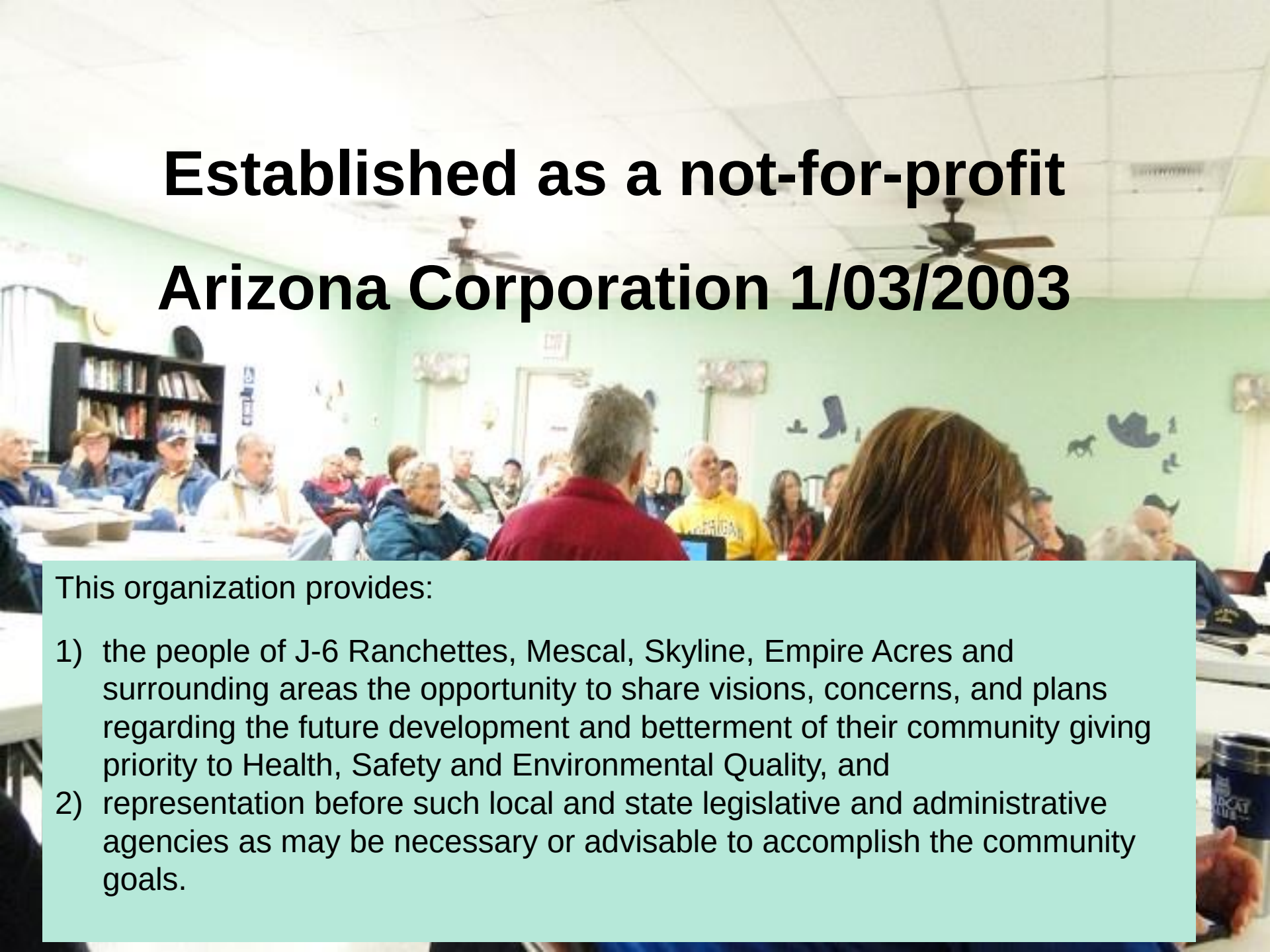
J-6/Mescal Community Development Organization

