

Information and Updates about

Southline Transmission Project

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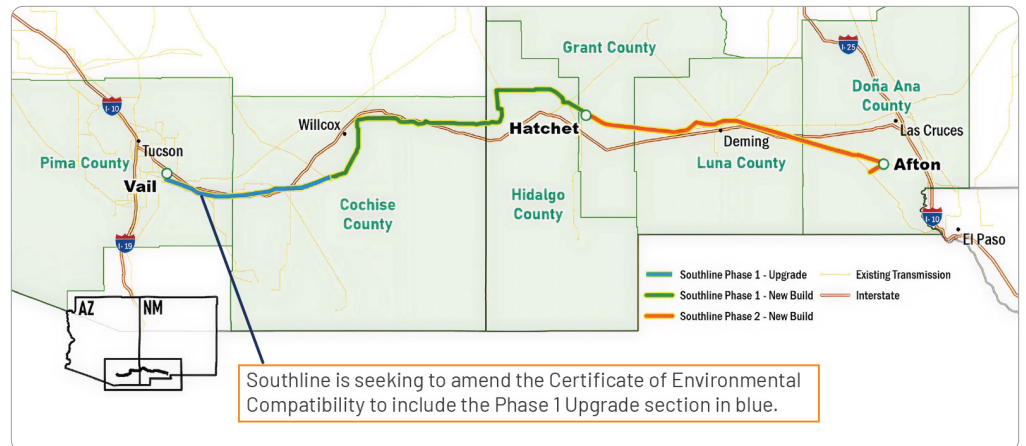
What is a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility (CEC)?

A CEC is a required permitting approval from the Arizona Corporation Commission for any transmission line designed at voltages of 115 kilovolts or higher.

PROJECT UPDATES

Certificate of Environmental Compatibility Amendment Approval

In November 2025, Southline Transmission applied to the Arizona Corporation Commission (ACC) requesting an amendment to the project’s Certificate of Environmental Compatibility (CEC). The amendment extends the existing CEC to include upgrading 57 miles of the Western Area Power Administration’s (WAPA) over-60-year-old 115-kV transmission line with a double-circuit 230/345-kV transmission line. The upgrade will provide ten times more transmission capacity on the same right-of-way as the existing aged line, minimizing local impacts while maximizing regional grid benefits. Over the course of three years (2012-2015), the upgrade segment was fully reviewed and permitted through the National Environmental Policy Act process.



A public hearing was held on January 12 and 13, 2026, by the Arizona Power Plant and Transmission Line Siting Committee, a subcommittee of the ACC that recommends whether or not the ACC should approve CEC applications. During the hearing, the Line Siting Committee heard testimony from Southline representatives and public comments related to the application. At the end of the hearing, the Line Siting Committee unanimously voted to recommend the ACC approve Southline’s CEC amendment.

On March 4, 2026, the ACC reviewed the Line Siting Committee’s recommendation and fully approved Southline’s CEC. This CEC amendment represents one of the final pre-construction permitting submissions for Southline.

A copy of the application and the hearing transcripts are available at southlinetransmission.com/materials.

Project Schedule Updates

Southline is in the final stages of development, which includes completing detailed engineering, performing pre-construction environmental surveys, and finalizing commercial arrangements.

SOUTHLINE TRANSMISSION IN THE COMMUNITY

Wings Over Willcox



“ Our Wings Over Willcox festival was a great success – we had participants from all over the U.S. and Canada! It was a wonderful time sharing many special moments with everyone who came: engaging with nature, watching wildlife, and appreciating our interdependence with our environment. We are grateful for Southline’s support and assistance bringing everyone together. ”

– HOMER HANSEN, WINGS OVER WILLCOX PRESIDENT

In mid-January, Wings Over Willcox held its 33rd annual Birding and Nature Festival, celebrating the return of thousands of migratory Sandhill Cranes that call southeast Arizona their home for the winter. The festival included guided field trips, expert talks, hands-on learning, and family-friendly activities that showcase the rich winter wildlife of the Sulphur Springs Valley. Southline is proud to sponsor one of the region’s most celebrated winter gatherings.

