



ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: April 25, 2013

CONTACT: Rebecca Wilder (602) 542-0844

Commission Reviews Arizona Electric Utilities' Summer Energy Preparedness Plans

PHOENIX, AZ—The Corporation Commission today brought together Arizona’s electric utilities to present their plans for ensuring that customers will receive reliable service as we enter the peak demands of summer.

Presentations were made to the Commission by Arizona Public Service Company (APS), Tucson Electric Power Company (TEP), UNS Electric, Inc., Salt River Project (SRP), and from Arizona’s electric cooperatives. While the companies said that they expect high demand this year, representatives explained that they have energy reserves to exceed the peak demand expected on Arizona’s hottest summer days. For example, APS forecasts a peak of 7,102 megawatts (MW), and has 8,998 MW of resources available to help meet that demand.

While the companies demonstrated their ability to handle the electricity needs of their customers for the coming season, they also described their plans deal with any potential service outages. Commissioners questioned the systems in place to notify customers and field inquiries, especially those customers with health or safety needs. Information about service disruptions can be obtained through call centers, news media, and through social media.

Copies of each utility company’s presentation can be found on the Commission’s website at:

<http://www.azcc.gov/Divisions/Utilities/Electric/SummerPreparedness.asp>

“Today was a great opportunity for the Commission to hear from the utilities on how they plan to deal with the summer’s peak demand and any load forecast uncertainties such as weather and economic factors,” said **Commissioner Brenda Burns**. “The utilities must be ready and prepared for any type of emergency. I am most particularly concerned with how ratepayers with health issues will be kept informed, and accommodated, during an outage. Effective customer outreach is an important issue for my colleagues and me.”

“Arizona’s utilities are well aware of the challenges of providing power during our state’s hottest months,” said **Chairman Bob Stump**. “Today, they outlined their efforts to ensure that Arizonans’ lights remain on, even on the hottest days, at the hottest hours.”

“I believe the utilities have demonstrated that they are prepared to meet the energy capacity demands which will occur in Arizona this summer,” said **Commissioner Gary Pierce**.

“Annual summer preparedness meetings hosted by the Commission are important because they require Arizona’s electric utilities to present their plans in a public forum and incentivize them to give serious thought as to how they will ensure they are prepared to meet forecasted energy demands this summer,” said **Commissioner Bob Burns**.

“This hearing is an important element in the Commission’s role in making sure Arizona utility customers can count on reliable sources of power during our hot summer months,” said **Commissioner Bitter Smith**.

###