CDO COMMUNITY MEETING

JANUARY 28, 2016
Excerpts - POWERLINES



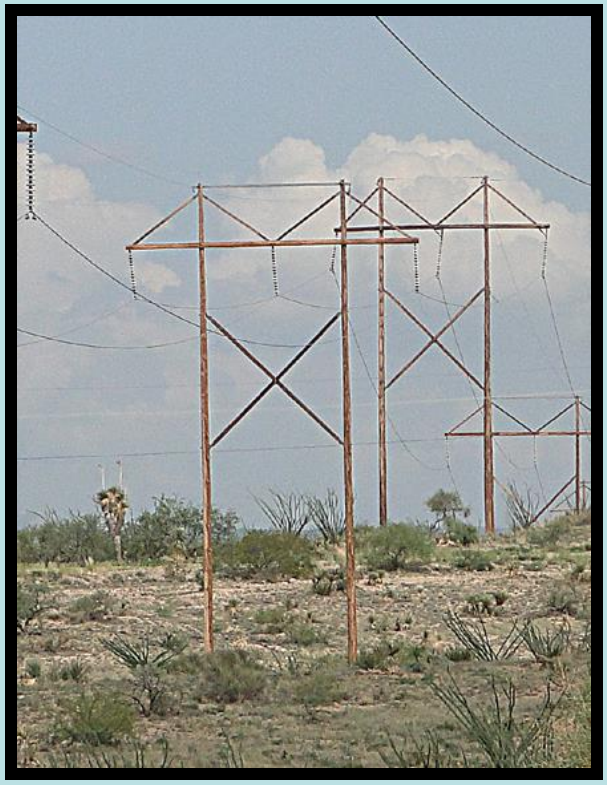
Established as a not-for-profit Arizona Corporation 1/03/2003

This organization provides:

1) the people of J-6 Ranchettes, Mescal, Skyline, Empire Acres and surrounding areas the opportunity to share visions, concerns, and plans regarding the future development and betterment of their community giving priority to Health, Safety and Environmental Quality, and
2) representation before such local and state legislative and administrative agencies as may be necessary or advisable to accomplish the community goals.

