

1 BEFORE THE ARIZONA POWER PLANT AND
2 TRANSMISSION LINE SITING COMMITTEE

3
4 IN THE MATTER OF THE) DOCKET NO.
5 APPLICATION OF ATLAS SOLAR,) L-21187A-22-0078-00202
6 LLC, IN CONFORMANCE WITH THE) LS CASE NO.
7 REQUIREMENTS OF ARIZONA) 202
8 REVISED STATUTES 40-360, ET.)
9 SEQ., FOR CERTIFICATES OF)
10 ENVIRONMENTAL COMPATIBILITY)
11 AUTHORIZING THE ATLAS SOLAR)
12 TIE LINE PROJECT IN LA PAZ) PREFILING CONFERENCE
13 COUNTY, ARIZONA.)
14 _____)

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12 At: Phoenix, Arizona

13 Date: March 21, 2022

14 Filed: April 6, 2022

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18 REPORTER'S TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

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24 By: Kathryn A. Blackwelder, RPR
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INDEX TO EXHIBITS

NO.	DESCRIPTION	IDENTIFIED
1	Project Diagram	7

1 BE IT REMEMBERED that the above-entitled and
2 numbered matter came on regularly to be heard before
3 the Arizona Power Plant and Transmission Line Siting
4 Committee in Phoenix, Arizona, commencing at 2:01 p.m.
5 on the 21st of March, 2022, with all participants
6 appearing via videoconference.

7
8 BEFORE: PAUL A. KATZ, Chairman

9 APPEARANCES:

10 For the Applicant:

11 Acken Law
12 Mr. Albert H. Acken
13 111 East Dunlap Avenue, Suite 1-172
14 Phoenix, Arizona 85020

15 and

16 174 Power Global Corporation
17 Ms. Carolyn Byun, General Counsel
18 300 Spectrum Center Drive, Suite 1020
19 Irvine, California 92618

20 Also Present:

21 Patrick Shim, Project Director

22 Brian Quinn, 174 Power Global

23 Betsey Biesty, Senior Permitting Director

24 Brian Lindenlaub, Environmental Consultant

25 Tod Brewer, Assistant to Chairman Katz

1 CHMN. KATZ: This is the time set for a
2 prefiling conference in the Global Atlas Solar
3 Project -- or, the Power Global Atlas Solar Project. A
4 CEC was originally entered in the matter CEC 174, but
5 this one will likely be renumbered -- or, will be
6 numbered, once an application is filed, as CEC 202.

7 But anyway, that all being said, I would ask
8 Mr. Acken, who I am familiar with and who represents
9 the applicant, to identify himself for the court -- for
10 the court record -- for the prefiling conference record
11 and introduce any of the folks that are working with or
12 for the applicant as well.

13 MR. ACKEN: Good afternoon, Chairman. Bert
14 Acken on behalf of the applicant in this matter, which
15 will be Atlas Solar, LLC, a subsidiary of 174 Power
16 Global.

17 With me we have Patrick Shim, who's the
18 project director for this project; Carolyn -- Carolyn,
19 I'm going to mispronounce your last name, it's B-Y-U-N,
20 for the record -- Carolyn is legal counsel for the
21 applicant; Brian Quinn, also with the applicant; as
22 well as Betsey Biesty, who handles all the permitting
23 for the applicant. And then their third-party
24 consultant is Brian Lindenlaub, who you may be familiar
25 with from prior cases, depending on the timing, but he

1 is the CEC consultant for that -- for this project.

2 CHMN. KATZ: That sounds good. And are you
3 anticipating -- I know nothing has been formally filed
4 other than perhaps a 10-year plan or other prefiling
5 documentation, but are we anticipating any possible
6 intervenors in this matter?

7 MR. ACKEN: We are not. This is a really --
8 I say this somewhat frequently, but this one is a
9 really straightforward project. It's just the
10 interconnection facilities to a previously permitted
11 Cielo Azul Switchyard. The land is controlled by the
12 applicant, and it's truly in the middle of nowhere. So
13 at this point, we are not anticipating intervention.

14 CHMN. KATZ: Okay. And is it a solar project
15 that's being interconnected?

16 MR. ACKEN: It is. So Atlas Solar, you know,
17 will be one of the largest solar installations in North
18 America at build-out. This is for two -- we will be
19 seeking two CECs for two interconnections, so one
20 docket, two CECs, because we have two tie lines for two
21 new project substations that are interconnecting into
22 that Cielo Azul Switchyard.

