



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION IX

75 Hawthorne Street

San Francisco, CA 94105-3901

VIA ELECTRONIC FILING AND U.S. MAIL

Date: NOV 25 2019

Clerk of the Board
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Environmental Appeals Board
1200 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.
Mail Code 1103M
Washington, D.C. 20460-0001

Jeffrey Jenkins
Plant Manager
Four Corners Steam Electric Station
PO Box 355, MS 4900
Fruitland, New Mexico 87416-0355

RE: Arizona Public Service Company
Notice of Stay
NPDES Permit No. NN0000019
For the Four Corners Power Plant
EAB NPDES Appeal No. 19-06

In accordance with 40 C.F.R. section 124.16, the United States Environmental Protection Agency, Region 9 ("EPA") is providing notice of a stay for the Four Corners Power Plant National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System ("NPDES") Permit No. NN0000019 ("Permit"). EPA issued the final Permit and transmitted the Notice of Final Permit Decision to Arizona Public Service Company ("APS") and other parties on September 30, 2019.

Five entities timely filed a joint petition ("Petition") with the EPA Environmental Appeals Board ("EAB") requesting a review of the Permit: Dine' Citizens Against Ruining the Environment, San Juan Citizens Alliance, Amigos Bravos, Center for Biological Diversity, and Sierra Club (collectively, "Petitioners"). The Petitioners raise twelve issues for review by the EAB.

Several of the issues raised in the Petition are broad complaints that question the viability of the Permit as a whole. These include, but are not limited to (1) Petitioners contention that the Permit was issued in violation of the Endangered Species Act, and (2) Petitioners allegation that the Clean Water Act section 401 certification was invalid.

When EPA is notified that a Petition for Review has been filed, EPA is to issue a notification to the EAB, the permit applicant, and all other interested parties of the uncontested and severable conditions of the final permit. While a permit appeal is pending, the contested permit conditions are stayed. *See* 40 C.F.R. § 124.16(a). The remaining uncontested permit conditions that are not severable from contested conditions are also stayed. *See* 40 C.F.R. § 124.16(a)(2)(i). Petitioners requested that certain provisions of the Permit remain in effect. *See* Petition at p. 70. Based on our review of the Petition, EPA has determined that several claims implicate the legal defensibility of the Permit as a whole such that there are no uncontested conditions that are severable from the Permit as a whole. The entire Permit is therefore stayed pursuant to 40 C.F.R. section 124.16(a).

EPA is notifying you that, pursuant to 40 C.F.R. section 124.16(c), APS will continue to be subject to the terms and conditions of NPDES Permit No. NN0000019 as issued on January 24, 2001. *See also* 40 C.F.R. §§ 122.6, 124.60(b)(4).

If you have any questions regarding this notice, please contact Gary Sheth of my staff at (415) 972-3516, or our attorney, Tom Hagler, of the Office of Regional Counsel at (415) 972-3945.

Sincerely,

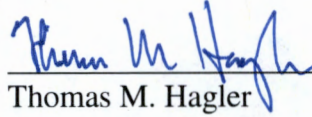


Tomás Torres
Director, Water Division

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that I caused a copy of the attached EPA's Notice of Stay of Contested Permit Conditions to be served via EPA's E-Filing System, E-Mail and U.S. Mail to

Dated: 11/25/19



Thomas M. Hagler
Office of Regional Counsel
EPA Region 9 (MC ORC-2)
75 Hawthorne St.
San Francisco, CA 94105
Telephone: (415) 972-3945
Facsimile: (415) 947-3570
Email: hagler.tom@epa.gov

John Barth
Attorney at Law
P.O. Box 409
Hygiene, CO 80533
(303)774-8868
barthlawoffice@gmail.com
Attorney for Petitioners

Jeffrey Jenkins
Plant Manager
Four Corners Steam Electric Station
PO Box 355, MS 4900
Fruitland, New Mexico 87416-0355
Jeffrey.jenkins@aps.com
Phone: 505-598-8200

Kerry McGrath
Hunton Andrews Kurth LLP
2200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20037
KMcGrath@HuntonAK.com
(202)955-1519
Attorney for Arizona Public Service Company