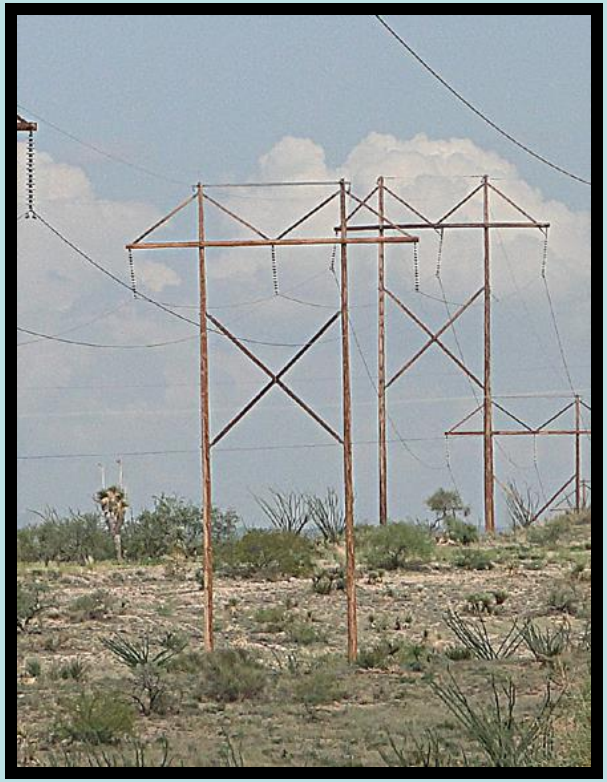
2016 LARGE POWER LINES

SUNZIA – 500 kV



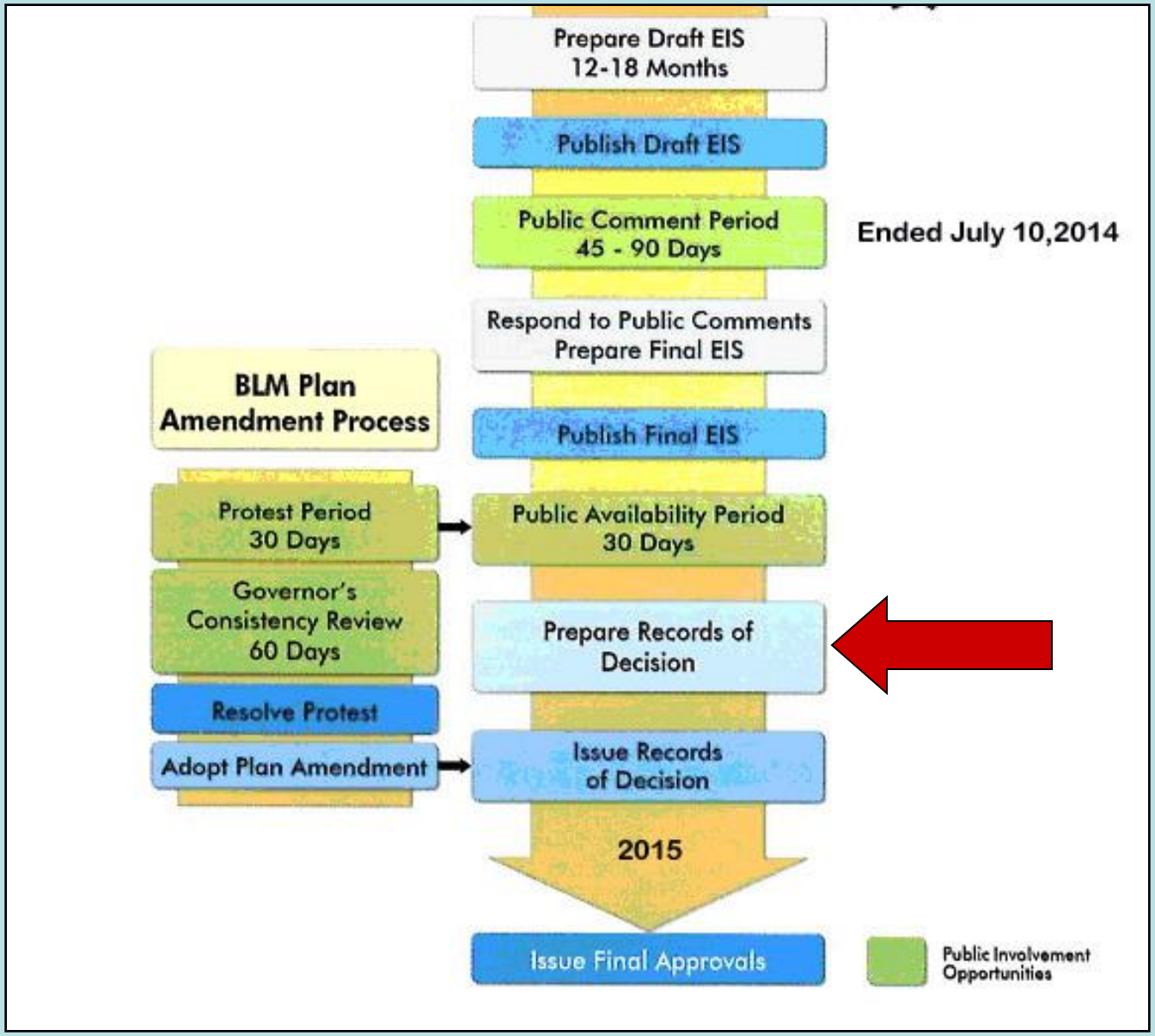
SOUTHLINE TRANSMISSION PROJECT – 230 kV

2016 LARGE POWER LINE



SOUTHLINE TRANSMISSION PROJECT – 230 kV

SOUTHLINE TRANSMISSION PROJECT – 345 kV



RECORDS OF DECISION

1) BLM – ROD will document BLM's decisions whether to grant, grant with modifications, or deny the proposed Right Of Way. The ROD will contain instructions for filing an appeal.

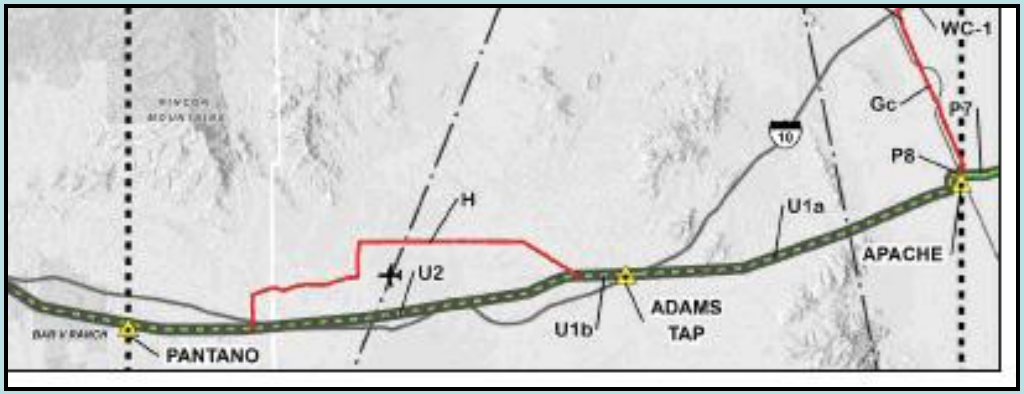
2) Western Area Power Administration – ROD will reflect the nature and extent of its participation in the proposed Project, and whether it will provide funding.

Southline anticipates the Records of Decision will be submitted in March or April at which time

1. **they will schedule a community meeting with us to directly respond to your questions, and**
2. **private landowners will be contacted with requests for a right of entry permission to study and identify right of way opportunities.**

INITIAL COMMUNITY QUESTIONS:

1. **Is Alternative Route H bypassing the residential and commercial area of Mescal still a viable option?**



Answer: Alternative H was analyzed in detail in the EIS, but after weighing impacts, the Agencies identified upgrading the line in the existing location as the preferred alternative.

