ACTION KIT: OPPOSE SALT RIVER PROJECT’S (SRP) MASSIVE GAS PLANT EXPANSION

BACKGROUND: SRP, Arizona’s second-largest electric utility, is seeking to expand the Coolidge Generating Station by adding 16 new gas units – more than doubling the size of the facility. Despite strong opposition to the plant from local Randolph residents and clean energy advocates, the Arizona Power Plant and Line Siting Committee voted 7-2 to approve a certificate of environmental compatibility (CEC) for the plant. Now it is up to the Arizona Corporation Commission (ACC) to decide whether to affirm, reject, or modify the CEC.

If this plant expansion is allowed to go forward, it could lock in decades of new fossil-fuel use, all while Arizona sits in the bull’s eye of climate change. Key concerns about the plant are the impacts on air quality, additional climate harming emissions, the fact that SRP did not seriously consider cleaner, more environmentally friendly alternatives, and that the facility expansion will disproportionately impact the community of Randolph, which is predominantly a community of color.

A public comment session has been scheduled for March 15th, 2022 at the ACC open meeting. Dial-in Phone Number: 1-866-705-2554 Passcode to Speak: 241497#. Public comment will be taken at 3:00 PM or later on March 15th.

HERE ARE FIVE THINGS YOU CAN DO:

1. Sign a petition that will be submitted to the ACC.

2. Give oral telephonic comments at the ACC public comment session on 03/15/2022. Public comment will be taken at 3:00 PM or later.

3. Submit written comments to the docket by 03/22/2022.

4. Tweet on social media and tag SRP and its Board.

5. Write a letter to the editor pointing out the concerns with this facility.
INSTRUCTIONS

I. SIGN A PETITION

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Please sign the petition and add a comment about how this plant impacts you
2. Say No to SRP Gas Expansion

II. GIVE ORAL TELEPHONIC COMMENT AT THE ACC.

INSTRUCTIONS

1. You may comment via the telephone. Dial-in Phone Number: 1-866-705-2554 Passcode to Speak: 241497#. Public comment will be taken at 3:00 PM or later on March 15th.

SAMPLE SCRIPT

(1) INTRODUCE YOURSELF

● State your name and who you represent, if any. (You may need to spell your name.)
● If you don’t represent an organization, explain who you are (I am a Randolph resident; an SRP customer; small business owner; climate activist; etc.)

(2) EXPLAIN YOUR PURPOSE

● “I ask that the Arizona Corporation Commission reject the Certificate of Environmental Compatibility for the Coolidge Expansion Project.”

(3) PICK TALKING POINTS ON AN ISSUE YOU CARE ABOUT

● This project is not in the public interest as it will lock in this new gas for decades, is extremely expensive – at least $830 million, and will have a significant negative impact on the total environment.
   ○ There are cleaner, cheaper alternatives that SRP did not seriously consider. For example, by investing more in energy efficiency, we could better control electricity costs, and avoid pricey power plant expansions. Solar plus storage and wind are options that have far less environmental impact.
   ○ The location of this project will perpetuate environmental injustice as it is in close proximity to the community of Randolph, a historically Black community that has already suffered significant environmental injustice.
   ○ The proposed plant expansion is in an area that is ranked as serious for particulate pollution and that received an “F” on the American Lung Association’s State of the Air report. The last thing SRP should be doing is contributing to poor air quality in this region.
   ○ This decision could lock in decades of new fossil-fuel use, all while Arizona sits in the bull’s eye of climate change.
● This project is way too expensive.
  ○ At a time when far too many Arizonans are making painful economic decisions and falling behind on their electricity bills, nearly $1 billion is way too much money to spend. This could be a hit to wallets of SRP ratepayers.
● SRP did not use a competitive bid process to determine the best and cheapest option for this plant. Instead, it just decided to go with expensive polluting gas.
● This project will consume precious groundwater, something that is already being over-pumped and over-used in Pinal County.
● The decision came with almost no notice and is being rushed through at the last minute.
  ○ We shouldn’t rush decisions that carry a $1 billion price tag.
  ○ SRP should have issued a competitive bid to determine the best and cheapest option. Instead, it is picking winners and losers.
  ○ SRP should scrap this proposal and conduct a meaningful All-Source Request for Proposal (RFP)

(4) ASK AND THANK

● I am asking you to deny this Certificate of Environmental Compatibility. Thank you for your time today.

III. SUBMIT WRITTEN COMMENTS TO THE DOCKET

1. Be sure to include the docket number at the top of your comments L-00000B-21-0393-00197
2. Use the talking points listed above for your comments, plus include any specific reasons you are concerned about the plant siting.
3. Here is a sample comment to help guide you. Please do not use it, but merely use it for guidance.

