



**Department of Energy**  
Western Area Power Administration  
Desert Southwest Customer Service Region  
P.O. Box 6457  
Phoenix, AZ 85005-6457

**SUBJECT: Scoping Letter for an Environmental Assessment and Historic Properties Review for WAPA's MPP-Q01 Interconnection Project, Yavapai County, Arizona (DOE/EA-2208)**

Dear Interested Party:

Western Area Power Administration (WAPA) seeks your participation and involvement in establishing the scope of environmental issues and studies associated with the proposed Arizona Public Service (APS) MPP-Q01 Interconnection Project in Yavapai County, Arizona.

**Proposed Action**

WAPA is a federal power-marketing agency within the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) that operates and maintains transmission lines and associated facilities in accordance with the Federal Power Act Sections 210 to 213, and its Open Access Transmission Service Tariff (OATT). WAPA's OATT is filed with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC).

WAPA proposes to approve APS' interconnection request and enter into an interconnection agreement associated with the construction of a new APS transmission line that would interconnect with the Mead-Perkins 525-kV (MDE-PES) transmission line, which is operated and maintained by WAPA. The agreement's purpose is to ensure that the interconnection request will not degrade existing transmission reliability and service. WAPA relies on feasibility, system, and facility studies to identify system upgrades, additions, or configurations necessary to accommodate a proposed interconnection. Section 211 of the Federal Power Act requires that transmission service be provided upon request if capacity is available without impairing the continued reliability of electric systems and if it is in the public interest to do so.

APS proposes to build, operate, and maintain a 14-mile long 115-kV or 230-kV transmission line that would extend from southeast of the U.S. Route 93 and State Route (SR) 97 intersection generally north to approximately 1-mile west of the SR 97 and SR 96 intersection near Bagdad, Arizona (see attached figure).

In addition to the transmission line, appurtenant components of the project include:

- A 500-kV switchyard (MPP-Q01), containing up to four 500-kV breaker bays, at the interconnection point with the MDE-PES line, to be owned and operated by WAPA.
- A substation (TS-01) adjacent to the MPP-Q01 switchyard, to be owned and operated by APS, which would include up to two transformers (either 525/115/34.5-kV or 525/230/34.5-kV) and associated switch gear.

- A substation (TS-02) adjacent to the existing Willow Lake 115-kV line near Bagdad, to be owned and operated by APS, that would contain up to two 230/115-kV transformers, up to two 115/69-kV or 230/69-kV transformers, and associated switch gear.
- A microwave tower (169-5) approximately 10-miles southeast of the MPP-Q01 switchyard near the 169-5 tower site along the MDE-PES transmission line, to be owned and operated by WAPA, to be used as a relay station; and a second tower which would be located within or adjacent to existing Pete Smith Peak communication facilities to maintain WAPA radio communications with the switchyard and substation.
- An APS-owned fiber optic cable along the transmission line from TS-01 to APS' Bagdad Substation via APS' Willow Lake 115-kV transmission line. WAPA will use dedicated capacity on this cable as redundant communications for the substation.

The MPP-Q01 switchyard, TS-01 substation, 169-5 microwave tower, and majority of the new transmission line would be located on State Trust Land managed by the Arizona State Land Department. The communications tower constructed at Pete Smith Peak would be located on land managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). The northernmost portion of the transmission line and the TS-02 substation would be constructed on private land near Bagdad. Altogether, the project area includes 267 acres of State Trust Land, less than 1-acre of BLM land, and 37-acres of private lands (total of 305-acres).

The Project Area includes up to 106-acres of permanent land disturbance to include placement of poles, permanent access roads, and supporting facilities. The Project Area also includes up to 70 acres of temporary land disturbance from construction activities. APS plans to construct this infrastructure in 2023-2025 and place it in service by April 2026. This timeframe depends on the completion of planning efforts described below and assumes no significant environmental impacts are identified.

### Environmental Planning Process

WAPA will address the following planning requirements and seeks your input:

- **National Environmental Policy Act:** WAPA will serve as lead Federal agency in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment of the Proposed Action and its impacts. We seek your comments about alternatives and environmental issues that you would like to see presented in the Draft Environmental Assessment.
- **Clean Water Act & Executive Order 11988 Floodplain Management:** WAPA will assess the Proposed Action's impacts, if any, to waters of the U.S., floodplains, and wetlands, and comply with the requirements of applicable U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Clean Water Act Section 404 permit(s). We seek your input about these resources that may be located near the Project Area and ways to avoid or minimize impacts.
- **Endangered Species Act:** WAPA will serve as lead Federal agency and will evaluate threatened, endangered, and other special status species and their habitat that could be affected by the Proposed Action and consult with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as needed. WAPA will conduct a biological review of areas impacted. We seek your

observations about the occurrence of protected species near the Project Area and suggestions on ways to avoid or minimize adverse effects.