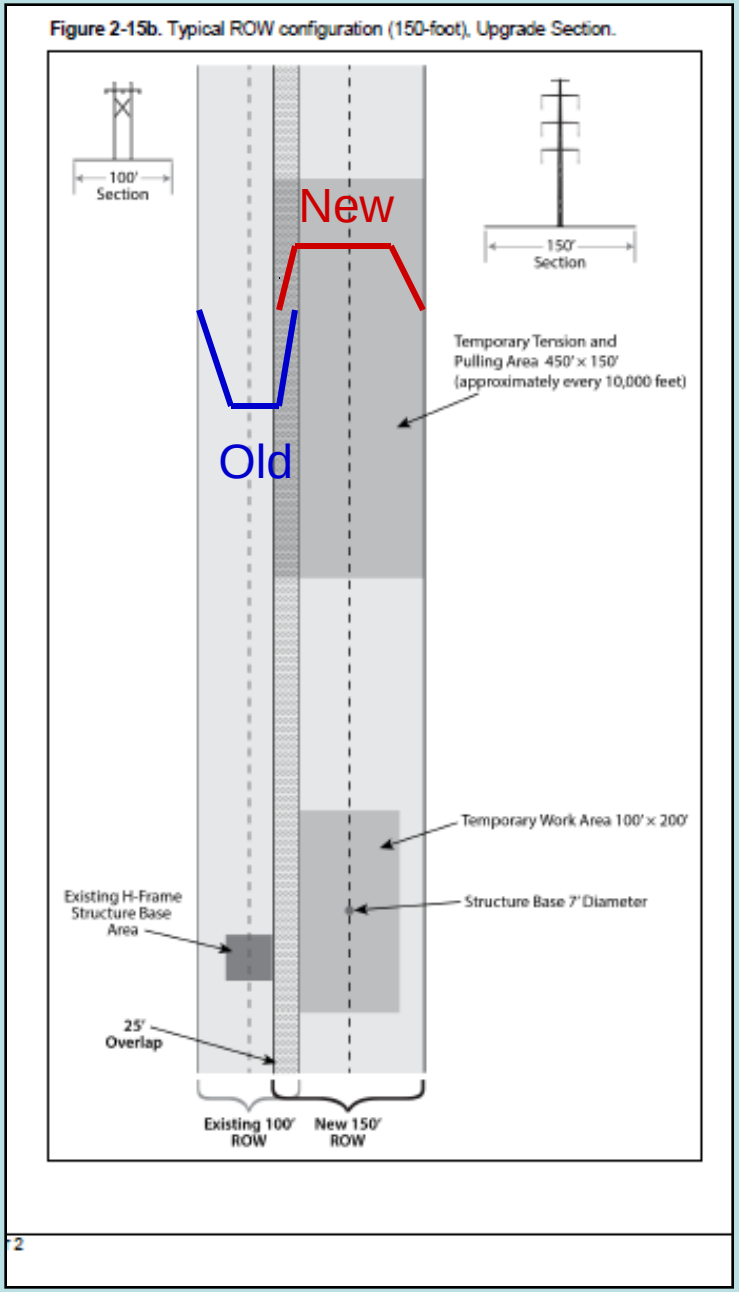
Example of actual 230kV structure replacement of existing 115kV H-frame along Silverbell Road in Tucson

QUESTION 2:

What can local property owners expect since the existing Right of Way needs to be increased from 100' to 150'?

One of two methods of construction will be used depending upon ROW constraints:

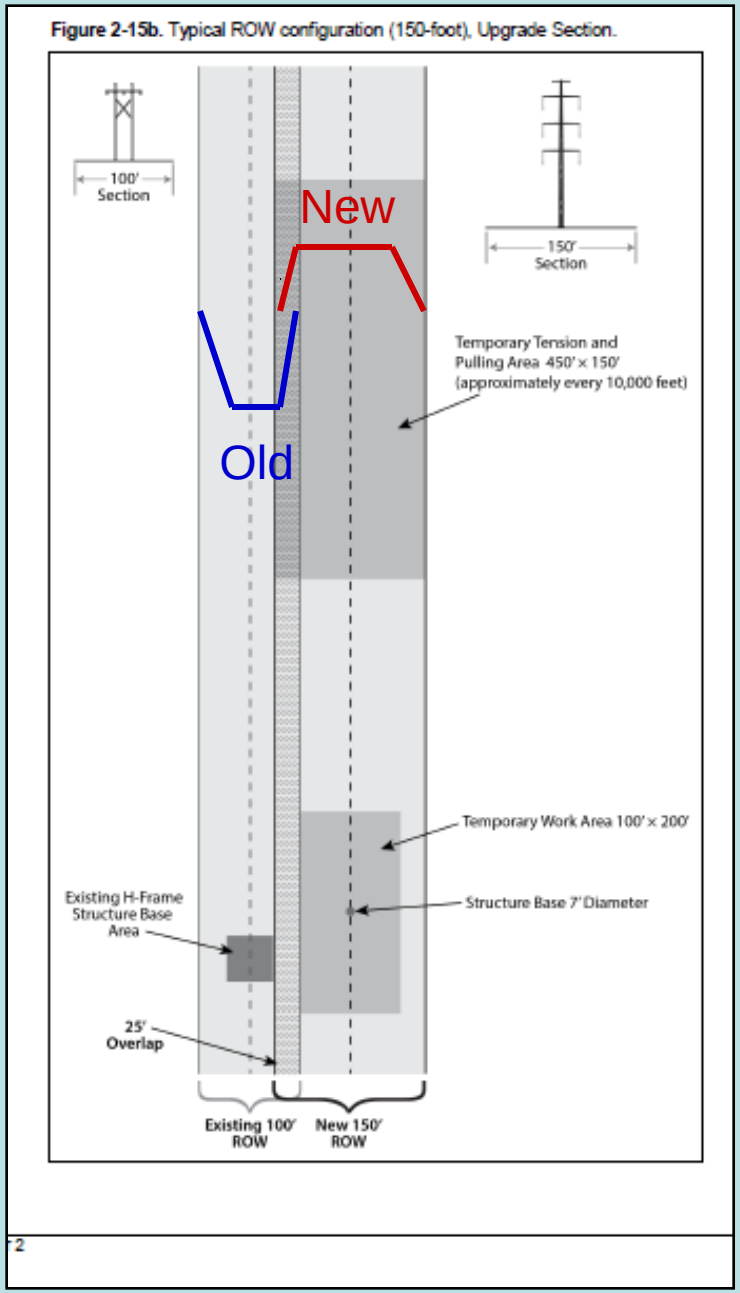
1. the tear-down and rebuild in place method, or
2. construction of the new facilities adjacent to the existing facilities.



Construction Method 1:

The tear-down and rebuild in place method:

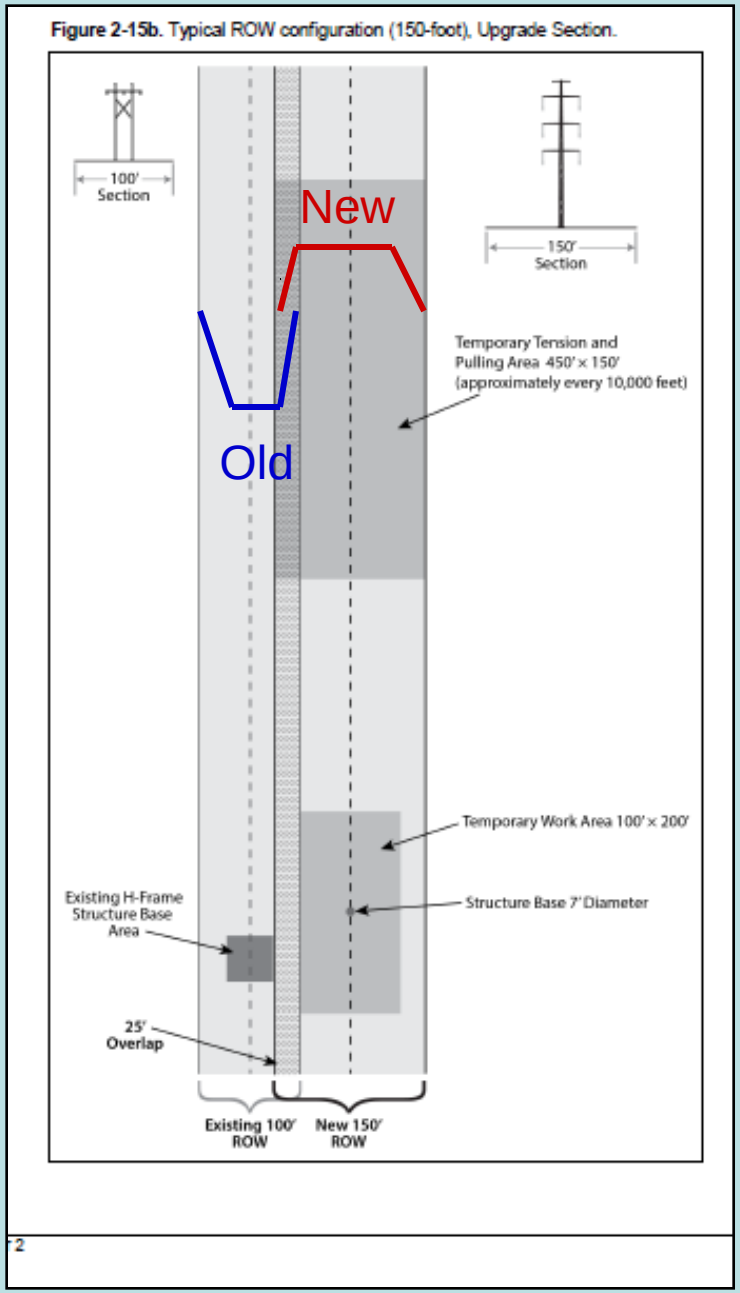
- used in congested areas where it may not be physically possible or prudent to construct the upgrade line adjacent to the existing ROW.
- centered on the existing 100-foot ROW. The old line would need to be taken out of service and torn out and the new line constructed in the original 100-foot, or somewhat expanded, ROW.
- work would likely be subject to seasonal restrictions to minimize the outage impacts on system reliability.



