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## ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION

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### **May Open Meeting News Briefs**

#### *Railroad Upgrades Approved, Water Companies Extend Services*

#### **Commission Approves Railroad Upgrades**

(Phoenix) The Arizona Corporation Commission approved several sites for railroad crossing upgrades. The Commission approved adding 5 crossings to the Commission's crossing array and permitted an extension on the time to construct an upgrade for a busy crossing in Tempe.

Established by ARS 40-337, the Arizona Corporation Commission has the exclusive power to determine which crossings require upgrades and what those upgrades should include. Each year, crossings are added to the Safety Division's crossing array pursuant to ARS 40-337.03. Commissioners approved adding the following crossings to the array; on the BNSF Railroad in Winslow at Washington Street, in Phoenix at 29<sup>th</sup> Avenue, 44<sup>th</sup> Avenue, and Lincoln Street. Also on the AZER in Clifton, at Park Avenue. Railroad inspectors work with cities, counties, and the railroads in making those determinations to ensure safety and improved traffic flow for problem crossings. The specific upgrades to take place are still to be determined.

The Commission also authorized an extension of the time to construct an upgrade to the Union Pacific crossing at Broadway to accommodate City of Tempe's construction schedule. The upgrade was approved on July 30<sup>th</sup>, 2014. The project consists of installing two new curbside automatic gates with LED flashing light units, a cantilever with LED flashing lights for eastbound traffic and two new automatic gates with LED flashing lights with a new raised median. Constant Warning Time circuitry will also be installed.

#### **Commissioners Approve Service Territory Extensions for Far West Water and Sewer and Valley Verde Water Company**

(Phoenix) The Arizona Corporation Commission approved applications for two Arizona water companies to extend their service territories.

The Commissioners approved an extension for Valley Verde Water Company to service a development north of Nogales called Nora's Ranch which is a large warehouse destination site for storing fruits and vegetables for a short time until the produce is shipped throughout the United States. The area is adjacent to Valley Verde's existing service area between Interstate I-19 and Old Tucson Road. Valle Verde currently provides water service to 760 customers near Nogales.

Commissioners also gave the go ahead for Far West Water and Sewer to extend its territory to serve the

new Spartan Homes' Sierra Ridge development in Yuma County. Far West currently provides service to 15,000 water and 8,200 wastewater customer. The first phase of the Sierra Ridge development is completed and includes 113 single family homes. The next phase will add 30 more homes.

Commissioners also ordered Staff to investigate some concerns involving the company's past compliance with the Commission and complaints of odors from the sewer system. The investigation will also include inquiry into Q Mountain Water in Quartzite which is controlled by Far West, after an outage. The report will be completed in the next 120 days.

*Established by Article 15 of the state's constitution, the Arizona Corporation Commission is responsible for the regulation of public utilities, overseeing the incorporation or registration of companies wishing to do business in Arizona. Additionally, the Corporation Commission registers and oversees securities offerings and dealers, and enforces railroad and pipeline safety. The five commissioners that make up the Commission are elected by the people of Arizona for a four-year term, with the option of serving for two consecutive terms. To learn more about the Arizona Corporation Commission and the Commissioners, please check out <http://www.azcc.gov/Divisions/Administration/about.asp>*