



United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
Phoenix Area Office
6150 West Thunderbird Road
Glendale, AZ 85306-4001
MAR 11 2022

IN REPLY REFER TO:
PXA0-1500
2.1.4.17

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL AND U.S. MAIL

Memorandum

To: All Interested Persons, Organizations, and Agencies

From: Leslie A. Meyers
Area Manager

LESLIE
MEYERS

Digitally signed by
LESLIE MEYERS
Date: 2022.03.02
13:30:26 -07'00'

Subject: Notice of Public Scoping for an Environmental Assessment (EA) on the Proposed Arizona Public Service (APS) Queue 255 Interconnection and Gen-Tie Project (Project), on the Navajo Nation in Coconino County, Arizona (Action by 15 days from the date of this memorandum)

The Navajo Tribal Utility Authority (NTUA) and 8 Minute Energy (8ME) are proposing to construct, operate, and maintain the APS Queue 255 Interconnection and Gen-Tie Project (Project) located on the Navajo Nation near Page, Arizona (Figure 1). The Project would interconnect the proposed Red Antelope Solar Project, also located on the Navajo Nation (Nation), to the Navajo Generating Station (NGS) Switchyard. 8ME has filed an interconnection request with APS at the NGS Switchyard for the solar project. The NTUA would construct and operate the Interconnection and Gen-Tie Project, which would include three approximately 12-mile 500kV gen-tie lines that will deliver the energy to the point of interconnection (Figure 1). NTUA would also acquire the necessary right-of-way (ROW) from the Nation for the proposed interconnection and gen-tie. The NGS Switchyard is part of the Navajo Southern Transmission System (NSTS), which is partially owned by the federal government. The Bureau of Reclamation is responsible for the federal interest in the NSTS and must approve the interconnect into the NGS Switchyard.

Reclamation is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) as required under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) that would consider the impacts of Reclamation's approval of the interconnection at the switchyard as well as impacts from the gen-tie lines. Reclamation is requesting public input to help identify issues and concerns associated with the proposed Project. This information will be used to analyze the environmental impacts of the project.

INTERIOR REGION 8 • LOWER COLORADO BASIN

ARIZONA, CALIFORNIA*, NEVADA*

* PARTIAL

The major components of the Interconnection and Gen-Tie Project include transmission lines and associated elements, interconnection facilities at the NGS Switchyard, and related communications facilities. The Project would be built as a double-circuit 500kV line and adjacent single-circuit 500kV line that would use lattice, H-frame, or single steel pole structures. The proposed route for the Project parallels an existing railroad and would utilize existing roads where available. For most of the route, a new road would be built within the transmission ROW to be acquired from the Nation, in order to access work areas for the new Project transmission structures. Where the transmission lines parallel existing roads, spur or off-shoot roads would be constructed from the existing roads to each structure location. Both new roads and spur roads would be approximately 20 feet wide and would be located within the ROW for the transmission line. All work associated with the Project interconnection at the NGS Switchyard would be done inside the switchyard's fencing and would be limited to up to 3 acres of disturbance within this previously disturbed site.

Reclamation has determined that an EA is the appropriate level of review under NEPA. The EA will evaluate the impacts of the proposed action on the human and natural environments. As part of this EA process, Reclamation is seeking your participation in identifying any potential issues or concerns with the proposed activity. Comments should be submitted to APS Queue 255 Interconnection and Gen-Tie, 2514 Tournament Drive, Castle Rock, CO 80108, or via email to rschroeder@envalue.us, no later than 15 days from the date of this memorandum.

Please be aware that by law, your name, address, and other personal identifying information may be made publicly available at any time. Individuals may request that their personal identifying information be withheld from public review by stating so prominently at the beginning of your comment. We cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so; however, we will honor your request to the extent allowable by law. All comments from organizations or businesses will be available for public inspection in their entirety.

For additional information regarding this memorandum, please contact Ms. Nichole Olsker, Environmental Protection Specialist, Reclamation's Phoenix Area Office, at (480) 216-9914 or via email at nolsker@usbr.gov.