Construction Method 2:

Adjacent construction: preferred method

- new 230-kV line would be built 50 feet away from the edge of the existing 100-foot ROW, parallel to the existing line.
- 50 feet of new ROW would be obtained where possible.
- seventy-five feet of the existing 100-foot ROW would then be abandoned, and the remaining 25 feet adjacent to the new transmission line would be incorporated to form the new 150-foot permanent ROW.
- most disturbance would occur within 50 to 75 feet of the existing ROW centerline to remove old structures or old conductors.



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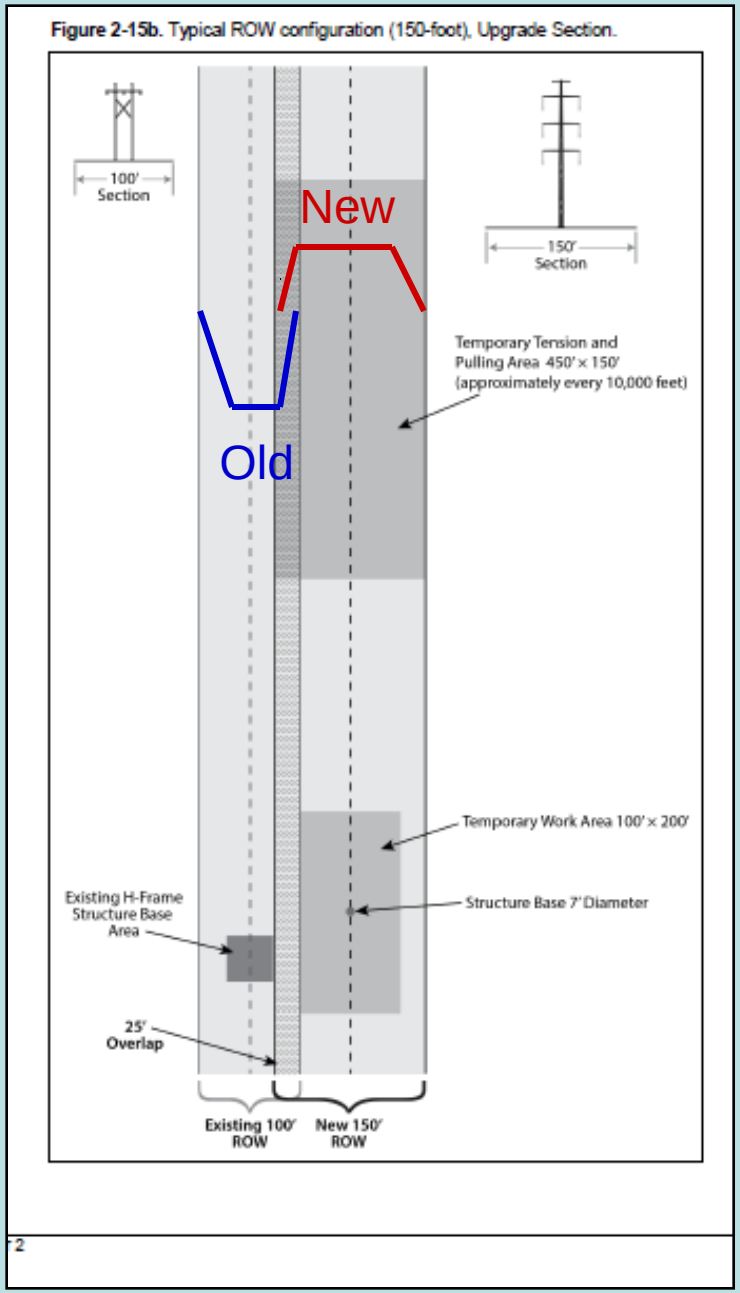


QUESTION 3: What are the known impacts during construction and maintenance of the upgrade related to Noise, Health and Safety, and Visual Resources?

NOISE: Section 4.3-Noise and Vibration

During Construction:

- **highest level of noise closest to ROW - up to 83 dBA**
- **would be short-term, temporary, and intermittent in nature**
- **would represent more of a nuisance**
- **would be reduced to below thresholds and/or baseline conditions with the use of the proposed mitigation measures such as proper scheduling of noisy construction activities, minimizing construction traffic, and locating noisy construction equipment away from sensitive receptors.**

During Operation:

- **noise associated with the corona effect dependent on weather conditions as well as the condition of the transmission line.**
- **dry nature of the area - overall level of operational noise would be minimal and would decrease rapidly with distance from the transmission line.**
- **corona noise increases with aging, damaged equipment so noise expected to decrease when currently existing line are replaced.**

QUESTION 3: What are the known impacts during construction and maintenance of the upgrade related to Noise, Health and Safety, and Visual Resources?

