

Environmental Planning Group  
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# BLUE RIDGE 69kV TRANSMISSION LINE PROJECT

JUNE 2004

## PROJECT BACKGROUND AND NEED

Arizona Public Service (APS) serves approximately 1,200 customers in the Blue Ridge area, and expects their customer base to exceed 2,000 households over the next five years.

Currently, the Blue Ridge area is served by a single, 35-mile-long 21 kilovolt (kV) distribution line that originates in Payson and runs through heavily forested, mountainous terrain. This existing line is subject to storm related outages, such as lightning, wind, and trees falling on power lines. Since the existing line is situated in a remote location that can be difficult to access for repairs, the duration of outages has been a problem in the Blue Ridge area.

## SHORT-TERM ELECTRICAL IMPROVEMENTS COMPLETED

APS has worked to implement short-term system improvements to reduce outage duration in the area until a second source of power can be constructed. The most significant of these efforts was the October 2003 installation of a two-megawatt generator to provide a second,

temporary source of power for use during extended outage situations. APS also installed additional control devices to reduce the amount of time required to restore power and the number of customers impacted by outages. Other short-term improvements include the installation of an additional phase of line to the Starlight Pines subdivision and increasing capacity on the existing Blue Ridge line.

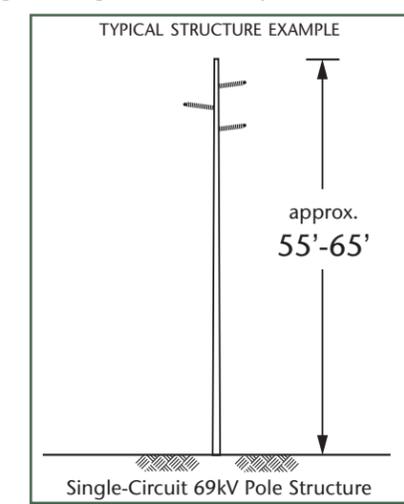
APS is committed to providing reliable service, and the proposed 69kV project will provide a long-term, responsive solution to accommodate new, local growth and reduce the number and length of outages.

## PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Blue Ridge 69kV Project will consist of approximately 33 miles of 69kV transmission line located between the Winslow Substation and a new 69/21kV substation to be located in the Blue Ridge area. The single pole structures will be approximately 55-65 feet tall, and consist of self-weathering and dulled steel to blend into the surrounding landscape. A portion of the proposed route in the Winslow area will also include consolidating an existing 21kV distribution line with the proposed 69kV transmission line. APS plans to complete construction of this project by summer 2005, contingent on the successful completion of the federal process and subsequent right-of-way acquisition for the powerline route and substation site.

## PROPOSED ROUTE

The map on page 2 shows the proposed route and the alternative transmission line route that was considered. The proposed route is being pursued by APS as it was determined to be the most compatible to the surrounding environment and best meets the purpose (cont. on page 3)



## IN THIS ISSUE

- Project Background and Need
- Short-Term Electrical Improvements Completed
- Project Description
- Proposed Route
- Environmental Studies
- Public Open House/Scoping Meeting

For more information visit the project web site at <http://siting.apsc.com> or call the project information line at (888) 206-6166