23 CHMN. KATZ: And where is this project
24 located? Because I don't have a map at present.

25 MR. ACKEN: La Paz County, Mile Marker 58 off

1 of the I10, just south of the I10. It's really not
2 close to much. I guess Salome is the nearest small
3 community. And so one of the things I want to talk
4 with you about is hearing location, but we can get to
5 that when we get there.

6 CHMN. KATZ: And has there been any public
7 interest expressed thus far?

8 MR. ACKEN: No. You know, some of this
9 project has gone through -- and I say "the project."
10 I'm talking more globally about the solar project as
11 well. There was a BLM land exchange. La Paz County
12 now holds the title to the land. But this -- you know,
13 there has been some proceedings in La Paz County that
14 are necessary, as well as that BLM transfer, but
15 nothing of note.

16 I don't know if you handled the Cielo Azul
17 Switchyard, but they did have intervention from one
18 other party that was seeking in the future to
19 interconnect at Cielo Azul or thinking they might want
20 to interconnect Cielo Azul, but we have not heard from
21 that party and don't expect anybody else to have
22 interest.

23 CHMN. KATZ: In terms of interested parties,
24 is there anybody -- La Paz County is one, correct?

25 MR. ACKEN: Correct. They are the only

1 affected jurisdiction here.

2 CHMN. KATZ: I'm just taking a second to
3 write. I don't know how to do shorthand.

4 And you didn't present us, and I don't
5 necessarily -- you haven't presented us yet with any
6 maps or documents regarding this matter as of yet,
7 correct?

8 MR. ACKEN: That's correct. You know, I did
9 -- if you would like, we can show a diagram of the
10 interconnection if you want me to go over that. And if
11 you do, I would ask Brian Quinn to share his screen to
12 do that, and then we can make that available to Kathryn
13 and to Tod and you after this.

14 CHMN. KATZ: Do you think it would be
15 helpful? Do you think it would be helpful for us to
16 take a quick peek or not?

17 MR. ACKEN: It will give you -- it will give
18 you a quick scale of the project.

19 So Brian, is that something that you could
20 pull up, the diagram that you showed earlier today?

21 MR. QUINN: Yeah, I can do that. Bear with
22 me just one second.

23 Can you see the screen?

24 MR. ACKEN: Yes, thank you.

25 MR. QUINN: So this is the line of the

1 10 West Link, the 500 kV transmission line. I10 is
2 just north of this. This is the Cielo Azul Switchyard,
3 which Bert just referred to. These are the project
4 substations: Substation 1 on the left; Substation 2 on
5 the right. These are the two connections, the gen-tie
6 connections, 500 kV gen-tie connections: One from
7 Substation 1; one from Substation 2.

8 This application relates to this structure
9 and this structure, so the point of change of ownership
10 structure and the turning pole for the first gen-tie,
11 point of change of ownership structure for the second
12 gen-tie and the associated turning pole for this line.
13 So these two connections, this one to the west and this
14 one to the east.

15 CHMN. KATZ: So we have two transmission
16 lines that would be built. And are both substations
17 also going to be built, or are we just going to add
18 improvements to the two substations?

19 MR. QUINN: Both substations will be built,
20 yes.

21 MR. ACKEN: Brian, let me speak to that real
22 quickly --

23 CHMN. KATZ: Sure, go ahead.

24 MR. ACKEN: -- just so that it's clear for
25 what we're asking. And thank you, Brian, for providing

1 that overview so I didn't have to try to do it.

2 So yes, you have two tie lines, two new
3 substations, and that's why we're requesting two CECs
4 to facilitate future transfer of them to separate
5 ownership.

6 CHMN. KATZ: Okay. And we can -- if you
7 could possibly print this out or e-mail it to Kathryn,
8 and we'll just have it as Prefiling Exhibit Number 1.
9 And I'm assuming we don't need any other exhibits to --
10 attached to the transcript, would that be correct?

11 MR. ACKEN: That's correct. I am working on
12 a notice of hearing, but there are a couple items,
13 again, I wanted to discuss on this call before I sent
14 that over to Tod for your review.

15 CHMN. KATZ: Okay.

16 MR. ACKEN: And then, you know, we could pull
17 up an overview map of the general area, but this is a
18 much better depiction of what we're actually seeking
19 authority to construct.