HEALTH AND SAFETY: Section 4.16-Public Health and Safety.

During Construction:

During Operation:

- **upgraded lines will generate higher electromagnetic field (EMF) levels within the ROW.**
- **EMF levels outside the ROW are expected to be comparable to EMF levels created by the existing transmission infrastructure, as a result of the double-circuit configuration's phase cancellation effect.**

QUESTION 3: What are the known impacts during construction and maintenance of the upgrade related to Noise, Health and Safety, and Visual Resources?

Visual: Section 4.10 Visual Resources

During Construction:

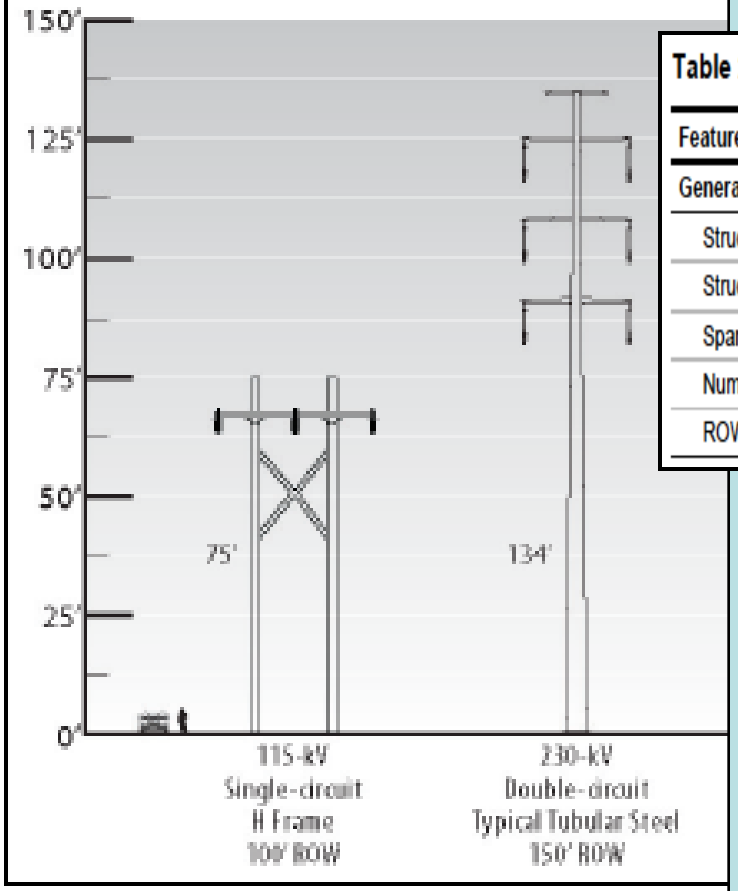
- **visual impacts would occur with the introduction of construction vehicles, equipment, and construction materials – temporary staging areas**
- **temporary disturbance resulting from construction, earthwork, and vegetation clearing and short in duration until restoration of disturbed vegetation occurs**

During Operation:

- **visual impacts in the Upgrade Section will result from the replacement of existing transmission line structures with taller structures, substation expansion, removal of vegetation to maintain the transmission line**

QUESTION 4: What are the latest simulations relevant to area pole design and method of installation?

Visual Simulations: Appendix K



Typical Structure Foundations

Table 2-2. Typical Design Characteristics of the Proposed Upgrade Section 230-kV Transmission Line

Feature	Proposed (Description)
General Description	
Structure type	Tubular steel poles (see figures 2-8 through 2-11)
Structure height	100–140 feet
Span length	700–1,100 feet
Number of structures per mile*	5–6
ROW width†	150 feet

Tubular steel structures are expected to be constructed of galvanized or self-weathering steel, with a height ranging from 100 to 140 feet. Most tubular steel poles would have an approximate diameter at the structure base of 6 feet or less.

NORTH MESCAL ROAD

A. KOP U2-03. Existing view toward the representative ROW from the community of Mescal along North Mescal Road.

B. KOP U2-03. Simulated view toward the representative ROW from the community of Mescal along North Mescal Road.

A. KOP U3-10. Existing view toward the representative ROW from an outdoor amphitheatre within Kennedy Park Fiesta Area, a Tucson City park.

B. KOP U3-10. Simulated view toward the representative ROW from an outdoor amphitheatre within Kennedy Park Fiesta Area, a Tucson City park.

Because you may want to spend more time in this section……..

