

FIELD REPORT

Q1 2022

Delivering Clean Energy
for the Future of the West.



SunZia®

SunZia Project Update

The SunZia Southwest Transmission Line is approaching another major milestone! In May, the Bureau of Land Management will issue a Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the SunZia project. This document analyzes the potential impacts of the SunZia transmission project and will identify a Preferred Alternative Route (PAR) in key areas that required re-alignment. It will also initiate a 90-day public comment period, during which the BLM will host public meetings. More information is available, here: <https://eplanning.blm.gov/eplanning-ui/project/2011785/510>

SunZia Powering Arizona and New Mexico's Renewable Goals

The State of Arizona and the State of New Mexico have clean energy goals that will decarbonize the electric grid. According to the American Clean Power Association, existing policies in the west require 9 gigawatts of new renewables per year starting in 2026. By 2050 the total demand in the west is upwards of 150 gigawatts.

In New Mexico, the Energy Transition Act (ETA) transitions New Mexico away from coal and toward renewable energy. The ETA sets a statewide renewable energy standard of 100% (zero-carbon fuel emissions) by 2045 for investor-owned utilities and 2050 for rural electric cooperatives.

In Arizona, the Arizona Corporation Commission established a renewable portfolio standard to reduce carbon fuel emissions for utilities by 100% (zero-carbon fuel emissions) by 2070.

California and Washington have some of our country's most ambitious targets with 100% clean energy standards or zero-carbon energy standards by 2045.

Nevada and Oregon have increased their existing Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) programs 100% by 2050 and 50% by 2040, respectively. Colorado has implemented a 30% RPS with a goal of 100% clean energy by 2040.

Regulators and operators of the Western grid have recognized the benefits of adding more renewable energy, which can be provided through the SunZia Southwest Transmission Line.

Quick Facts about SunZia:

- Where SunZia begins, there is more than 4,500 megawatts (MW) of wind energy capacity
- The project is comprised of two 500 kilovolts (kV) transmission lines
- SunZia will help to [power 1,086,705 southwestern households](#)
- SunZia will help to [eliminate 2,682,482 tons of coal](#)



Getting to Know the SunZia Team

Three questions with Nancy-Jean Welker and John Strand

Nancy-Jean Welker and John Strand are two of SunZia's on-the-ground team members who help with government relations. Nancy-Jean is based in Arizona and is very involved in economic development and education improvement in southeast Arizona. John is based in New Mexico and has over 40 years of experience working with local, state and federal government agencies. Read on as they answer more about how they became involved with SunZia and how this project is helping to shape the future of energy.



Nancy-Jean Welker, Project Coordinator

1. What is your role with SunZia?

I am a Project Coordinator and in this role, I help with government and public relations. I work with county supervisors, the city and economic development groups in Cochise, Graham and Greenlee counties in Arizona. I listen to concerns and questions that elected leaders and their constituents may have and direct them to the appropriate people when needed. I also collect their input and help determine what local projects could benefit from SunZia's support, including events like county fairs and groups such as local historic societies. I had been working with Southwestern Power Group for a number of years on another project and must have been doing a pretty good job because SunZia hired me for their project. I think it was a good match because my family has been in this area for generations and has been involved in the betterment of the area, particularly in economic development and education.

2. How did you come to be in this position?

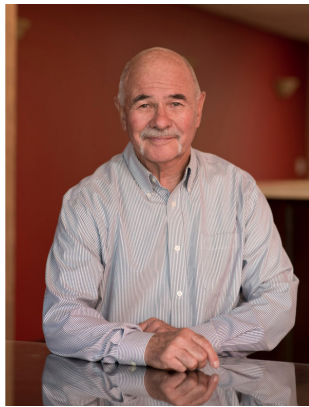
I served 17+ years on my local school board and almost as many on Arizona's Cochise County Regional First Thing's First. I continued my many years of service on my local chamber and water district boards and the Arizona Community Foundation/Northern Cochise Fund. These have helped me be involved with and build trust with people throughout the three counties (Cochise, Graham and Greenlee), including those in leadership positions. People know that when I work on a project, they can trust that it's for a good cause. I am so proud to work with this group and work with the people that this job has brought me in conjunction with.

3. What are you most excited about as the SunZia project nears completion?

I am most excited that the dreams of many hardworking, intelligent and talented people will finally come to fruition. Our country's electrical grid will be improved and a product that people clamor for will be delivered. I also am excited to see economic development come to areas that typically receive very little.

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John Strand, Governmental Affairs

1. What is your role with SunZia?

My official role is Government Affairs. I work with different communities, cities, counties and agencies within the state, as well as with property owners, to acquire rights of way and additional access roads that will be needed during construction. I am able to help navigate this process for SunZia because of my knowledge and experience in government relations and familiarity with southwestern New Mexico. I was born in southwestern New Mexico and so were my parents. My mother's family comes from a ranching community. Since transmission lines typically traverse through these ranching communities, I am able to help find a path that fits best within these localities. I have been with SunZia since 2009.

2. How did you come to be in this position?

I was recommended early on to John Ryan and they interviewed me and offered me the position. I was recommended because of my 30+ years of experience with local government. I have a thorough understanding of local, state and federal agencies and how they operate.

3. What are you most excited about as the SunZia project nears completion?

I think most of all, it's been very gratifying to see some of the smaller, rural communities benefit from a large project like SunZia. It is benefitting communities that haven't had economic opportunities, and it is something that will benefit the entire state. It also greatly improves infrastructure for electrical transmission lines in New Mexico, which allows the state to move existing energy and develop more renewable energy.



We're Building a Clean Energy Future

SunZia is a 500 kilovolt (kV) transmission project dedicated to clean energy. It is one of the largest interstate transmission lines of its kind - designed to transport up to 4,500 MW (megawatts) of clean energy from the wind and solar-rich areas of New Mexico and Arizona to customers across the West.

SunZia is helping make renewable energy the next great industry — benefiting local landowners, states, cities and towns while creating jobs and helping the environment.

SunZia is Clean Energy - SunZia is the Future.



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