

REFERENCE TITLE: plant; transmission line; definitions

State of Arizona
House of Representatives
Fifty-seventh Legislature
Second Regular Session
2026

HB 2485

Introduced by
Representatives De Los Santos: Garcia, Travers

AN ACT

AMENDING SECTION 40-360, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES; RELATING TO THE POWER
PLANT AND TRANSMISSION LINE SITING COMMITTEE.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

1 Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona:

2 Section 1. Section 40-360, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to
3 read:

4 40-360. Definitions

5 In this article, unless the context otherwise requires:

6 1. "Area of jurisdiction" means the state, a county or an
7 incorporated city or town that exercises concurrent or exclusive
8 jurisdiction over a geographical area.

9 2. "Certificate of environmental compatibility" means the
10 certificate that is required by this article and that evidences the
11 approval by the state of the sites for a plant or transmission line, or
12 both.

13 3. "Commission" means the corporation commission.

14 4. "Committee" means the power plant and transmission line siting
15 committee.

16 5. "Current Arizona electric transmission system" means the
17 existing electric transmission system serving this state and all
18 transmission lines on file with the commission as of January 31 of the
19 previous year.

20 6. "Facilities" means a plant or transmission line, or both.

21 7. "Member" means the state official named herein, the employee
22 designee thereof from the department, agency or governing body of such
23 state official member and the public members designated herein.

24 8. "Person" means any state or agency or political subdivision
25 thereof, or any individual, partnership, joint venture, corporation, city
26 or county, whether located within or without this state, or any
27 combination of such entities.

28 9. "Plant" means each separate thermal electric, nuclear or
29 hydroelectric generating unit with a nameplate rating of ~~one hundred~~
30 ~~TWENTY-FIVE~~ megawatts or more for which expenditures or financial
31 commitments for land acquisition, materials, construction or engineering
32 exceeding \$50,000 have not been made before August 13, 1971.

33 10. "Transmission line" means ~~five or more new structures that span~~
34 ~~more than one mile in length as measured from the first structure outside~~
35 ~~of the substation, switchyard or generating site to which the line~~
36 ~~connects to the fifth structure and that are erected above ground and~~
37 ~~support~~ one or more conductors ~~THAT ARE~~ designed for the transmission of
38 electric energy at nominal voltages of one hundred fifteen thousand volts
39 or more, ~~THAT ARE ERECTED ABOVE GROUND AND THAT SPAN MORE THAN ONE MILE IN~~
40 ~~LENGTH AS MEASURED FROM THE OUTSIDE OF THE SUBSTATION, SWITCHYARD OR~~
41 ~~GENERATING SITE FROM WHICH THE LINE ORIGINATES TO THE OUTSIDE OF THE~~
42 ~~SUBSTATION, SWITCHYARD OR GENERATING SITE WHERE THE LINE TERMINATES~~ and
43 all new switchyards to be used therewith and related thereto for which
44 expenditures or financial commitments for land acquisition, materials,
45 construction or engineering exceeding \$50,000 have not been made before

1 August 13, 1971. ~~Transmission line does not include structures located on~~
2 ~~the substation, switchyard or generating site to which the line connects.~~

3 11. "Utility" means any person engaged in the generation or
4 transmission of electric energy.

5 Sec. 2. Legislative intent

6 A. The legislature finds and declares that there is at present and
7 will continue to be a growing need for electric service that will require
8 the construction of major new facilities. It is recognized that
9 facilities cannot be built without in some way affecting the physical
10 environment where the facilities are located. The legislature further
11 finds that it is essential in the public interest to minimize any adverse
12 effect on the environment and on the quality of life of the citizens of
13 this state that new facilities might cause. The legislature further finds
14 that present practices, proceedings and laws relating to the location of
15 utility facilities may be inadequate to protect environmental values and
16 take into account the total effect of the facilities on society. The lack
17 of adequate statutory procedures may result in delays in new construction
18 and increases in costs that are eventually passed on to the citizens of
19 this state in the form of higher electric rates and that may result in the
20 possible inability of the electric suppliers to meet the needs and desires
21 of the citizens of this state for economical and reliable electric
22 service. Furthermore, the legislature finds that existing law does not
23 provide adequate opportunity for individuals, groups interested in
24 conservation and the protection of the environment, local governments and
25 other public bodies to participate in a timely fashion in the decision to
26 locate a specific major facility at a specific site.

27 B. The legislature declares that it is the purpose of this act to
28 provide a single forum for the expeditious resolution of all matters
29 concerning the location of electric generating plants and transmission
30 lines in a single proceeding to which access will be open to interested
31 and affected individuals, groups, county and municipal governments and
32 other public bodies to enable them to participate in these decisions.