Wings Over Willcox 2026 by the numbers:



274

registrants



Participation

22 states
2 Canadian provinces
46 cities in Arizona



Nearly 1,000

walk-ins for the nature expo and seminars/activities

San Simon Fire District

The San Simon Fire District (District) provides vital emergency services for the community of San Simon, Arizona, and the surrounding areas. The District performs emergency medical response, fire suppression, and vehicle extrication services. Its fire and rescue operations are carried out by a team of trained volunteers and paid personnel skilled in both structural and vehicle firefighting tactics. The District also supports public education and fire prevention efforts by partnering with the San Simon Unified School District #18.

In December 2025, the District received a grant from Southline Transmission. This funding, combined with \$15,000 contributed by the District, supported the purchase of new fire and rescue equipment: a hydraulic ram, spreader, and cutter, critical tools used in vehicle extrication and rescue operations.



Arizona Open Houses

Ahead of the project’s Certificate of Environmental Compatibility (CEC) hearing with the Arizona Corporation Commission, Southline held two series of in-person open house meetings in Arizona. In November and December, attendees met with Southline representatives to learn more about the project and the CEC amendment process, ask questions, and provide input on the 57-mile Western Area Power Administration transmission line upgrade.

Southline also created a virtual open house for individuals who could not attend one of the open houses in person. If you are interested in reviewing the virtual materials, which are identical to those presented at the in-person open houses, please visit southlinetransmission.com/materials and click on the “Virtual Open House” button.



GILA COMMUNITY FOUNDATION – SOUTHLINE COMMUNITY INVESTMENT PROGRAM

In November 2025, Southline Transmission partnered with the Gila Community Foundation to create a special grant cycle to strengthen and sustain nonprofit, municipal, and county organizations in southwest New Mexico. The Gila Community Foundation announced grant recipients in December, awarding \$214,000 across organizations in Grant, Luna, Doña Ana, and Hidalgo counties to support critical community needs.

Grantees received support for projects addressing food insecurity, senior services, emergency and essential community services, animal welfare and veterinary clinics, and community health and wellbeing. The SCIP Advisory Committee, composed of community representatives from Grant, Luna, and Doña Ana counties, led the review and selection process. Neither Southline Transmission Project nor its co-developers, Grid United and Black Forest Partners, determine grant recipients.

Eligible applicants include non-profit, municipal, and county-level organizations serving one or more of the host counties: Grant, Luna, Doña Ana, and Hidalgo.

To find out more information about the Southline Community Investment Program, please visit <https://gilacf.org/grants/southline-grants/> or email info@gilacf.org.



YOUR QUESTIONS, ANSWERED

Who will maintain and operate Southline once it is built?

Southline is coordinating with local utilities for long-term operation and maintenance of the transmission line.

Do electric and magnetic fields (EMF) from transmission lines affect people, animals, and plants?

Multiple authoritative reviews of scientific research on alternating current (AC) fields confirm that the fields we typically encounter in our communities and under transmission lines are not harmful to human or animal health or crops. Exposures to AC fields under transmission lines and elsewhere in communities are below the limits set by scientific agencies, such as the World Health Organization and the International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection.

For more information on EMF, please visit <https://southlinetransmission.com/wp-content/uploads/2026/03/EMF-brochure-scrollable.pdf>.

How will Southline's construction affect me?

All construction activities will be performed inside the project right-of-way and authorized temporary workspaces. Construction should not interfere with day-to-day activities for non-participating landowners.

Southline is developing a dust control plan for construction, which will identify sources of dust during construction and provide appropriate dust mitigation measures to ensure minimal impact. Traffic levels will increase around the site during construction, including oversized vehicles and machinery. Southline will provide traffic control and flaggers for safety as appropriate. While road closures are not expected, if any occur for heavy loads, Southline will work to minimize any traffic delays. Once the line is operational, normal traffic levels will resume.

Will access roads be needed?

Yes, a combination of temporary and permanent access roads are required to construct and maintain the transmission structures. These roads are identified in consultation with landowners.