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Danny J. Garcia
Chairman, District III

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District I

COUNTY MANAGER
Tomas Campos, III



Rio Arriba
Board of County Commissioners

Resolution No. 2017-041

A RESOLUTION IN OPPOSITION TO THE PROPOSED VERDE TRANSMISSION LINE

WHEREAS, northern New Mexico is world-renowned for its stunningly scenic vistas, unique skylines, and natural beauty; and

WHEREAS, New Mexico's Native and Hispanic cultures are abundantly alive and thriving after centuries of continuous habitation in the Española Valley; and

WHEREAS, the Black Mesa, located south of Española on Santa Clara Pueblo land, is an iconic symbol of the Española Valley, familiar and sacred to residents, and frequently photographed and admired by tourists; and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners for the County of Rio Arriba, in the Comprehensive Plan adopted by the Board on January 24, 2008 has committed to protecting the County's traditional land-based communities, customs, and cultures; improving the quality of life in the County; protecting the County's precious vistas, natural resources and waters; and developing housing, education and a business-friendly environment that creates prosperity and a bright future for the County's youth; and

WHEREAS, the County is committed to preserving and protecting the health, safety and welfare of its residents and property owners; its environment, ecosystems, air, scenic beauty and other natural resources; and its history, culture and archaeology; all for the benefit of the County and its citizens; and

WHEREAS, negative impacts on the landscape of northern New Mexico may interfere with the quality of life of its residents as well as tourism and efforts to promote the scenic beauty and outdoor recreational opportunities in northern New Mexico, thus hindering efforts to improve the financial climate of the region; and

WHEREAS, Hunt Power's Verde Transmission Project is a proposed new, approximately 33-mile long 345 kilovolt (kV) transmission line that will interconnect from the existing Public Service Company of New Mexico (PNM) Ojo station in southern Rio Arriba County to the existing PNM Norton station in Santa Fe County, New Mexico, and also would cross private and Pueblo land; and

Doc Id: 2017-041 DesireeHW

Meeting Date: 03/30/2017
Receipt #: 35524 Page 1 of 3 Doc Code: RES
Linda J. Padilla County Clerk & Recorder Rio Arriba, New Mexico



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WHEREAS, the Bureau of Land Management has received a right-of-way application from Verde Transmission, LLC, to construct, operate, and maintain a proposed overhead 345Kv transmission line commencing in Santa Fe County, New Mexico and terminating in Rio Arriba County, New Mexico; and

WHEREAS, the currently proposed Verde power line would be strung on poles measuring 90-110 feet tall, with 5-7 structures placed per mile, and an anticipated right-of-way width of 150 feet; and

WHEREAS; Hunt Power is seeking right-of-way for approximately twelve (12) miles of the proposed transmission line from the Bureau of Land Management, part of which lies within Rio Arriba County; and

WHEREAS; the Bureau of Land Management's Visual Resource Management system rates the 12-mile portion of federal land as Class II, the classification objective of which is to "retain the existing character of the landscape"; and

WHEREAS, the current proposed placement of the transmission line would run directly north of the Black Mesa on Santa Clara Pueblo land, obstructing the view for residents living in the vicinity; and

WHEREAS, rapid approval of such a large-scale project will prevent proper review and careful consideration of environmental and community impacts; and

WHEREAS, economic disadvantages have not been completely studied, and parties living near the route may require proper compensation for the way this project could their lives, health, and home and property values; and

WHEREAS, studies have shown an increase in childhood leukemia among those living near power lines and an increase in chronic adult leukemia among those who work in electricity-intensive industries; and

WHEREAS, the Española Public School Board has passed a resolution on the 21st of December 2016 recognizing the health hazards of the Hunt Power Verde Transmission Line Project, especially considering its close proximity to Hernandez Elementary and Carlos F. Vigil Middle School, which serve hundreds of local students; and

WHEREAS, the proposed power line does not promote power generation close to the source of consumption; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS FOR THE COUNTY OF RIO ARRIBA, NEW MEXICO:

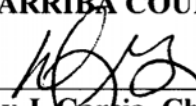
The Board stands in opposition to the approval of the Verde Transmission line in its current location; and

The Board further resolves that the aforementioned points in opposition to the approval of the Verde Transmission line be considered by the Bureau of Land Management's Environmental Impact Statement.

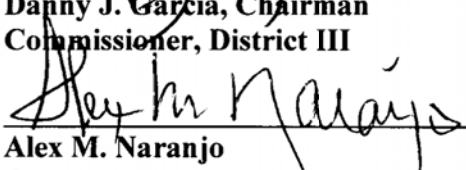
PASSED, ADOPTED AND APPROVED THIS 30TH DAY OF MARCH 2017.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
RIO ARRIBA COUNTY, NEW MEXICO

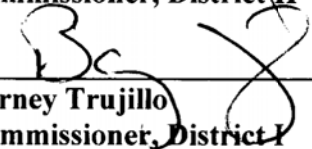




Danny J. Garcia, Chairman
Commissioner, District III



Alex M. Naranjo
Commissioner, District II



Barney Trujillo
Commissioner, District I

ATTEST:



Linda J. Padilla, Rio Arriba County Clerk