

## **Paper plant picks Gila Bend**

*Selection reflects integrated effort, support by APS teams*

When you say “Gila Bend,” most Arizonans think of one of two things. Either it is where you turn off to drive to Puerto Peñasco, Sonora, Mexico, or it is the town next to Interstate 8 where you might stop for gas on your way to Yuma or San Diego.

Now, there is something else to add to that list. The town is the site of Doubletree Paper LLC’s new tissue manufacturing plant. The plant, currently under construction, is expected to add 85 new jobs to the community when it starts operations later this year.

It means a new commercial customer for APS, too. The site selection reflects the successful outcome for a lot of work and support by numerous APS employees.

According to [David Bentler](#), Community Development Manager, Economic/Community Development, APS worked with Doubletree Paper to help it select the right site.

“We helped them check out a lot of potential sites,” Bentler said. “Gila Bend had everything the company was looking for.”

In particular, the company was looking for:

- A well-priced, right-sized parcel of available land
- A good water supply
- Railroad access
- Interstate highway access
- Proximity to its existing facility in south Phoenix, and
- A pool of potential employees

“We received great help in our decision making from APS and Gila Bend,” Sunil Kanuga, Doubletree’s Chief Financial Officer, said in a Arizona Department of Commerce press release announcing the site’s selection.

Not only is the company’s selection good for Gila Bend’s economy, it’s also good for APS. Meeting the plant’s electrical needs, however, meant adding a 69-kilovolt (kV) line to connect an existing 69-kV line to a new 69/12-kV substation.

While Overhead System Design employees handled the design work for the lines, Overhead System Construction crews built the 69-kV line. Buckeye Construction crews handled building the distribution line from the Thayer Substation to the plant.

And it took Asset Management, Land Services and Transmission Construction employees to site, design and build the substation.

[Chris Weathers](#), Senior Engineer, Technical Account Management, was the key account contact for the paper company.

And, it was [Phyllis Stuart's](#) job to work with everyone, including the customer's representatives at the job site. Stuart, Senior Customer Service Rep, Buckeye Customer Service, made sure all the parts came together so the plant would have power.

“This job had a lot pieces,” [Ken Wolf](#), West Valley Manager, Southwest Valley District, said. “And Phyllis did a terrific job in managing all of them and meeting our new customer's needs.”

APS has a history of supporting Gila Bend's economic growth and development. Doubletree's site selection is just one example.

According to Stacey Young, Director Economic Development, Town of Gila Bend, APS was a good mentor during the selection process.

“We haven't had much experience of late in attracting new business,” Young said. “David made it a lot easier for us. He helped us learn what to look for and how to approach things. This project helped strengthen our (the town's) relationship with APS.”

Doubletree's Gila Bend facility will make jumbo tissue rolls for consumer paper products.

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