

Growth in Florence fuels need for added infrastructure

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Despite the economic downturn, the Transmission Construction Projects Department continues to build several high-voltage projects throughout Arizona.

"Our commercial and residential customers still expect to have power when they need it," said **Bill Hanna**, Manager, Transmission Construction Projects.

And several projects in Florence *are* needed to serve increasing, local growth, according to **Tom Yost**, Manager, Pinal District Energy Delivery.

This includes the expansion of the 115/69-kilovolt (kV) Valley Farms Substation and associated power lines. The multimillion dollar project, shared with the Western Area Power Administration. It includes a new 115kV/69kV transformer, the addition of a new communication/relaying system and building a 10-foot block wall around the 5-acre substation.

Deborah Sarceda, Project Manager, Transmission Construction Projects Department, said the area's growth is also the driver behind the planned new 69-kV sub-transmission lines and future 69/12-kV substation in the nearby anthem* by Del Webb at Merrill Ranch development.

"This entire project is about serving our customer growth and helping ensure the reliability of our electrical infrastructure," Sarceda said. "In this case, as the developers escalated their plans, the need increased for APS to build the sub-transmission facilities into this area."

Building big projects always requires working closely with local officials to obtain various permits. This one required cooperation beyond the norm, however. In Florence, this work fell to Sarceda and **Jeff Creedon**, Section Leader, Southeast Service Planning.

Because part of the project land fell outside the town jurisdiction in Pinal County, the town of Florence annexed the county land. It then assisted APS through the council approval process, even expediting permits for APS.

"Town of Florence employees were on a first-name basis with us, and we got to know them quite well," said Sarceda. "They welcomed our need to expand due to the growth in their community."

Creedon agreed. "We began this project 18 months ago and the planning of it goes back even further. Throughout this process, the town of Florence has been a great partner for us. They have become APS' advocates."

Additionally, Creedon noted a great team effort by Del Webb/Pulte Homes, that "was extremely supportive through this entire process." He also credited APS employees **Ed Tucker**, Senior Land Agent, Land Services; **Charles (Chuck) Hayes**, Designer II, Overhead System Design; and **Frank Garcia**, Senior Customer Service Representative, Southeast Service Planning, for the success of the project.

The Valley Farms project is scheduled to be completed in March 2009.

In the Phoenix metro area, another major construction project is well under way. Transmission Construction began on the TS-9 to Pinnacle Peak Project earlier this year. The 27-mile long route was approved by the Arizona Corporation Commission in 2007.

In Northeastern Arizona, Transmission Construction and Salt River Project are building a 500/69-kV substation to increase reliability to Snowflake and the surrounding areas. The construction of that project began in March of this year, and is expected to be completed in March 2009.

**Del Webb/Pulte Homes spells anthem with a lower case "a."*