20 CHMN. KATZ: I think that's fine. And I
21 don't know when you want to discuss the draft notice of
22 hearing, but you will be getting one to Tod for he and
23 I to review?

24 MR. ACKEN: I will. If now is a good time, I
25 can just jump in.

1 CHMN. KATZ: Sure.

2 MR. ACKEN: So there are two items -- or, at
3 least two, maybe a few items. First is the hearing
4 location. So the location for Cielo Azul was in
5 Parker. It was the only location venue that was
6 suitable that that applicant could find in La Paz
7 County, but it is not close to this project. There is
8 no hearing venue close to this project.

9 We have spoken with La Paz County
10 representatives, and they are fine if we hold this
11 hearing in the West Valley. Again, from a convenience
12 for the Committee, as well as distance to the project,
13 the West Valley is as close as any other venue, and we
14 also have some concerns about the availability of that
15 one venue in Parker should we need, you know, more than
16 a couple days. Now, I would expect that this hearing
17 could be done in two, maybe even one, but certainly
18 that is a concern with respect to Parker.

19 So wanted to get your thoughts on holding
20 this in western -- the West Valley, even though that
21 would be Maricopa County. It's still in the general
22 vicinity of the project, as close as any other hearing
23 venue would be.

24 CHMN. KATZ: I don't think that that would be
25 a problem, but I think that you need to get something

1 in writing from La Paz County indicating that, due to a
2 lack of readily available venues in which to hold this
3 project, they don't object to holding it in Maricopa
4 County and at whatever specific location you arrange.

5 And I think the Committee, by and large --
6 because nobody lives near Yuma or La Paz County that's
7 on the Committee, they're either State of Arizona
8 employees that are based in the Phoenix metropolitan
9 area or one in Flagstaff, one in Tucson, and one in
10 Heber, I think we're probably better off doing it. And
11 I don't see that there would be much of a problem, as
12 long as the County has no objection.

13 MR. ACKEN: We will do that. Thank you.

14 The second question I had for you on the
15 notice of hearing is really a broader question about
16 public comment. So typically we hold that evening
17 public comment session the first day of the hearing.
18 We start at 1:00, as you well know. Again, I'm not
19 anticipating any public comment, intervention, anything
20 like that, and so I wanted to explore with you whether
21 we could hold the public comment session during the
22 day, particularly since it would be virtual, and see if
23 we could just even attempt to get this hearing done in
24 an afternoon.

25 This is really straightforward. As you saw,

1 there's four towers -- two substations, four towers.
2 And so I just wanted to see -- take your temperature on
3 whether that could be a possible option, to get this
4 done in a day, rather than going Monday into Tuesday.

5 CHMN. KATZ: What time would you suggest that
6 we do that?

7 MR. ACKEN: Probably towards the beginning of
8 the hearing. So let's say we start at 1:00 on Monday
9 like we normally do. Then I would say hold public
10 comment right out of the gate, make that available for
11 public at that time.

12 CHMN. KATZ: We could just set the public
13 comment at 1:30 or 2:00.

14 MR. ACKEN: Yes, that makes sense, after you
15 do the -- because we never get started right at 1:00,
16 and then you'll have the Committee appearances and
17 other logistics.

18 CHMN. KATZ: Shall we do it at 1:30 or 2:00?

19 MR. ACKEN: Let's just say 2:00 just to be
20 safe.

21 CHMN. KATZ: Okay. And obviously we'll -- I
22 don't know if we'll make that virtual only, but I don't
23 know that we'd have people wanting to travel. We could
24 do it either way -- or, both ways. That makes sense to
25 me. I don't think we'll get people that are so

1 actively concerned that they're going to drive from
2 La Paz County out here, but we'll make it available to
3 them, offer in-person or virtual. And if we don't have
4 any public comment, we don't have any public comment.

5 And where do you intend on publishing
6 required notices?

7 MR. ACKEN: So we will be publishing in the
8 Parker Pioneer. It's a paper of record for La Paz
9 County. One issue we're going to have with that paper
10 is it's only a weekly publication, and so we're also
11 going to have -- in order to get our two publications
12 within 10 days, we're also going to have to publish in
13 a second newspaper. And that's likely going to be the
14 Arizona Republic, just from a convenience standpoint.

15 CHMN. KATZ: Okay. And do we really -- are
16 we going to have any signs posted? I don't know
17 whether there's any convenient locations for signs to
18 be posted within the route of this project.

