
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] No back door deal with TEP!!!!!!
Date: Wednesday, June 3, 2026 at 8:24:05 AM Mountain Standard Time
From: Shane Dille
To: [REDACTED]
C: Mayor and Council, Beth Abramovitz, Anna Casadei, Bianca Quijada
Attachments: Staff Report TEP Santa Rita Connection Project .pdf, TEP Comment Response.docx, IMG_0277.jpeg

To Whom It May Concern:

In both the January 26, 2026, Town Council Study Session and the May 11, 2026, Town Council Public Hearing, the Town sought updates and information from TEP (Applicant) on its application with the Arizona Corporation Commission (Regulatory Authority) for a newly proposed Santa Rita Substation and the need for additional transmission lines in the area. In the attached staff report from the Jan 26 mtg, you'll see that staff is reporting TEP not having identified alignment options at that time, so the primary focus at that meeting was a general discussion about the need for the new sub station.

Then on April 22, 2026, in a community stakeholder outreach effort, TEP sent me an email that identified two alternative transmission line routes to connect the new proposed Santa Rita Substation to an existing substation in Tucson. In a response that same day (attached), I stated that Route 3, which appeared to be more direct and beneficial from a community use perspective, would be my preferred alternative. You'll also see that in this same response, I identified Hudbay's likely need to connect to the new substation and that it should pay for that infrastructure itself, which would largely make the second alignment (Route 1) irrelevant. At the May 11, 2026, Council Mtg., TEP pressed for Route 1, arguing that even though a longer route, it was cheaper to build due to efficiencies, such as co-location on existing lines. To my recollection, TEP never mentioned any partnership with Hudbay on Route 1, if they did it wasn't emphasized. You can listen to the recording of that portion of the Town Council meeting [here](#) (Item 10.c.). Ultimately, it was the less cost to the rate payers argument, and the fact that Route 1's alignment was further away and not bisecting the community that ruled the day with the Town Council ultimately putting their support behind Route 1 with a vote of 5 to 1.

The burden of transparency rests solely with TEP in this instance. As the Applicant, TEP carries the responsibility to walk the public through its proposal, detailing the costs, benefits and impacts of what it is proposing. Understanding that this project, both the substation and the proposed transmission line fall outside of the Town's incorporated limits, the two aforementioned town council meetings were intended to have TEP inform and update the community on its projects. As a concerned citizen, you should know that Hudbay had back in 2012 (Screen shot attached), received approval from the Arizona Corporation Commission to run a power transmission line out to its mine. The process to

receive such approval would have required and extensive public outreach effort at that time. This application and approval from the ACC was revisited in 2022 and then again in 2023, both times receiving approvals from the ACC. Click [here](#) to learn more about this history.

I trust this response addresses your comments about the Town's role and involvement in these proceedings, and redirected your efforts appropriately to [TEP](#) and to the [Arizona Corporation Commission](#). Any complaints/questions/comments regarding this process should be filed with those agencies, but particularly to the Arizona Corporation Commission, who is the jurisdictional authority over these proceedings.

Respectfully,

Shane D. Dille, ICMA-CM

Town Manager

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To: mayorandcouncil@sahuaritaaz.gov <mayorandcouncil@sahuaritaaz.gov>; Shane Dille <sdille@sahuaritaaz.gov>

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Dear Mayor, Council and Staff:

Why hasn't the Town of Sahuarita has not disclosed the fact that Tucson Electric Power Company and Hudbay Minerals are planning to jointly construct the Santa Rita Substation as part of the Santa Rita Connection project. The public has a right to know This joint venture could result in ratepayers subsidizing Hudbay's cost to connect Copper World to TEP's electric grid.

Town staff has been aware of this plan since at least March 12, 2026 and likely as far back as Jan. 12, 2026 when staff met with TEP to discuss the Santa Rita Connection and Copper World.

I respectfully request that the town immediately prepare a detailed report on when town staff members who attended the Jan. 12 meeting with TEP notified councilmembers, including the mayor, about the Hudbay/TEP plan to jointly build the Santa Rita Substation.

This information should be publicly shared as soon as possible, but no later than before

the June 15, 2026 council meeting.

Thank you,