



September 8, 2021

Docket Control Center
Arizona Corporation Commission
1200 West Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007

RE: Docket number: L-00000C-21-0288-00192
Tucson Electric Power, TEP Kino to DeMoss-Petrie Transmission Line Project

To Whom It May Concern,

On behalf of the twelve member RillitoBend Neighborhood Association Board, I am submitting this letter of opposition regarding the proposed overhead lines and routes selected by TEP as part of the Kino to DeMoss-Petrie Transmission Line Project. Our primary arguments for why this proposal is wrong are:

- An overhead project along a gateway corridor such as the Kino and Campbell Avenue corridor is expressly forbidden by Tucson city ordinances and conflicts with the UA Area Plan (UAP) and Plan Tucson.
- Installing massive high wire transmission lines through any neighborhood and especially historic neighborhoods, two of which are Neighborhood Preservation Zones (NPZ's), undermines the value that neighborhoods provide their residents. The massive poles are unsightly, extremely invasive, and out of character for the City's residential neighborhoods. The City of Tucson values its neighborhoods and is not zoned industrial from end to end as these large power poles would suggest.
- Studies show that properties adjacent to high transmission lines lose up to 10% of their value.
- The suggestion that affected residents must form an Underground Utility Assessment District is unacceptable. No neighborhood should bear the brunt of providing an upgraded electrical system to the urban core, nor be expected to shoulder the enormous needs of large entities, such as The University of Arizona, Banner Health, and other buildings which continue to be erected in the surrounding areas.
- The cost to TEP to underground is negligible, estimated to be 2/100th of the most current 6.8% rate increase, about 14 cents/month per customer.

The RillitoBend Board vehemently opposes the overhead lines. Several years ago, large electrical towers were installed in our neighborhood along Prince Road and north into Tucson Boulevard which is one of our neighborhood gateway routes. These were installed without a hearing or any review with the affected residents or neighborhood. They were also installed with little consideration of our plans for coordinating sidewalks, street crossings, or the existing residential scale of the neighborhood. See

photos below. We know what great visual and long-term damage these unsightly high-transmission poles and lines can do to a neighborhood. We now live it and must work around these massive poles for any improvements proposed for Prince Road!

The decision to install more high wire lines with massive poles within the City impacts everyone, and we in RillitoBend join the coalition to combat this irreverent and short-sighted proposal.

Thank you for in advance for your consideration.

Regards,



Mary Bird, Vice President, RillitoBend Neighborhood Association
vice-president@rillitobendna.org

The following example of recently installed massive power poles in the RillitoBend neighborhood:



Above left:

New high voltage poles adjacent to abandoned poles are a visual clutter and obstacle for future pedestrian path considerations and landscaping at this NW intersection of Tucson Blvd and Prince Road.



Above right:

Looking east along Prince Road at the industrial-sized poles in the rights of way.