

Arizona Transmission Siting Information

General Information:

The transmission siting process in Arizona is a 2-step process controlled by the Arizona Corporations Commission (ACC). Any entity wanting to build a transmission line in the state must obtain a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility (CEC). Municipalities do not have the power to deny transmission lines and are mandated to work with utilities to plan transmission. [ARS § 40-360.52](#). Arizona has set specific timelines for the transmission siting process. Violations of the deadlines outlined in the statutes may allow utilities to go ahead with the construction of the transmission project without approval.

Siting Entities:

Arizona utilities are controlled by the Arizona Corporation Commission. See [ARS § 40-101](#). The ACC has a Transmission Line Siting Committee (TLSC) that approves proposals for Certificates of Environmental Compatibility (CEC) for proposed transmission lines. See [ARS § 40-360](#). The TLSC consists of members from the AG's office, environmental, water resources, energy, ACC, the public, incorporated cities and towns, counties, and agriculture. See [ARS § 40-360.01](#). If the TLSC grants the CEC, then the matter is presented to the ACC, who approves, denies or modifies the CEC granted by the committee.

Authorizations Needed:

Certificate of Environmental Compatibility.

Planning:

Arizona's transmission planning structure is built into and works with the transmission siting process. Entities must file a 10-year plan for any line over 115 kV before it may file an application for the new transmission line. [ARS § 40-360.02\(A\)](#). The ACC conducts a biennial analysis of all the current 10-year plans. Part of the analysis looks at the planned lines and the current lines and makes a determination as to the reliability of the transmission system.

General Siting Process:

The applicant must file an application for any line greater than or equal to 115kV. The application for transmission line siting is submitted to the Director of Utilities, who delivers it to the TLSC chairman within five days. Each committee receives a copy of the application within ten days of the filing. [ARS § 40-360.02](#).

Once the committee has the application, the presiding officer has ten days to provide public notice of the time and place for the hearing on the application. [ARS § 40-360.02](#) The hearing must be held between 30 and 60 days from the date that notice is given.

[ARS § 40-360.02](#) Persons entitled to be parties to the case under ARS § 40-360.05(A) or (C) must file a notice of intent to be a party with the Director of Utilities no less than ten days before the hearing. [R14-3-204\(A\)](#). In addition, the Presiding Officer may, upon his own motion and notice, include parties but must do so no less than 10 days before the hearing. [R14-3-204\(D\)](#). No persons may become parties to the proceeding once the deadline has elapsed. [R14-3-204\(F\)](#).

The committee has 180 days from the date of receipt by the chairman of the application, to issue its decision. [R14-3-204\(A\)](#). An extension or continuance may be requested and granted for good cause shown by the requesting party. In the case an extension or continuance is granted by the presiding officer, the 180-day period will cease to run during the extension or continuance. [R14-3-209](#).

The committee passes its decision to the commission. Once the transfer to the commission occurs, the commission has between 30 and 60 days to approve the certificate. There is an appeals process wherein the commission will hear appeals from parties wishing to have the issuance of a certificate ordered or to have the denial of a certificate reconsidered. See [ARS § 40-360.07](#). All appeals must be filed with the commission within 15 days of the decision. The commission then has 60 days to make a decision on the appeal.

If the committee or commission fails to act within the timelines prescribed by statute, the company seeking the certificate may immediately begin construction on the transmission lines. [ARS § 40-360.08](#).

Interstate cooperation:

Arizona engages in interstate transmission planning as a matter of practice. Arizona exports a great amount of its energy and is therefore naturally poised to cooperate on interstate transmission lines. Arizona is currently involved with the planning of several interstate transmission projects:

Federal Issues:

Transmission siting in Arizona must take into account a great deal of federal and reservation land issues. NIETC designations are also an extremely important consideration for the ACC.