

**DATE:** May 11, 2026

**TITLE:** Tucson Electric Power Santa Rita Connection Project

**SUBJECT:** Presentation, discussion, and possible action regarding the proposed Santa Rita Connection Project.

**FROM:** Doris Mensah, Management Intern, Town Manager's Office

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**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

Tucson Electric Power (TEP) staff will present on the proposed Santa Rita Connection Project.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**

Council's pleasure.

**SUGGESTED MOTION:**

*If the Council chooses not to take a position, no motion is necessary.*

If council chooses to take a position, staff recommends the following motion:

*"I move to direct staff to prepare a letter for submittal to the Arizona Power Plant and Transmission Line Siting Committee Docket indicating..."*

Choose One:

1. ... *Support for the transmission line project with no preference on route."*
  2. ... *Support for the transmission line project with a preference for Route 1."*
  3. ... *Support for the transmission line project with a preference for Route 3."*
  4. ... *Opposition to the transmission line project."*
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**STRATEGIC PLAN:**



Economic Expansion & Placemaking



Outreach & Communication



Infrastructure & Facilities



Highly Performing Organization



Community Well-being

Other

**OTHER/GOALS:** N/A

**FISCAL IMPACT:** N/A.

**BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS:**

TEP is proposing a new 138kV transmission line that will extend approximately 9-10 miles from the existing Sonoran Substation (located near S. Swan Road and E. Old Vail Connection Road) to the proposed Santa Rita Substation (to be located near S. Country Club Road and E. Corto Road). The proposed Santa Rita Substation will support service reliability for distribution customers in the area. It will serve homes and businesses as far north as Sahuarita Road.

TEP states that the project will provide benefits to the area in terms of increased capacity and system reliability while also allowing for the retirement of an older 46-kV substation and a temporary substation, both of which are located within the Town of Sahuarita.

Four route alternatives were initially proposed for the transmission line. Following the public participation phase of the project, two of the four routes were selected (Routes 1 and 3) to forward to the Arizona Power Plant and Transmission Line Siting Committee, which will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, May 26, 2026, to consider TEP's application for a *Certificate of Environmental Compatibility*. Following this public hearing, the application will move forward to the Arizona Corporation Commission for final approval.

The Town Council has the opportunity to comment on the project and the remaining alignments. Should the Council wish to comment, staff will draft a letter for the Mayor's signature. The letter may be provided to TEP or submitted directly to the Docket **by May 15**. Staff recommends that if a position is taken, the letter be submitted directly to the Docket.

Staff is seeking direction from the Council on the following:

1. Does the Council wish to comment on the project?
2. What is the comment that the Council would like to provide?
  - a. Support or not support the project
  - b. Alignment preference, if any

**ATTACHMENTS:**

1. Alignment Map
2. TEP Presentation (to be provided upon availability)