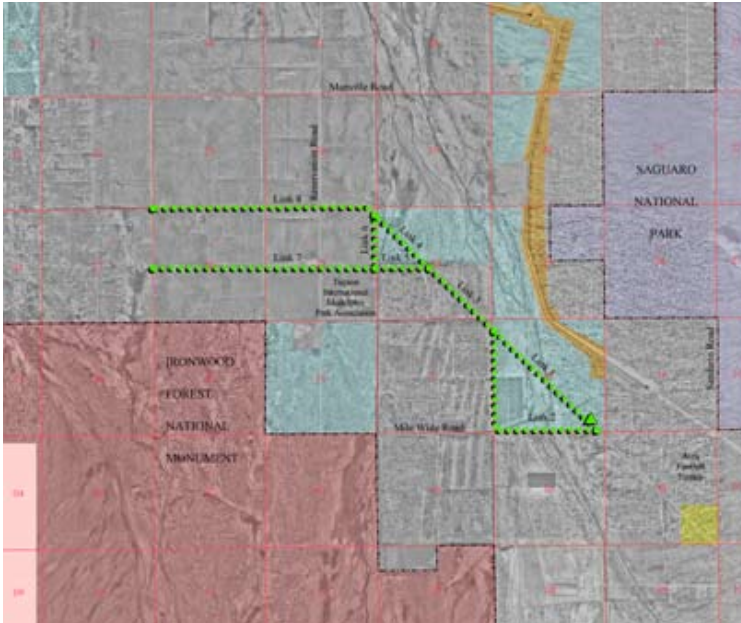


SANDARIO SUBSTATION AND 115KV TRANSMISSION LINE PROJECT

SOUTHWEST TRANSMISSION COOPERATIVE, INC.

Northwest of Tucson in Avra Valley, Arizona



Project Description

Transcon performed NEPA compliance activities for an Environmental Report prepared for the USDA Rural Utilities Service. The project was subject to review and approval from the Arizona Power Plant and Transmission line Siting Committee. Transcon prepared the CEC application submittals, and testimony exhibits and transcripts used for the hearings. The facilities are located in an area near Brawley Wash and pass within one-half mile of the Saguaro National Park and the designated Ironwood National Monument. Visual issues are a primary concern for the area. As part of the studies completed for the project, Transcon conducted cultural resource investigations, visual simulations, Tribal consultations, public meeting facilitation and presentations, and agency coordination. Analysis was performed on alternative sites to identify the preferred alternative. Other substantive issues included areas proposed for designation of critical habitat for the cactus ferruginous pygmy-owl and a recent proposal for a transmission line that was rejected by the county and opposed by the public. Public outreach activities involved newsletters, and press releases. The siting hearing contained no public opposition.

Agency Coordination

US Army Corps of Engineers, USDA Rural Utilities Service, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service, Arizona State Historic Preservation Office, Arizona Corporation Commission, Pima County, and various tribal and local agencies.