1. Click on the Volume.

3. What are the known impacts during construction and maintenance of the upgrade related to Health and Safety, Noise, and Visual Resources?

The complete impact analysis for noise is found in the FEIS, Section 4.3-Noise and Vibration. Those closest to the ROW would experience the highest levels of construction noise of up to 83 dBA **(Volume 3, page 677 of FEIS),** however, construction noise would be short-term temporary, and intermittent in nature. Therefore, construction noise would represent more of a nuisance and would be reduced to below thresholds and/or baseline conditions with the use of the proposed mitigation measures to reduce noise levels. Mitigation measures include proper scheduling of noisy construction activities, minimizing construction traffic, and locating noisy construction equipment away from sensitive receptors (see table 2-8, **Volume 1, page 107 and 108** of the FEIS). The level of noise associated with the corona effect of the transmission line strongly depends on weather conditions as well as the condition of the transmission line **(Volume 3, page 665-666**, FEIS). Because of the relatively dry nature of the area, the overall level of operational noise would be minimal and would decrease rapidly with distance from the transmission line. Corona noise increases with aging, damaged equipment. Therefore in the Upgrade Section where the transmission line will be replacing the existing line with newer equipment with an increased height above ground, corona noise would be expected to decrease from currently existing line conditions.

Because you may want to spend more time in this section……..

1. Click on the Volume.

2. Do not plug in page #.

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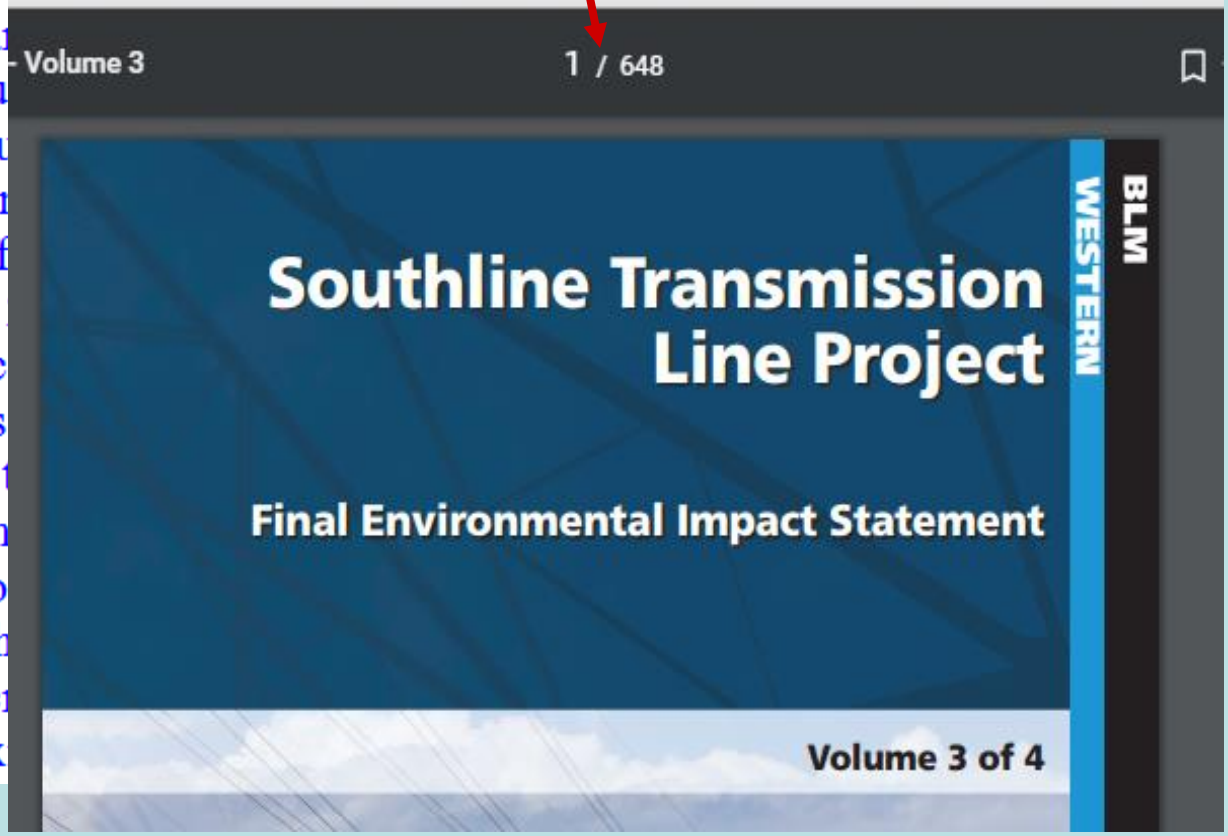

1. Materials available for checkout.

Contact us at info@cdonewsletter.com.

2. If you want access to web files, please give us your email.

3. If you have concerns, please share.