

SAVE THE SCENIC SANTA RITAS ASSOCIATION

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May 28, 2026

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Re: SSSR Comments submitted to Arizona Power Plant and Transmission Line Siting Committee concerning Tucson Electric Power Company's Certificate for Environmental Compatibility for the Santa Rita Connection Project

Docket Number: **L-00000C-26-0125-00261**

Dear Members of the Committee:

On May 26 TEP docketed a series of late exhibits that include a March 12, 2026 email exchange between TEP and the Town of Sahuarita that provides additional information supporting our request that TEP should be required to amend its CEC application to include the Santa Rita Substation.

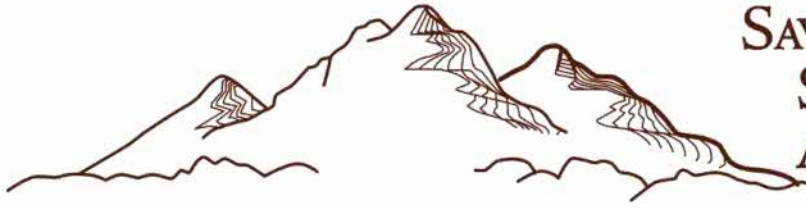
The emails indicate that Copper World's Toro Switchyard and TEP's Santa Rita Substation will be **combined into one facility at the Santa Rita Substation.**

After TEP's repeated denials that the Santa Rita Connection Project ("Project") has anything to do with Copper World, TEP is now submitting documentation, at this late date, that TEP and Copper World have, in fact, combined what all plans up to now have indicated were two separate facilities. TEP and Copper World are now building a single structure at the Santa Rita Substation. The Santa Rita Substation will provide power directly to Copper World, as well as other 14,000 residents.

This information clearly shows that TEP, with the Town of Sahuarita's assistance, has been engaging in a coordinated disinformation campaign to hide from the public the fact that the Project will provide power for the Copper World mine.

On March 12, 2026, at 11:50 a.m., Sahuarita Community Development Director Anna Casadei sent an email to Christopher Ortiz y Pino of TEP asking: "*Can you please refresh my memory – is the collocated substation proposed to be built on the parcel owned by Rosemont or the adjacent ASLD parcel?*" (Exhibit 1)

Ortiz y Pino quickly responded at 12:57 p.m., stating; "*The Santa Rita Substation will be on a leased parcel from ASLD that is directly adjacent to the "Rosemont" CopperWorld (sic) parcel. **The Santa Rita Substation will now house the connection from CopperWorld.** (Emphasis added.) This will be a cost benefit to TEP customers as CopperWorld will be footing the bill for a portion of this larger substation that will benefit nearly 14k residents in the south of Tucson/Sahuarita area.*" (Exhibit 2)



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The combination of TEP and Copper World's facilities into one Santa Rita Substation raises fundamental questions about the necessity of the Project and how much TEP ratepayers are subsidizing Copper World for the \$16.5 million to \$18 million cost of the Project. (This cost estimate is just for the powerlines, depending on what route is selected.)

1. What is the **primary purpose** of the Santa Rita Connection? Is it primarily for Copper World or for TEP's residential customers?
2. How much power will Copper World demand in comparison to the 14,000 residents?
3. How much of the cost of the **entire Santa Rita Connection Project** should be borne by Copper World vs. TEP ratepayers?
4. How is the cost sharing determined?

I strongly urge the Committee to require TEP to resubmit its CEC application so that it clearly shows the combination of the Santa Rita Substation and Copper World's Toro Switchyard.

In addition, the Committee should require TEP to **submit independent System Impact Studies** to fully analyze all potential effects on the bulk transmission system that includes the combined Toro Switchyard and Santa Rita Substation, including all impacts related to providing power to the Copper World project. The applicant has informed Commission staff that an independent SIS **has not been performed** for the Project.

These actions will put the Arizona Corporation Commission on notice that there are significant cost implications and justification issues that must be carefully considered to ensure that TEP ratepayers are not subsidizing the cost of the Project to benefit Copper World's owner, Toronto-based Hudbay Minerals Inc.

Thank you,

John Dougherty
Executive Director, Save the Scenic Santa Ritas Association

From: Anna Casadei <[REDACTED]@sahuaritaaz.gov>
Sent: Thursday, March 12, 2026 11:50 AM
To: Ortiz Y Pino, Christopher <christopher.ortizypino@tep.com>
Cc: Santa Rita Connection <SantaRitaConnection@tep.com>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] RE: [EXTERNAL E-Mail] Santa Rita Substation Permitting

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of UNS. **DO NOT** click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and the content is expected. Do not hesitate to report the email as a phish if you are unsure about its safety.

Can you please refresh my memory – is the collocated substation proposed to be built on the parcel owned by Rosemont or the adjacent ASLD parcel?

Anna Casadei, AICP
Community Development Director



Outlook

RE: [EXTERNAL] RE: [EXTERNAL E-Mail] Santa Rita Substation Permitting

From Santa Rita Connection <SantaRitaConnection@tep.com>

Date Thu 2026-03-12 12:57 PM

To Anna Casadei <[REDACTED]@sahuaritaaz.gov>; Ortiz Y Pino, Christopher <Christopher.OrtizYPino@tep.com>

Cc Santa Rita Connection <SantaRitaConnection@tep.com>

Hi Anna,

The Santa Rita Substation will be on a leased parcel from ASLD that is directly adjacent to the "Rosemont" CopperWorld parcel. The Santa Rita Substation will now house the connection from CopperWorld. This will be a cost benefit to TEP customers as CopperWorld will be footing the bill for a portion of this larger substation that will benefit nearly 14k residents in the South of Tucson/Sahuarita area.

Let me know if you have any other questions.

Chris Ortiz y Pino
Siting, Outreach and Engagement Project Manager
Tucson Electric Power/UNS Electric Inc.
520-633-8693