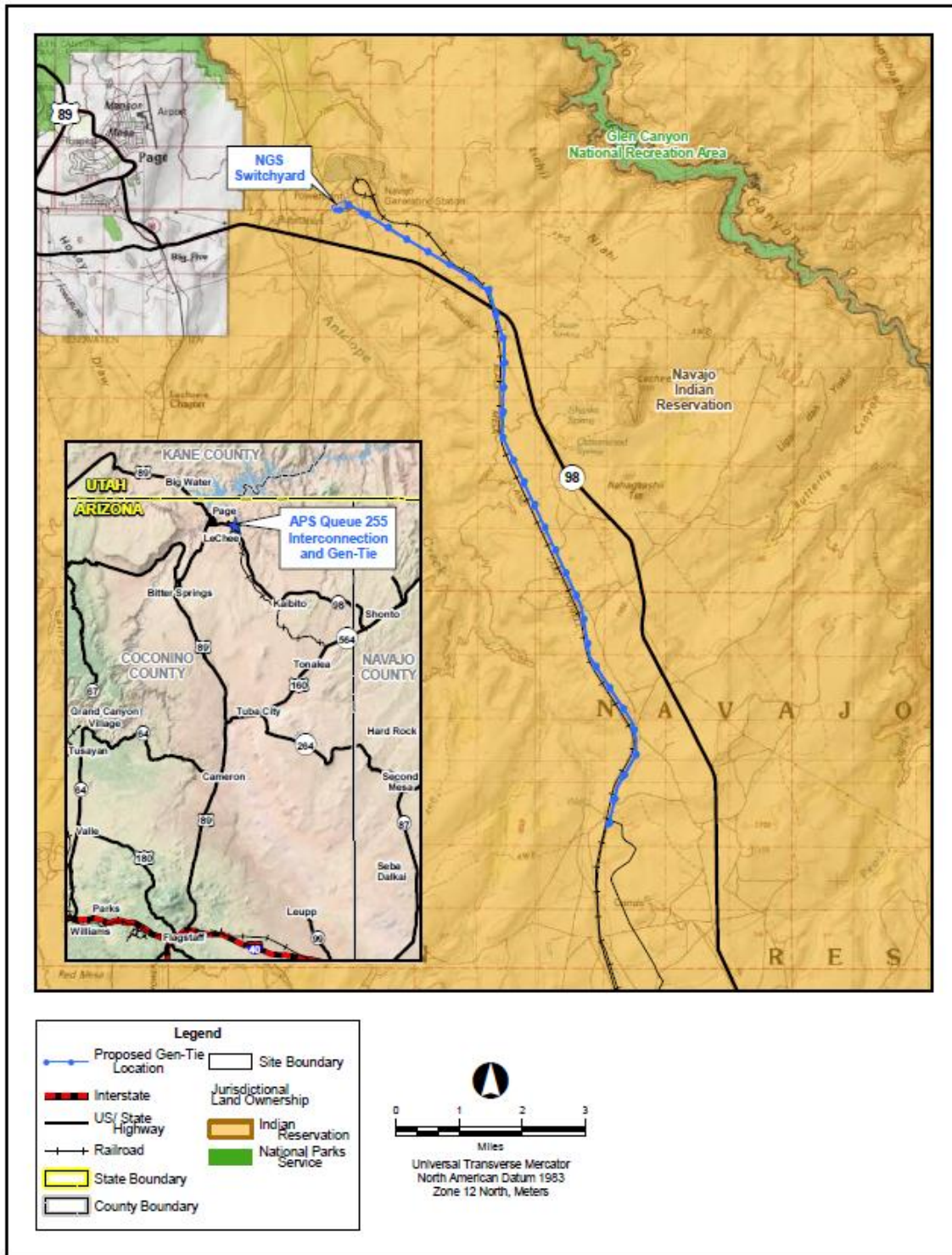


Figure 1. APS Queue 255 Interconnection and Gen-Tie Project Location.