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## ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION

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### Commission Approves Location of Solana Solar Power Project and Associated Transmission Line

**PHOENIX, AZ**—The Arizona Corporation Commission has approved the location of Arizona Public Service Company's (APS) Solana project, and granted the project a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility, thereby allowing construction of the project to begin. The facility will be located 70 miles southwest of Phoenix near Gila Bend.

The location of the facility was recommended to the Commissioners by the Arizona Line Siting Committee, which held public meetings on the matter. The Committee consists of representatives from relevant state government agencies and additional members appointed by the Arizona Corporation Commission who represent the public, local governments, agriculture, and the environment. The Committee provides a single, independent forum to evaluate applications to build power plants or transmission projects in Arizona.

APS plans to purchase the full output generated over a 30 year period by Solana, a 280 megawatt concentrating solar facility. Solana is expected to have the capacity to provide electricity for approximately 70,000 homes in Arizona, and will include salt tanks that allow the facility to store power that can be put into use during peak hours.

The power produced by Solana will help APS meet the Commission's Renewable Energy Standard rules that require public utility companies to generate 15 percent of their energy from renewable sources by the year 2025, with incremental increases required each year.

#### Comments from Commissioners:

"Today's decision ensures that 75,000 Arizonans will have access to clean, reliable energy from the sun," said **Commissioner Kris Mayes**. "Solana represents the energy future of Arizona."

"Arizona sunshine is some of the most powerful in the world," said **Commissioner Jeff Hatch-Miller**. "Solar power is a huge leap forward. Now, every morning's sunrise gives us more than light—it gives us clean, reliable energy to cook our food, cool our homes and light our lives."

"I remain concerned about cost," said **Chairman Mike Gleason**. "Power from this project is going to be *very* expensive in comparison to electricity from conventional generation."

"The ability to convert the sun's rays to electricity is more profound in our state than virtually any place on Earth, not only because of our days per year of sunshine, but because that sunshine is near existing transmission lines and corridors which makes solar power less costly to transport," said **Commissioner Gary Pierce**.

"As rising natural gas prices drive the cost of generating electricity upward, it is vital that Arizona look to alternative sources of energy," said **Commissioner Bill Mundell**. "With more than 300 days of sunshine a year, solar power is the logical choice for our state. Approving Solana is a step in the right direction for Arizona to take its place as the solar energy capital of the world."

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