Please attend the upcoming

## PUBLIC INFORMATION OPEN HOUSE/SCOPING MEETING BLUE RIDGE 69kV TRANSMISSION LINE PROJECT

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 23, 2004

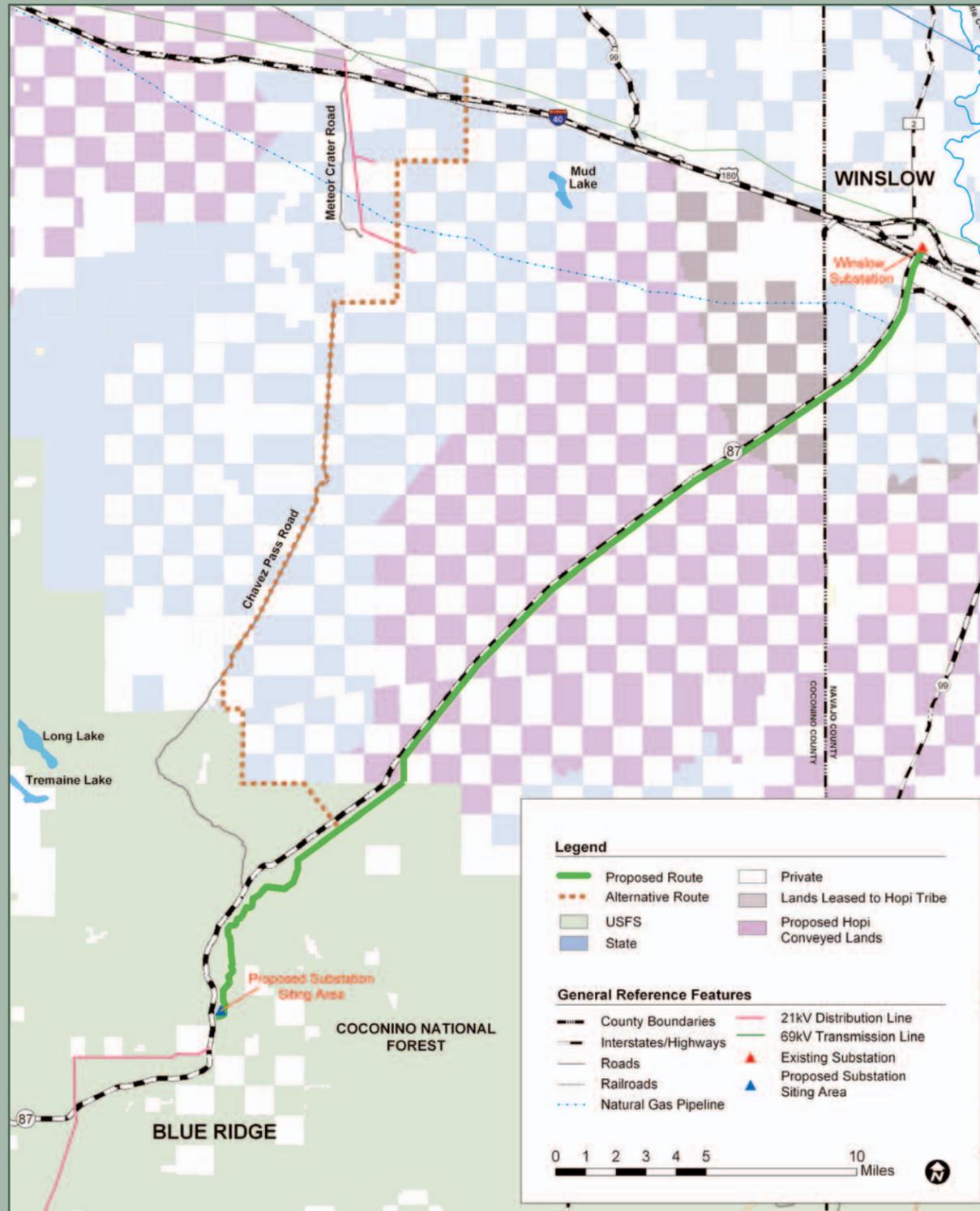
OR THURSDAY, JUNE 24, 2004

Blue Ridge Fire Station  
 Highway 87 and Enchanted Lane  
 Happy Jack, Arizona  
 5:00 p.m. — 7:00 p.m.  
 (Milepost 304.5 on Hwy 87)

Winslow High School - Student Union  
 500 East Cherry Street  
 Winslow, Arizona  
 5:00 p.m. — 7:00 p.m.

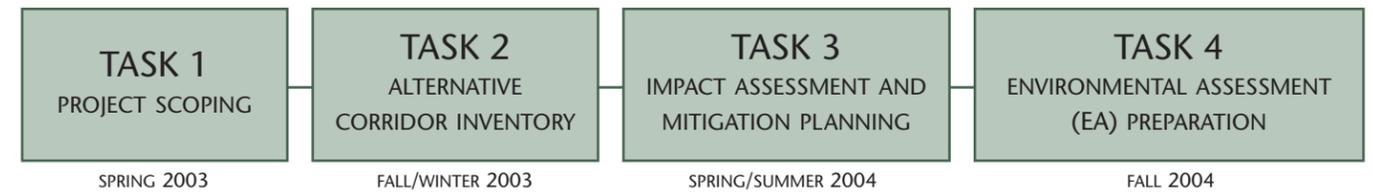
Questions? Call (888) 206-6166 or visit our web site at <http://siting.apsc.com>

## APS PROPOSED ROUTE



As shown on the map, the proposed route would begin at the Winslow Substation and follow State Route 87 south to the Blue Ridge area. An alternative transmission line route would tie into an existing 69kV line near Interstate 40 and follow Chavez Pass Road south.

## SITING STUDY PROCESS AND SCHEDULE



and need for the project. APS also considered other factors such as engineering requirements, constructability, and cost. Two public open houses/scoping meetings will be held on June 23 and 24 to provide the public with an opportunity to review project information and provide comment on the project.

### ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES

A portion of the project would cross lands administered by the Coconino National Forest. Because these are federal lands, the project must comply with the National Environmental Policy Act and an environmental assessment (EA) will be prepared for the project under the direction of the Forest Service. The EA will identify and evaluate the natural, human, and cultural resources in the study area, and determine how the project can be constructed to minimize effects on the environment and local communities. EPG, Inc., an environmental consulting firm, has been retained by APS and the Forest Service to conduct the environmental studies and prepare the EA.

The environmental studies involve collecting and analyzing resource data for the study area, evaluating potential impacts of proposed transmission line routes, identifying how to mitigate (or reduce) those impacts, and preparing the EA. Once complete, the EA will be available for a 30-day public review and comment period. Further information on the EA will be available on the project website in the Fall of 2004.

### PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE/SCOPING MEETING

The public is invited to attend a public open house/scoping meeting to learn more about this project. Your ideas and suggestions are important to us and will help the project team identify issues that need to be addressed in the EA. Displays about the project, including environmental studies, are available for review at the open house/scoping meeting. Staff from APS, the Forest Service, and EPG will be on hand to discuss the project, answer questions, and take public comments.

If you have any questions or comments on the project, please visit our project website at <http://siting.apsc.com> or call the project phone line at **(888) 206-6166**.

**PLEASE ATTEND THE NEXT UPCOMING**

### PUBLIC INFORMATION OPEN HOUSE/SCOPING MEETING

**Wednesday, June 23, 2004**

Blue Ridge Fire Station  
Highway 87 and Enchanted Lane  
Happy Jack, Arizona  
5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.  
(Milepost 304.5 on Hwy 87)

**Thursday, June 24, 2004**

Winslow High School  
- Student Union  
500 East Cherry Street  
Winslow, Arizona  
5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