- **National Historic Preservation Act:** WAPA will serve as lead Federal agency for section 106 consultations with the Arizona State Historic Preservation Officer, Indian tribes, and consulting parties for the Proposed Action. WAPA seeks your suggestions about the available sources of cultural resource information and applicable types of identification efforts.

## **Get Involved**

We would like to know of any issues, concerns, and suggestions you may have regarding the Proposed Action. Your comments will help define issues and alternatives for consideration in the environmental review process mentioned above. Comments can be provided in writing or by phone at the contact listed below. Comments can also be submitted at the virtual public scoping meeting.

Mail: Western Area Power Administration, Desert Southwest Region  
ATTN: Matthew Pollock, NEPA Document Manager  
PO Box 6457  
Phoenix, AZ 85005  
Email: [mpollock@wapa.gov](mailto:mpollock@wapa.gov)  
Phone: (480) 440-9767

WAPA prefers to receive your scoping comments by May 12, 2023, or have comments post-marked by this date. WAPA will consider late comments to the extent practicable.

## **Attend the Virtual Public Scoping Meeting**

WAPA will host a virtual public scoping meeting to give you an opportunity to ask questions, learn about the Proposed Action and the environmental planning process, and submit comments. The meeting will be held on:

April 26, 2023 at 4:00-6:00 PM, MST  
Zoom Webinar: <https://zoom.us/j/94835676388>  
Webinar ID: 948 3567 6388

Should you not have access to a computer, please use the call-in number to participate in the Zoom Webinar via phone:

By Phone: +1 346 248 7799  
Webinar ID: 948 3567 6388

Hardcopies of Scoping Meeting Materials will be available at:

Bagdad Public Library  
700 Palo Verde #C  
Bagdad, AZ 86321

You can also email Matthew Pollock at [mpollock@wapa.gov](mailto:mpollock@wapa.gov) to request hardcopies of the Scoping Meeting Materials. WAPA will mail you all Scoping Meeting Materials in an expeditious manner.

### **Next Steps**

We intend to use your comments to prepare a Draft NEPA document, which we expect to complete by Summer/Fall 2023. We will then seek public comment on this document. We look forward to receiving your comments and hope that you will be able to attend the virtual public scoping meeting.

