towers. The closest airport to them would be the Nogales International and their pattern would in no way conflict with the transmission line. The only requirements would be to adhere to Arizona State statutes in regard to tower construction.

Sincerely,

Charles W. Pearman
AF Coordinator
Federal Aviation Admin.
7081 S. Plumer
Tucson, Az. 85706

Subject: [Fwd: Proposed Tucson Electric Power Transmission Line]
From: "H. Mark Blauer" <hmblauer@erols.com>
Date: Mon, 18 Feb 2002 07:41:50 -0500
To: hmbinc@erols.com

-------- Original Message --------
Subject: Proposed Tucson Electric Power Transmission Line
Date: Thu, 14 Feb 2002 15:07:35 -0700
From: Von Brock David C Maj 355 OSS/OSTT <David.Vonbrock@dm.af.mil>
To:"'hmblauer@erols.com'" <hmblauer@erols.com>
CC: Von Brock David C Maj 355 OSS/OSTT <David.Vonbrock@dm.af.mil>, "'alan.steffes@aztucs.ang.af.mil'" <alan.steffes@aztucs.ang.af.mil>

Dr. Blauer,

Thanks for soliciting inputs for the proposed TEP Transmission Line.

I have solicited inputs on behalf of the 355th Wing at Davis-Monthan AFB. We can't comment on the visual marker or light requirements (I would refer to Title 14 CFR Part 77 and Federal Aviation Regulation 7400.2), but we can comment on potential impacts to local military flight operations.

Davis-Monthan does not have any relevant issues with any of the three power line routes proposed in you letter of 16 Jan 2002. The proposed westerly route could impact the FUZZY Military Operating Area (MOA) that allows flight operations down to 100ft. The 162nd Fighter Group at Tucson International is responsible for the FUZZY MOA. I have passed on your proposal to the 162nd FG Airspace Manager but cannot comment in regard to their area of responsibility. I recommend contacting them directly.

162FG Airspace Manager: Lt Col Allan Steffes (520) 295-6894, Fax 295-6293
email: alan.steffes@aztucs.ang.af.mil

Please contact me if you have any further questions.

DAVID VON BROCK, Major, USAF
355 OSS/OSOA
Davis-Monthan Airspace Manager
(520) 228-5868

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Mark Blauer
315-682-3268

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information contained in this transmission, which may be confidential and proprietary, is only for the intended recipients. Unauthorized use is strictly prohibited. If you receive this transmission in error, please notify me immediately by telephone or electronic mail and confirm that you deleted this transmission and the reply from your electronic mail system.

TETRA TECH, INC.

March 20, 2002

Lieutenant Colonel Allan Steffes
162nd Fighter Wing
1660 East El Tigre Way
Tucson, AZ 85734

Subject: Proposed Tucson Electric Power Transmission Line south of Tucson, Arizona

Dear Lieutenant Colonel Steffes:

As we discussed on March 19, 2002, Tetra Tech is preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) under the *National Environmental Policy Act* (NEPA) for a proposed Tucson Electric Power (TEP) transmission line that would originate in Sahuarita, Arizona and extend south to cross the U.S.-Mexico border near Nogales, Arizona. As part of our analysis, we are seeking input from the U.S. Air Force regarding potential impacts of the proposed transmission line on military flight operations, specifically on the FUZZY Military Operating Area (MOA) in the proposed project area. We have provided below a basic description of the project and will provide additional details if needed. As we discussed, the Arizona Corporation Commission (ACC) has only granted TEP permission for the Western Corridor. However, under the direction of the lead Federal agency, the Department of Energy, the EIS will analyze potential impacts from all three corridors.

The transmission line would extend south from Sahuarita, Arizona for approximately 60 miles, crossing the U.S.-Mexico border west of Nogales, Arizona and continuing approximately 60 miles into the Sonoran region of Mexico. Project information, including depictions of the support structures being proposed, can be found on DOE's project website, on the Fact Sheet at http://www.ttclients.com/tep. The website also includes a map of the three 2-mile wide study corridors that will be analyzed in the EIS as potential routes for the 150 to 200-feet wide transmission line right-of-way (ROW). The double-circuit 345-kV line would be strung on a single set of support structures approximately 125 feet high, with a maximum height of 150 feet as necessary for ground clearance requirements. A majority of the support structures would be single monopoles, with lattice support structures used as dictated by terrain or geology. Upon completion of construction, a ROW up to 200-feet wide would be maintained along the length of the transmission line to provide maintenance access to TEP.

