

SIGN-ON LETTER to TEP

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To David G. Hutchens,
President, Tucson Electric Power Company
Executive Vice President, Western Utility Operations, Fortis Inc.

Dear Mr. Hutchens:

Greetings from your friends and customers in Tucson and Pima County.

We the undersigned have a simple message at a crucial moment. We ask Tucson Electric Power (TEP) for the following:

1. Plan for seven generations of ecological recovery.
2. Expedite the replacement of fossil fuels with clean renewable energy enriched by energy storage.
3. Start in Tucson with the Irvington H. Wilson Sundt Generating Station (IGS).

We need electricity generation that will leave a legacy of environmental recovery and take us off the path of harm. We implore you, together with all utility managers, to reduce and eliminate fossil fuel-burning plants from your energy mix as quickly as possible. We call on you to use the best and most recent data, as well as your creativity, to ensure that you reconsider your current Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) and its reliance on natural gas and also that your next IRP focus on clean renewable energy and energy efficiency rather than fossil fuels in order to ensure that the next seven generations of Pima County residents have a chance to enjoy, treasure, and protect the beauty of our Sonoran Desert and that the pollution from coal and natural gas plants does not continue to pollute the air and water of those outside our communities either. We urge you to start immediately in the heart of Tucson by installing solar plus storage at and near the IGS.

Sustainability in Arizona depends on agile cooperation from many quarters. For this reason we extend our call to many other regional decision-makers to whom we are sending copies of this letter.

Actions most likely to contribute to our region's sustainability include the renewable fueling of our energy and transportation infrastructures. A TEP decision to redesign IGS for sustainability should garner intergovernmental assistance and community support and can help TEP be a true leader in our community.

Last year, TEP submitted its IRP to the Arizona Corporation Commission. In March of this year, the Commission took an unprecedented step when it refused to acknowledge the plan due, at least in part, to its heavy reliance on natural gas. While the ACC also approved siting of the IGS units, it sent a strong message to both TEP and Arizona Public Service (APS) that both utilities must look seriously at renewable energy and that among the Commission's objectives was "to protect ratepayers from potential unnecessary capital improvements in the near future and stranded asset costs in the long-term."

TEP is seeking regulatory approval to install 200 megawatts of gas-fired electrical generation at IGS in the middle of a community that has already been disparately affected by both coal and natural gas pollution from this facility.

Now it is proposing to actually increase emissions in the area. TEP's Prevention of Significant Deterioration (PSD) of Air Quality permit application currently under consideration by the Pima County Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and Region 9 of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) seeks increases in allowable hazardous air pollutants and other criterial pollutants from IGS while Tucson is at the cusp of exceeding the federal Clean Air Act's health-based standards for ozone.

At the time TEP proposed installing the gas-fired generators, utility-scale energy storage systems for peaking functions were not nearly as competitive. Now, paired with renewable generation, they are replacing planned gas generation and even outperforming existing gas peaker plants in the U.S. Southwest. [Solar + storage can now bridge most of the time and intensity gaps between solar production and power demand.](#) Additional benefits of solar plus storage include responding to frequency and voltage anomalies in milliseconds rather than minutes, enabling solar energy to meet a larger share of local energy usage, and adding value to noontime solar production by absorbing and then releasing it to meet afternoon and evening demand peaks.

Intergovernmental assistance can facilitate preparation of contingencies for solar plus storage facilities at and near the IGS plant, and possibly at other appropriate locations in TEP service territory. IGS's large footprint is more than adequate to accommodate an ample energy storage facility. To make optimal use of such a facility, however, could require a combination of additional acreage for photovoltaic solar energy collection and ongoing growth in distributed solar generation (mostly rooftop systems) to charge the storage facility.

We call on decision-makers to exercise deftness and good judgment to facilitate southern Arizona's orderly and just transition to fossil-free energy, for the benefit of current and future generations in Tucson, Pima County, and distant areas that suffer due to pollution from existing coal- and natural gas-fueled power generation facilities.

Signed:

*Sierra Club Grand Canyon Chapter
Sustainable Tucson*

*Doug Bland, Arizona Interfaith Power
and Light*

Center for Biological Diversity

*Rev. Carol Rose, Co-Pastor, Shalom
Mennonite Fellowship*

*Melissa and Joshua Warner, Warner
Data Art*

*Duane Ediger, Power Generations for
Generations to Come*

Jennifer Metzler, Corbett nbrhd.

Rob McLane, Miles nbrhd.

Amanda Heffernan, Midtown Tucson

Joshua Mattson, Midtown Tucson

Erik Yoder, Tucson

Derek Christophel, Menlo Park

Ashley Edgette, Armory Park

*Steve Jamilkowski, Tierra del Paraiso
nbrhd.*

*Floyd Hershberger, Shalom Mennonite
Fellowship*

*Alyssa Womer, Technicians for
Sustainability*

Fern Hieb, Sam Hughes nbrhd.

Cyrina King, Tucson

Sean Herman, Menlo Park

Jonathan Giddings, Midway

April Simmons, Hendrick Acres nbrhd.

Colleen Whitaker, Tucson

*Bart Smith, Pastor, St. Mark's
Presbyterian Church*

*Neil Saunders, Barrio Kroger Lane
nbrhd.*

Brian Park, Mountain-1st Ave. nbrhd.

*Tyler Groff, Midtown Tucson, TEP
customer*

Betty L Hartzler, the Hartzler family

Joshua Ashton, Vail

Christian Correa, Lakeside Park

Erika Roush, Limberlost nbrhd.

Megan Bartel, Tucson Park West #1

*Ricardo Flores, Technicians for
Sustainability*

Leslie Glass, Tucson

Shauna Mclsaac, MD, Central Tucson

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Arizona Corporation Commission
Pima Association of Governments, Regional Council
Pima County Board of Supervisors
Pima County Department of Environmental Quality,
Ursula Nelson, Director
Pima County Administrator Chuck Huckelberry
Tucson Mayor Jonathan Rothschild
Tucson City Manager Michael Ortega
Tucson City Council
Davis-Monthan AFB,
Chief Master Sgt. Shanece Johnson
AZ DOT State Transportation Board Member
Michael S. Hammond, Dist. 2 (Pima County)
United States Secretary of Energy Rick Perry
U.S. EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt
EPA Region 9, Air Division,
Acting Director Matthew Lakin
U.S. Senator John McCain
U.S. Senator Jeff Flake
U.S. Rep. Martha McSally
U.S. Rep. Raúl Grijalva
Western Electric Coordinating Council

State Senator Andrea Dalessandro (Dist. 2)
State Senator Olivia Cajero Bedford (Dist. 3)
State Senator Lisa Otondo (Dist. 4)
State Senator Steve Farley, Asst. Minority Leader (Dist. 9)
State Senator David Bradley (Dist. 10)
State Senator Steve Smith (Dist. 11)
State Senator Gail Griffin, Majority Whip (Dist. 14)
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