



Providing Video Comments & Testimony on Just and Equitable Transition to the Arizona Corporation Commission

Video Steps:

- 1. Thank the Commission** for the opportunity to provide comments.
- 2. Introduce yourself**, including your name and where you live. Include details to let them know who you are ("I am a business owner..."; "I suffer / my child suffers from asthma..."; "I worked at ___ for ___ years...")
- 3. Explain your purpose.** ("I am here to to urge the Commission to rule in favor of requiring utilities like TEP and APS to assist communities like mine that have been impacted by decisions to close down coal-fired power plants.")
- 4. Pick some talking points from the next pages or use the prompts listed below.** Choose from our list and make it your own!
- 5. Ask and Thank.** ("For these reasons, I ask that the Corporation Commission Vote in support of APS's Just Transition proposal AND use its authority to develop a framework for how utilities will address their Just and Equitable Transition responsibilities for future closures.")

Video Testimony Prompts:

- **How has your life / your family's life been impacted by coal mines or power plants?**
- **How has your life / your family's life been affected by plant closures?**
- **Why is it important for the ACC to require Just Transition assistance in the wake of plant closures? What kind of support does your community need? Why?**
- **Why is it important for the ACC and utility companies to act *now* instead of waiting to provide transition assistance?**
- **What does an "Empowered Transition" mean to you? (i.e. dependable jobs, economic security, cleaner air, healthier environment, etc.)**
- **What else do you want to tell Arizona leaders, utility companies, and/or lawmakers?**

Use the talking points below for inspiration for your video. Pick 2-4 points you'd like to focus on, use your own words, and speak from the heart.



Talking Points: Members of the Navajo Nation / Hopi Tribes

- I am a member of the Navajo Nation / Hopi Tribe, and so are many of my friends and family. We have already felt the economic impact of the closure of Navajo Generating Station and Kayenta Mine, and the closure of two more of power plants and mines located on or near tribal land in the next 10 years will only make matters worse.
- Navajo Generating Station, Four Corners Plant and Cholla Power Plant – and the coal mines that feed them – have been key drivers of our local economy for decades. For example, the plant / mine is where many of the people in my community have worked.
- The Navajo Nation / Hopi Tribe is facing many challenges. Too many people in my community live without electricity or even running water. And the power plants and coal mines, despite creating many good jobs, never delivered on the promises about how coal would bring prosperity to the entire tribe. There are not enough jobs to go around. Many disappeared when NGS and Kayenta Mine closed, and there will be even fewer when these other plants close. The utilities have a responsibility to help create new jobs and revitalize our economies.
- Coal-fired power has exacted steep costs on our people. Pollution from the plants causes respiratory disease and is responsible for dozens of deaths a year, and even more heart attacks and asthma attacks.
- Our people have sacrificed our land, our water, and our health to generate the electricity and provide the water that have made Tucson, Phoenix and all of Arizona thrive. It's time for TEP and APS to pay back some of the many millions they have made off tribal resources and communities.
- The Commission holds the power to help the tribal communities that have made Arizona prosper transition to new, sustainable economies. Coal plants and mines have already closed, and more closures are coming. Transition assistance is needed NOW, not later.

Talking Points: Our Ask

For these reasons, I ask that the Corporation Commission:

- Vote in support of APS's Just Transition proposal AND use its authority to develop a framework for how utilities will address their Just and Equitable Transition responsibilities for future closures.
- Consider creating a transition fund that will be used to provide financial support for tribal and nontribal communities affected by coal plant closures; investing in renewable energy development on tribal land; committing to helping bring electricity to the thousands of homes that current do not have access; job retraining; lost tax revenue replacement and providing in-kind assistance.

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Talking Points: For Communities Near Coal Plants

- I live near NGS / FCPP / Cholla. So do my kids, my spouse, my congregation, and many others I care about. We have seen first-hand the harm that pollution from power plants causes to human health.
- Although I don't work at NGS / FCPP / Cholla, I care about those who do because they're my friends and family and neighbors. Their jobs and future are at stake through the decisions that APS makes about how much longer its power plants will operate.
- NGS / FCPP / Cholla has a big impact on how much money our local community has, how much money the government has to fund things like police, fire, schools and social services. The plant also impacts how clean the air we breathe is.
- We have grown economically dependent on coal and coal-fired power, and our future will be uncertain when the power plant closes, and that day is coming quickly.
- Coal-fired power plants are uneconomic and utilities like TEP and APS are closing them down earlier and earlier. NGS and Kayenta Mine closed 25 years earlier than they were supposed to – giving our communities and local governments less than three years to find ways to replace lost jobs and significant parts of our revenue. That's hardly enough time to completely rebuild local economies and replace lost jobs.
- The experience with Navajo Generating Station should serve as a potent reminder of why the Corporation Commission needs to step in. NGS closed more than a year ago. The other owners knew it was going to close more than three years ago. And still, not a single dime of Just Transition support has been contributed to help communities hurt economically by the closure.
- Just as the Commission's job is to avoid major changes to electricity prices as a way to protect consumers, it also needs to make protecting local communities from sudden job losses and economic losses a core part of its mission. This is an opportunity for the Commission to make that happen.

Talking Points: Our Ask

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