One Skyline Place, 5205 Leesburg Pike, Suite 1400, Falls Church, VA 22041
Tel 703.931.9301 Fax 703.931.9222

We would like to understand if there would be impacts on military flight operations from the proposed project. Would visual markers, lights, or other mitigation be required on the support structures or transmission lines? Please provide input as soon as possible for analyses before public issuance of the Draft EIS, tentatively scheduled for June 2002. As discussed, we will add you to the mailing list to receive a copy of the Draft EIS. Two public meetings will be held in the proposed project area during the 45-day Draft EIS public comment period as an additional forum for comments. If you have any questions, please call me at (315) 682-3268 or (703) 931-9301 or email me at hmblauer@erols.com. If you prefer to mail information to me, please use the address below.

Sincerely,

Dr. H. Mark Blauer
Deputy Project Manager
4640 Ringnecked Path
Manlius, NY 13104-9603

cc: Ed Beck, Tucson Electric Power Company
Dr. Jerry Pell, U.S. Department of Energy

NO2-065

TETRA TECH, INC.

April 3, 2002

Mr. Rob Daniels
Public Information Officer, U.S. Border Patrol
U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service
1970 West Ajo Way
Tucson, AZ 85713

Subject: Proposed Tucson Electric Power Transmission Line near Nogales, Arizona

Dear Mr. Daniels:

Tetra Tech is preparing an Environmental Impact Statement under the *National Environmental Policy Act* (NEPA) for a proposed Tucson Electric Power (TEP) transmission line that would cross the U.S.-Mexico border near Nogales, Arizona. As part of our analysis, we are seeking input from the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) regarding potential impacts of the proposed transmission line on illegal immigration and drug related activities. We were referred to you as the proper contact by Kathy Williams in the INS Tucson sub-office. We have provided below a basic description of the project, and would be happy to provide additional details as needed for your consideration.

The transmission line would extend south from Sahuarita, Arizona for approximately 60 miles, crossing the U.S.-Mexico border west of Nogales, Arizona and continuing approximately 60 miles into the Sonoran region of Mexico. The border crossing is within Santa Cruz County, a few miles west of Interstate 19. The double-circuit 345-kV line would be strung on a single set of support structures approximately 125 feet high. Upon completion of construction, a right-of-way (ROW) up to 150 feet wide would be maintained below the length of the line as needed to provide maintenance access to TEP. Locked gates and fences would be installed at specified ROW locations as required to limit access. Project information, including depictions of the support structures being proposed, can be found on DOE's project website, on the Fact Sheet at http://www.ttclients.com/tep. The website also includes a map of the three 2-mile wide study corridors that will be analyzed in the EIS as potential routes for the 150 to 200-feet wide transmission line right-of-way (ROW).

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Tel 703.931.9301 Fax 703.931.9222

Specifically, could the proposed ROW from the project impact illegal immigration and drug-related activities? What type of mitigation measures, if any, such as limiting ROW access, would be suggested? We have also contacted the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration, who referred us to the INS, along with other Federal and state agencies. If you have any questions, please call me at (703) 931-9301, or email me at erica.ruhl@tetratech.com. Your prompt input would be appreciated, as it would be preferable to include it in the Draft EIS to be issued for public review, tentatively scheduled for June 2002.

Sincerely,

Erica Ruhl

Erica Ruhl
Environmental Engineer

cc: Ed Beck, Tucson Electric Power Company
Dr. Jerry Pell, U.S. Department of Energy

NO2-071

5 April 2002

Mr. David Harlow
Field Supervisor
Arizona Ecological Services Field Office
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
2321 West Palm Road, Suite 103
Phoenix, AZ 85701

RE: Preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement,
Tucson Electric Power Company (TEP)

Dear Mr. Harlow:

Tucson Electric Power Company (TEP) has applied to the Department of Energy (DOE) for a Presidential Permit to construct a double-circuit, 345,000 volt (345 kV), transmission line that would originate in Sahuarita, Arizona, and extend for approximately 60 miles within one of three alternative corridors to cross the U.S.-Mexico border near Nogales, Arizona.

DOE has determined that the issuance of a Presidential permit for this project would constitute a major Federal action that could have significant impacts upon the human environment within the meaning of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA). Accordingly, on 10 July 2001 DOE published in the *Federal Register* a "Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and to Conduct Public Scoping Meetings and Notice of Floodplain and Wetlands Involvement" (66 FR 35950). Public scoping meetings were held in Sahuarita and Rio Rico, Arizona, on July 30 and 31, 2001, respectively; the public comment period closed on Friday 31 August 2001.

As defined by 40 CFR 1501.5, DOE is the lead Federal Agency in preparation of the EIS, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service (USFS), the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), and the United States Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission, U.S. and Mexico (USIBWC), are Cooperating Agencies.

I am writing to you now in order to officially initiate consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in accordance with the Interagency Cooperation on the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (50 CFR 402.07), which states that, "When a particular action involves more than one Federal agency, the consultation and conference responsibilities may be fulfilled through a lead agency … The Director shall be notified of the designation in writing by the lead agency."