19 MR. ACKEN: Convenient, probably not, but we
20 were planning to post signs in the same locations that
21 was done for Cielo Azul. It's the same geographic
22 area. And they were able to post a couple signs in
23 public locations surrounding the facility, so that is
24 our plan.

25 CHMN. KATZ: And you have given notice to the

1 affected jurisdictions, La Paz County, in accord with
2 40-360.04, that's A.R.S Section 40-360.04. And you're
3 getting ready to file your application sometime soon
4 with the Corporation Commission, correct?

5 MR. ACKEN: Correct. I think we had
6 originally targeted a Friday filing date. Again, given
7 the Parker newspaper publication schedule, we are now
8 looking at filing next Tuesday, the 29th. So that will
9 still be -- give us plenty of time to get notice in the
10 Parker paper -- first notice in the Parker paper more
11 than 30 days before this hearing commences.

12 CHMN. KATZ: Okay. And I don't recall when
13 Tod gave you the time frame for this particular matter
14 to come on for hearing.

15 MR. ACKEN: May 9th.

16 CHMN. KATZ: May 9th?

17 MR. ACKEN: Yes.

18 CHMN. KATZ: Okay. And obviously, you'll
19 have to pick out a venue on the west side for holding
20 this hearing. I don't know whether it will be in
21 Goodyear or further west or Glendale, but you'll figure
22 it out.

23 MR. ACKEN: Uh-huh.

24 CHMN. KATZ: And obviously, we're going to
25 still need some lodging for some of our out-of-town

1 folks coming from Flagstaff. I don't know who all is
2 going to be there, but Committee Member Little came in
3 from Flagstaff for our last hearing; I don't know
4 whether she'll do it again. We have a lot of
5 representatives in the Phoenix metropolitan area. We
6 have Mr. Grinnell down in Tucson. Mr. Palmer, who's
7 almost always attending, coming in from the Safford
8 area. So you'll need to have -- I don't know whether
9 we'll hold the hearing in the same location as the
10 lodging, but you'll make sure that that's all resolved
11 by the time the notice of hearing gets sent to us for
12 approval and back to you for publication?

13 MR. ACKEN: We will.

14 CHMN. KATZ: Okay. I'm assuming that there's
15 no sense in having a tour, because we won't be there.
16 Plus, it's a very simple, relatively short -- the
17 towers are relatively close together. There isn't much
18 to look at. I'm assuming that this is pretty much in
19 the middle of the desert?

20 MR. ACKEN: It is. You know, I don't know
21 the last time you drove on I10 to California, but Mile
22 Marker 58 really -- there's nothing there, maybe a rest
23 stop not too far. So it would be a lot of driving to
24 go stand in one location and drive back, so we are not
25 proposing a tour.

1 CHMN. KATZ: All right. Tod still is with
2 us. When, Tod, would we be available to set the
3 prehearing conference?

4 MR. BREWER: I was looking at May the 5th at
5 2:00, Mr. Chairman.

6 CHMN. KATZ: Does that work for everyone?

7 MR. ACKEN: Yes.

8 CHMN. KATZ: Okay. We'll plan on that
9 prehearing conference on the 5th.

10 And there's no pending litigation that
11 involves this project or the people that are involved
12 in it.

13 And you already know that we need to make
14 sure that everybody on the Committee gets copies of the
15 application. I don't think we need a total hard copy
16 for everyone.

17 And while I have you on the line, I forgot
18 to -- you were at our last hearing a week or so ago,
19 and I forgot to keep a copy of the exhibits. Is there
20 any way that you could have a notebook either mailed or
21 dropped off for Tod's attention? Because otherwise,
22 he's got to print a few hundred pages, which is
23 ridiculous. I hope the notebooks weren't all
24 destroyed.

25 MR. ACKEN: Yes, I'll take care of that.

1 CHMN. KATZ: Okay. That's fine.

2 And I will draft a procedural order that
3 we'll probably get out to you at about the same time
4 that we get the approved notice of hearing to you. And
5 you'll also get us a draft CEC, which I'm assuming will
6 have fairly standard conditions?

7 MR. ACKEN: It will. This is -- this is as
8 straightforward as they come, Mr. Chairman.

9 CHMN. KATZ: And we already know when we're
10 going to have our 2:00 public hearing. If there are
11 any officials from La Paz County that want to address
12 us, they can do that in person or virtually, and we
13 would accommodate them as the first speaker or speakers
14 at any public participation. And you can let them know
15 that.

