



Arizona Power Plant and Transmission Line Siting Committee
Adam Stafford, Arizona Attorney General's Office & Committee Chairman

Purpose of the Arizona Power Plant and Line Siting Committee

In 1971, the Committee was created by the Legislature “to **provide a single forum** for the **expeditious resolution of all matters concerning the location of electric generating plants and transmission lines** in a single proceeding to which access will be open to interested and affected individuals, groups, county and municipal governments and other public bodies to participate in these decisions.”

What facilities need a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility?

- All thermal electric, nuclear, or hydroelectric generation with a nameplate capacity of one hundred megawatts or more (does not include wind, solar, or batteries).
- All transmission lines that are:
 - 115 kV or greater,
 - more than one mile in length and 5 or more structures, and
 - erected above ground.
- Switchyards (not substations).

Members of the Committee

Five positions are filled by officials from state agencies or their designee:

- The Attorney General,
- The Director of the Department of Environmental Quality,
- The Director for the Department of Water Resources,
- The Director of the Governor's Energy Office, and
- The Chairman of the Arizona Corporation Commission.

By statute, the Attorney General or her designee is the Chair of the Committee.

Six members are appointed by the Arizona Corporation Commission for a term of two years:

- One represents cities and towns.
- One represents counties.
- One represents agricultural interests.
- Three represent the general public.

Issuance of Certificates of Environmental Compatibility

Step 1: Arizona Power Plant and Transmission Line Siting Committee (“Committee”) holds a Hearing to review applications for Certificates of Environmental Compatibility (“CEC”).

The Committee has 180 days from the date the application is referred to the Committee to render its decision to grant or deny the CEC.

Step 2: Arizona Corporation Commission (“ACC”) reviews recommendation from the Committee and will issue a decision to approve, approve with conditions, or deny the CEC.

The ACC must issue its decision on the CEC not less than 30 days and not more than 60 days after the CEC is issued by the Committee.

CEC Factors - A.R.S. § 40-360.06

The Committee must consider the following factors and may impose reasonable conditions:

1. Existing plans of the state, local government, and private entities in the vicinity of the proposed site.
2. Fish, wildlife and plant life and associated forms of life on which they are dependent.
3. Noise emission levels and interference with communication signals.
4. The proposed availability of the site to the public for recreational purposes.
5. Existing scenic areas, historic sites and structures or archaeological sites at or in the vicinity.
6. The total environment of the area.
7. The technical practicability of achieving a proposed objective and the applicants previous experience.
8. The estimated cost of the facilities and site as proposed by the applicant, recognizing that any significant increase in costs represents a potential increase in the cost of electric energy to the customers or applicant.
9. Any additional factors that require consideration under applicable federal and state laws.
10. The Committee must give special consideration to the protection of areas unique because of biological wealth or because they are habitats for rare or endangered species.

CECs

In 2023 and 2024 the Committee heard 29 cases and issued CECs for:

- 171.4 miles of transmission lines and six switchyards;
- 877 MW of natural gas generation.

The transmission lines approved by the Committee will **enable the interconnection** of:

- 7,935 MW of solar capacity,
- 6,867 MW of battery storage capacity, and
- 323 MW of wind capacity.

CECs

In 2025 the Committee held 15 hearings and issued CECs for:

- 163 miles of transmission lines and six switchyards;
- 700.2 MW of natural gas generation.

The transmission lines approved by the Committee will **enable the interconnection** of:

- 3,570 MW of solar capacity,
- 4,520 MW of battery storage capacity, and
- 1,000 MW of wind capacity.

Only one of these CECs has yet to be approved by the ACC.

CECs

In 2026 the Committee has held 6 hearings so far and issued CECs for:

➤ 76.5 miles of transmission lines.

The transmission lines approved by the Committee will **enable the interconnection** of:

- 1,550 MW of solar capacity and
- 1,550 MW of battery storage capacity.

Some of these CECs have yet to be approved by the ACC.

17 more projects are expected to come before the Committee for hearing this year.

CEC Totals from January 2023 to today

- 411 miles of transmission lines and 12 switchyards;
- 1,577.2 MW of natural gas generation.

The transmission lines approved by the Committee will **enable the interconnection** of:

- 13,055 MW of solar capacity,
- 12,937 MW of battery storage capacity, and
- 1,323 MW of wind capacity.

Load Growth of APS and SRP

APS

Year	Summer Peak Demand
2025	8,631 MW
2024	8,210 MW
2023	8,162 MW
2020	7,660 MW
2026	Peak Demand Forecast 8,648 MW

SRP

Year	Summer Peak Demand
2025	8,542 MW
2024	8,205 MW
2023	8,163 MW
2020	7,615 MW
2026	Peak Demand Forecast 8,869 MW

Extreme temperatures, population growth, and the proliferation of data centers and manufacturing facilities are driving unprecedented load growth in Arizona.

Project Baccara – CEC 253

- New power plant co-located with a new data center
- 700.2 MW dual-fueled (natural gas/propane) plant consisting of up to 18 Siemens STG-750 simple-cycle turbines
- Plant will have black-start capability
- Propane storage on-site
- Natural gas and propane delivered by pipelines
- Plant will connect to ED-7 distribution system to supply electricity to the data center
- Plant will connect to APS 230 kV system through ED-7 at a new substation
- Air permit from Maricopa County limits the plant to approximately 30% capacity
- Water usage of 117 to 120 acre feet per year for the plant and the data center
 - Primary source of water for the plant will be recycled water from an adjacent industrial user
 - Data center will use closed-loop, air-cooled chillers