Under DOE direction, Tetra Tech, Inc., is providing EIS preparation support and will be involved in ongoing consultations on this project. The Tetra Tech Project Manager is Dr. Mark Blauer; team members include Dan Elder and Erica Ruhl.

The TEP application, including associated maps and drawings, can be viewed and downloaded in its entirety from the Fossil Energy web site (http://www.fe.doe.gov; choose "Electricity Regulation," then "Pending Procedures," then scroll down to Pending Presidential Permit Application PP-229). Additional project information, including depictions of the support structures being proposed, can be found on the project web site, maintained for us by Tetra Tech at http://www.ttclients.com/tep.

TEP contracted with the Harris Environmental Group, Inc., (Harris) to conduct a preliminary biological evaluation of the three corridors that were originally proposed. I believe that this evaluation included correspondence with you in October 2000, and also contacts with the Arizona Game and Fish Department and the USDA Forest Service, Coronado National Forest. The preliminary biological evaluation conclusion states that, "Based on our correspondence with these agencies, photo-interpretation, and our professional knowledge of the area, we believe potential habitat for 65 rare and endangered species may exist within the project area." I am asking Tetra Tech to provide you with a copy of this Harris document under separate cover.

We are seeking input from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on the process required for analysis of potential impacts to biological resources in the proposed project area, and with regard to any other concerns of the Service with regard to this proposed project. A Tetra Tech representative will contact you to follow up on this consultation letter.

Also, please note that I am convening an informal working meeting with the cooperating agencies, the applicant, and the support contractors in Tucson on 23-25 April. If you like, you or your staff are cordially invited to attend. (If so, please advise, and location, etc., information will be provided.)

At any time, please feel free to contact me directly by e-mail at Jerry.Pell@hq.doe.gov, by phone at 202-586-3362, or by fax at 202-318-7761.

Very truly yours,

Dr. Jerry Pell
Manager, Electric Power Regulation
Office of Coal & Power Import and Export
Office of Fossil Energy, FE-27
U.S. Department of Energy
Washington, D.C. 20585

cc: Tetra Tech

TETRA TECH, INC.

June 27, 2002

Mr. Shawn M. Palmer
U.S. Border Patrol, Tucson Sector
1500 W. La Quinta Road
Nogales, AZ 85621

Subject: Proposed Tucson Electric Power Transmission Line near Nogales, Arizona

Dear Mr. Palmer:

Tetra Tech is preparing an Environmental Impact Statement under the *National Environmental Policy Act* (NEPA) for a proposed Tucson Electric Power (TEP) transmission line that would cross the U.S.-Mexico border near Nogales, Arizona. As part of our analysis, we are seeking input from the U.S. Border Patrol regarding potential impacts of the proposed transmission line on illegal immigration and drug related activities. Keith Graves, Coronado National Forest District Ranger, provided basic information on U.S. Border Patrol operations in this area in a recent interview, as reflected in the attached notes, and referred us to contact you. We have provided below a basic description of the project, and would be happy to provide additional details as needed for your consideration.

The transmission line would extend south from Sahuarita, Arizona for approximately 60 miles, crossing the U.S.-Mexico border west of Nogales, Arizona and continuing approximately 60 miles into the Sonoran region of Mexico. The border crossing is a few miles west of Interstate 19, in the vicinity of an El Paso Natural Gas Company pipeline within Section 24, Township 24 South, Range 13 East. The double-circuit 345-kV line would be strung on a single set of support structures approximately 140 feet high. During construction, new access roads will be built where no access currently exists and some existing roads and trails may be closed in an effort to mitigate overall project impacts on forest land. Upon completion of construction, a 125 to 200-feet wide right-of-way (ROW) would be maintained below the length of the line, as needed, to provide maintenance access for TEP Locked gates and fences would be installed at specified ROW locations as required to limit access. Project information, including depictions of the support structures being proposed, can be found on DOE's project website, on the Fact Sheet at http://www.ttclients.com/tep. The website also includes a map of the study corridors that will be analyzed in the EIS as potential routes for the transmission line ROW. Note that each alternative has the same location for crossing the U.S.-Mexico border, as described above.

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Tel 703.931.9301 Fax 703.931.9222

Specifically, please provide any corrections or additions to the attached interview notes with Mr. Graves regarding potential project impacts on illegal immigration and drug-related activities. Also, please indicate what type of mitigation measures, if any, the U.S. Border Patrol would recommend. We have also contacted the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration, who referred us to the INS, along with other Federal and state agencies. If you have any questions, please call me at (315) 682-3268, or email me at hmblauer@erols.com. Your prompt attention to this matter is appreciated, as we will include your comments in the Draft EIS to be issued for public review, tentatively scheduled for September 2002.

Sincerely,

Erica Ruhl for

H. Mark Blauer Ph.D.
Project Manager

cc: Ed Beck, Tucson Electric Power Company
Dr. Jerry Pell, U.S. Department of Energy

NO2-149