16 I'm assuming that you have -- are there any
17 federal permits requested in this particular matter?

18 MR. ACKEN: If Betsey is available, if she
19 can hear us, I'll have her correct or supplement. But
20 this was BLM land previously, but there's been a land
21 transfer --

22 CHMN. KATZ: Right.

23 MR. ACKEN: -- and so now it's La Paz County
24 land.

25 CHMN. KATZ: Okay.

1 MR. ACKEN: And so there has been work done
2 previously; but as it relates to this project
3 currently, no.

4 CHMN. KATZ: And I'm assuming that you have
5 either applied for or will be applying for, at or about
6 the time of our hearing, any and all required federal,
7 state, county, city -- it just appears that we probably
8 only have La Paz County permits that are required, but
9 I don't know whether you need anything from ADEQ, Game
10 and Fish, or otherwise. But I'm assuming that all of
11 those permits will be applied for or have already been
12 applied for in a timely manner so the project can be
13 built?

14 MR. ACKEN: Yes, that's correct.

15 CHMN. KATZ: And I won't give you a lecture
16 on WiFi hotspots and good ability to communicate. I'm
17 assuming that we're going to have one of the same crews
18 that are regularly involved in these types of hearings
19 that know exactly --

20 MR. ACKEN: We will.

21 CHMN. KATZ: And I'm assuming we'll also
22 probably have access to iPads, tablets, or Surface Pros
23 or other digital media for those people that would
24 prefer to view exhibits and the application online
25 rather than by hard copy?

1 MR. ACKEN: Yes, that's correct.

2 CHMN. KATZ: And we're going to need to have
3 copies of the transcript from this hearing and our
4 prehearing conference get posted on the applicant's
5 website.

6 And other than that, I don't have anything
7 else we need to discuss, but I don't know if I've
8 missed out on anything from the applicant's
9 perspective, Mr. Acken.

10 MR. ACKEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Looking
11 at my notes, I covered -- we covered everything that I
12 wanted to cover, so no. Thank you. Thank you for your
13 time, your consideration of that 2:00 public comment
14 session, and also holding this in the West Valley
15 contingent upon us getting something in writing from
16 La Paz. So thank you very much.

17 CHMN. KATZ: And that should be one of the
18 exhibits that gets filed in the matter so we just make
19 sure that they're not going to come back and complain
20 that we didn't do it in La Paz.

21 Tod, because I'm getting old and senile, I
22 don't know if there's anything that I forgot to ask or
23 that you, based upon your expertise and experience,
24 feel that we need to discuss.

25 MR. BREWER: I don't believe so,

1 Mr. Chairman. I think you covered it all.

2 CHMN. KATZ: Okay. Well, I thank you all.

3 And Mr. Acken, as always, I look forward to seeing you.

4 I'll wish you all a happy rest of the day and look
5 forward to this hearing coming up. And I am happy that
6 it's going to be on the west side and not in La Paz,
7 especially in an isolated area of La Paz. Anyway,
8 thank you all. Have a good rest of the afternoon.

9 (The prefiling conference concluded at
10 2:26 p.m.)

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1 STATE OF ARIZONA)

2 COUNTY OF MARICOPA)

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4 BE IT KNOWN that the foregoing proceedings
5 were taken before me; that the foregoing pages are a
6 full, true, and accurate record of the proceedings all
7 done to the best of my skill and ability; that the
8 proceedings were taken down by me in shorthand and
9 thereafter reduced to print under my direction.

10 I CERTIFY that I am in no way related to any
11 of the parties hereto nor am I in any way interested in
12 the outcome hereof.

13 I CERTIFY that I have complied with the
14 ethical obligations set forth in ACJA 7-206(F)(3) and
15 ACJA 7-206 J(1)(g)(1) and (2). Dated at Phoenix,
16 Arizona, this 23rd day of March, 2022.

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KATHRYN A. BLACKWELDER
Certified Reporter
Certificate No. 50666

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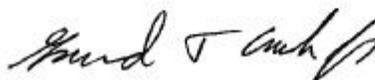
23 I CERTIFY that Coash & Coash, Inc., has
24 complied with the ethical obligations set forth in ACJA
25 7-206(J)(1)(g)(1) through (6).

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