

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

STATE OF COLORADO

DOCKET NO. 09A-324E

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF TRI-STATE GENERATION AND TRANSMISSION ASSOCIATION, INC., (A) FOR A CERTIFICATE OF PUBLIC CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY FOR THE SAN LUIS VALLEY-CALUMET-COMANCHE TRANSMISSION PROJECT, (B) FOR SPECIFIC FINDINGS WITH RESPECT TO EMF AND NOISE, AND (C) FOR APPROVAL OF OWNERSHIP INTEREST TRANSFER AS NEEDED WHEN PROJECT IS COMPLETED.

DOCKET NO. 09A-325E

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY OF COLORADO (A) FOR A CERTIFICATE OF PUBLIC CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY FOR THE SAN LUIS VALLEY TO CALUMET TO COMANCHE TRANSMISSION PROJECT, (B) FOR SPECIFIC FINDINGS WITH RESPECT TO EMF AND NOISE, AND (C) FOR APPROVAL OF OWNERSHIP INTEREST TRANSFER AS NEEDED WHEN PROJECT IS COMPLETED.

ANSWER TESTIMONY OF RON D. VELARDE

ON BEHALF OF

RON D. VELARDE

October 28, 2009

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ANSWER TESTIMONY OF RON D. VELARDE

1 **Q. Please state your name and address.**

2 A. My name is Ron D. Velarde and my address is 423 W. Mayfield Dr., Grand
3 Junction, CO 81507.

4 **Q. What is the purpose of your testimony?**

5 A. My testimony presents our continued concerns as property owners in the proposed
6 right of way that Tri-State proposed to build on or near our property on Pass
7 Creek Road within both Huerfano and Costilla Counties.

8 **Q. Why is such a power line of concern?**

1 A. My concern is because of the lay of the land. Our property lies between the
2 altitudes of 9,200-9,000 feet. In addition, our land receives a lot of moisture
3 especially between the months of July through November and March through
4 June. The electro-magnetic electricity and noise levels are at its greatest at this
5 altitude and because of the moisture we receive at this location. This EME is of
6 grave concern to me and my family who are in this vicinity during those periods
7 of time. The P.U.C. should protect us from this type of potential health risk, noise
8 and other types of problems that can arise at this altitude.

9 **Q. What do you do for a living?**

10 A. I have worked for the Colorado Division of Wildlife for 39 years. Although I am
11 presently an administrator stationed in Grand Junction, I am a Wildlife Biologist
12 by trade and very familiar with the eco- system in and around the LaVeta Pass
13 area.

14 **Q. Are there any residences on the property, and if so, are they within the
15 proposed corridor for the transmission line?**

16 A. Yes, we have two residences within the proposed transmission line. One belongs
17 to my uncle's family and the other belongs to my brother Anthony Velarde and
18 me.

19 **Q. Do you think that Tri-State and Public Service have demonstrated their need
20 for this line sufficiently to warrant impacts it might have on your property
21 and other similar properties?**

22 A. No, I have not seen the need explained to me other than the need to prevent
23 power outages in the San Luis Valley and to carry power generated from

1 proposed solar from the San Luis Valley to the front range. They have not
2 explained very well why the power shouldn't be carried in the existing corridor
3 from Alamosa over Poncha Pass.