Re: Opposition to the expansion of the Coolidge Generating Station L-00000B-21-0393-00197

Dear Chairwoman Person and Commissioners:

As an SRP customer (if you are one) and someone who cares deeply about having healthy air to breathe and reducing emissions that harm our climate, I ask that the Arizona Corporation Commission deny the Certificate of Environmental Compatibility (CEC) for expansion of the Coolidge Generating Station, adding 16 additional units for an additional 820 megawatts and at a cost of at least $830 million.

This plant will harm public health, perpetuate environmental injustice, contribute to climate harming pollution, and use more water. There are much cleaner, less environmentally harmful, and affordable options available, including solar with storage, wind, and energy efficiency. Building a large gas plant that uses groundwater and that pollutes our air and harms our climate is not sustainable! This will cause significant harm to the total environment of the area and is not in the public interest.

Please carefully consider and deny this CEC to site an additional 820 megawatts of gas at the Coolidge gas plant.

Thank you.

4. Submit your comments here: https://efiling.azcc.gov/online-services/utilities-public-comment-external
IV. TWEET ON SOCIAL MEDIA AND TAG SRP & ITS BOARD

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Write a social media post. See examples below to get you started.
2. Add an image to your post. Access images for Twitter here.

SAMPLE TWITTER POSTS

- The AZ Corporation Commission is considering @SRPconnect's proposal to spend ~$1 Billion on a gas plant expansion, when #energyefficiency & #renewables are at their lowest costs ever. Tell them to deny it and #NoMoreGas. https://addup.sierraclub.org/campaigns/stop-srps-dangerous-gas-plant-expansion

- The @SRPconnect ~$1 BILLION in dirty fossil fuel projects will pollute our air, harm our climate, and perpetuate environmental injustice. The AZ Corporation Commission should deny its Certificate of Environmental Compatibility. Join us in saying #NoMoreGas https://addup.sierraclub.org/campaigns/stop-srps-dangerous-gas-plant-expansion

- The AZ Corporation Commission should give a big thumbs down 👎 to @SRPconnect 820 megawatts of new gas in Coolidge-- meaning hundreds of homes & businesses would be powered by dirty, polluting #fossilfuels! We are in a #climatecrisis! https://addup.sierraclub.org/campaigns/stop-srps-dangerous-gas-plant-expansion

- Would you want to live by a dirty gas plant? The residents of Randolph won’t have a choice unless you speak up. Join us in asking the AZ Corp Com to reject @SRPconnect’s ~$1 Billion boondoggle: https://addup.sierraclub.org/campaigns/stop-srps-dangerous-gas-plant-expansion

- Tell the AZ Corporation Commission that @SRPconnect’s Coolidge methane gas project is WRONG for Arizona’s ratepayers. https://addup.sierraclub.org/campaigns/stop-srps-dangerous-gas-plant-expansion

V. WRITE A LETTER TO THE EDITOR

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Highlight a few of the reasons why you support clean energy and why you oppose the project. Use the talking points above.

2. Submit your letter to one of the following outlets.

- If you do not have an account, set it up here: https://efiling.azcc.gov/sign-in
- You can also take two copies to Docket Control by 4pm any weekday before 03/22/2022 at 1200 W Washington Street, Phoenix, AZ 85007.
- You can mail them in to the address above with ATTN: Docket Control.
- If you have any difficulty filing your comments, just send them to sandy.bahr@sierraclub.org and she will make sure your comments get filed.

- You can also take two copies to Docket Control by 4pm any weekday before 03/22/2022 at 1200 W Washington Street, Phoenix, AZ 85007.

Arizona Capitol Times
● [https://azcapitoltimes.com/submit-opinions/](https://azcapitoltimes.com/submit-opinions/)
● Email Gary Grado at ggrado@azcapitoltimes.com.
● Approximately 200 word limit

Arizona Mirror
● Email: info@azmirror.com
● They print op-eds, but may also consider a letter.

Arizona Republic (AZ Central)
● Submit page: [http://static.azcentral.com/opinion/letters/](http://static.azcentral.com/opinion/letters/)
● 200 word limit

Pinal Central/Casa Grande Dispatch
● Submit page: [https://www.pinalcentral.com/site/forms/online_services/letter/](https://www.pinalcentral.com/site/forms/online_services/letter/)
● 250 word limit

East Valley Tribune
● Email: forum@aztrib.com
● 300 word limit

Ahwatukee Foothills News
● Submit page: [https://www.ahwatukee.com/site/forms/online_services/letter/letter_editor_imported-1340115005/](https://www.ahwatukee.com/site/forms/online_services/letter/letter_editor_imported-1340115005/)
● 250 word limit

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● 200 word limit

Phoenix New Times
● Submit page: [https://posting.phoenixnewtimes.com/about/contact?department=Letters%20to%20the%20Editor](https://posting.phoenixnewtimes.com/about/contact?department=Letters%20to%20the%20Editor)
● 2000 characters