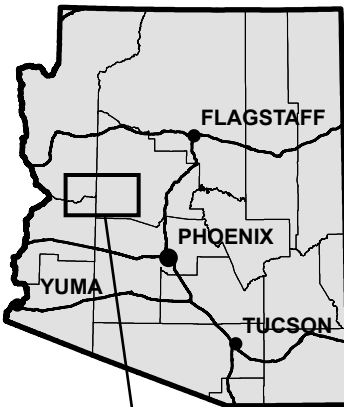
Sincerely,

Natalie Ortega  
Environmental Manager

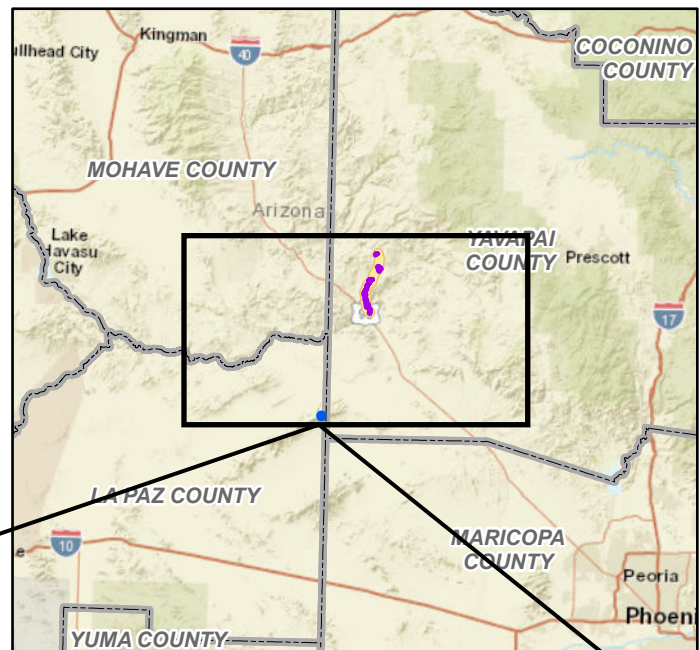
Enclosure

1. Project Location Map

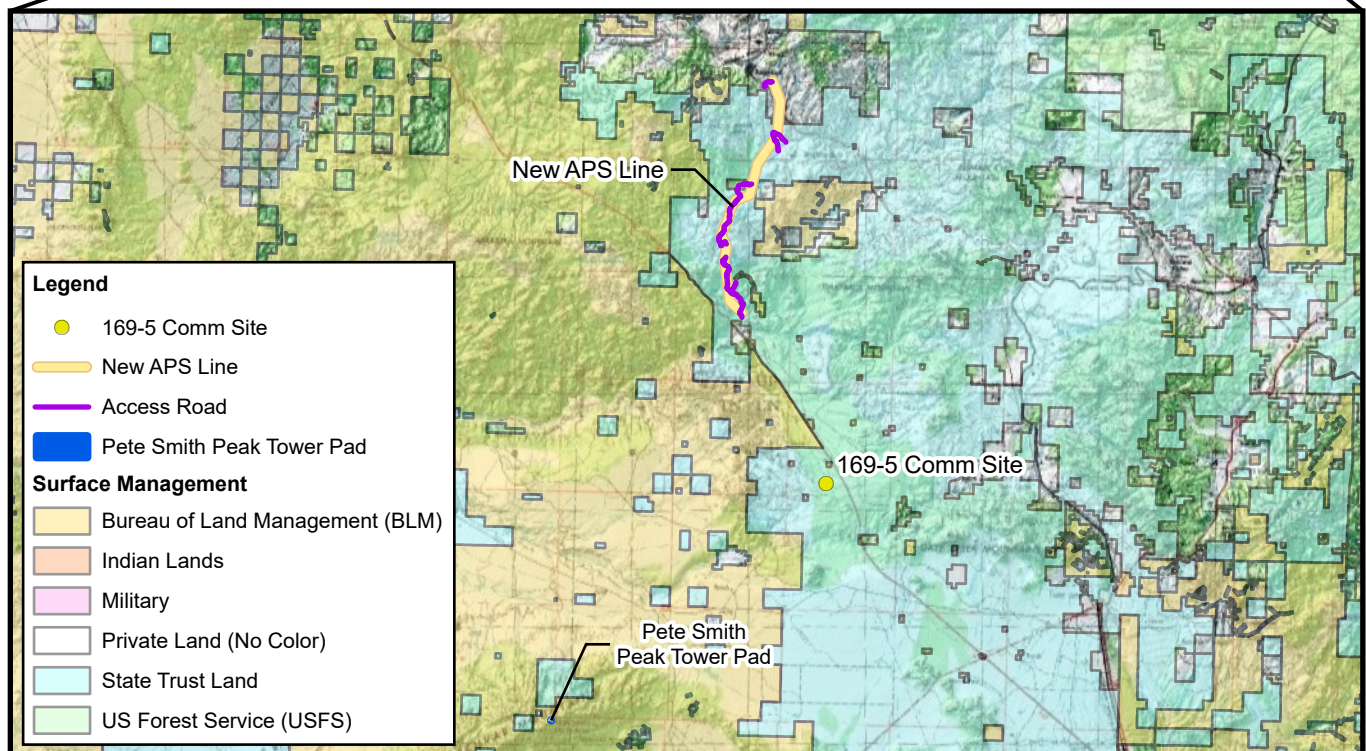
## ARIZONA

PROJECT  
LOCATION

## PROJECT VICINITY



Approximate Scale 1 inch equals 40 miles



Portions of T8N, R11W, T12N, R9W; T13N, R9W, and T14N, R9W,  
La Paz and Yavapai Counties, Arizona,  
Projection: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 12N  
Prescott USGS 1:250,000 Quadrangle  
Projection: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 12N  
Surface Management: BLM 2022, WRI Modified 2023  
Data Source: FMBI  
Image Source: ArcGIS Online, World Street Map

MPP-Q01  
INTERCONNECTION  
PROJECT

PROJECT LOCATION MAP



0 5 10  
Miles

0 10 20  
Kilometers