



# Sulphur Springs Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

## REVIEW

To: Robert Kirschmann Planner II-Cochise County Community Development  
From: Ruth Bigelow-Right of Way Agent  
Date: September 19, 2019  
Re: SU-19-05 (Douglas)

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- SSVEC does not object to this Special Use request

If you have any questions concerning this review please contact me at 520-384-5513 or [rbigelow@ssvec.com](mailto:rbigelow@ssvec.com)

**From:** [Guzman, Margarita](#)  
**To:** [Kirschmann, Robert](#)  
**Cc:** [Jayme Lopez](#); [Colleen Bergmanis](#)  
**Subject:** Re: [EXTERNAL] FW: Transmittal for SU-19-05 (Douglas)  
**Date:** Monday, September 30, 2019 9:44:49 AM

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**CAUTION: EXTERNAL EMAIL\***

Robert,  
I tried getting into the sharepoint link you provided for our comments, and we don't have access. So here are some concerns we have regarding the firing range proposal. This is from our range management specialist, Eric Baker, and conversations he has had with the grazing permittee having property behind the range.

I have already had a call about this from the Babocomari grazing lease holder Mike Hayhurst a couple months ago and again today.

- At the time he had big concerns of shots fired toward lease holder and help while gathering cattle from their BLM lease. The projectiles were so close someone was thrown off their horse. There was a lot of yelling to get the firing to stop. Within minutes and the guys horseback only 2-300 yards away shooting resumed.
- Use of full auto weapons.
- Projectiles on the BLM allotment in the vicinity is in the 1000s.
- The berm is only 1' tall and the targets are above that.
- Shooting lane points directly to a cattle trail for nearby water.
- The range owner has been selling ammo from the location. The legality of that was questioned as well as having a business license to operate. Its been operating for months now.
- The other concern was that the owner of the range wasn't far enough from residences.
- There were upset neighbors and intimidation and threatening tactics have been used for anyone opposing this use of his property.

My concerns;

- The map provided in this email is not correctly showing the range. You can see the shooting lane from imagery. Zach was right on the money showing the parcels. The application package is incorrect.
- It is almost exactly in line with a long term vegetative key area.
- The BLM lands in this area, while are technically admin only, is not physically locked off and the unlocked gate at the highway does not limit access. That route is in line with the shooting lane and anybody can access it at any time. USGS uses this route frequently to check gauges.
- There are no SOPs for livestock or wildlife in the line of fire and forcing a cease fire. These should be copied from the Sierra Vista Shooting Range. The purpose of the joint BLM/ AZ Game and Fish Sierra Vista Shooting Range was to provide a good, safe location (over 640 acres) for recreational shooting. There are multiple areas including 2 long range (600m) ranges, a combat training facility and a shotgun range. This small range is redundant to the very well equipped Sierra Vista Shooting Range and the facility is too close to residences. The line of sight at the Sierra vista shooting range is beyond 1000 meters and multiple safety berms are between ranges. Projectiles go toward mountain range.
- I share the same concerns as the lease holder about the dangers of the firing line being shot into the BLM grazing allotment. It doesn't matter how high the dirt berm is there will always be a risk because the site does not suit this type of activity at this level or at all. Safety is the absolute number one concern and this location is not ideal.

I hope these comments share the big concerns I have with the operation adjacent to our BLM grazing allotment. There was a public meeting on Oct 9th I was encouraged to attend but I'm not really sure my place as a public servant would best suit this apposing a small business.

Have a great rest of your day,

Eric Baker

Rangeland Management Specialist

Bureau of Land Management, Interior Region 8 (Lower Colorado Basin)

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***Margarita (Margie) Guzman***

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On Mon, Sep 23, 2019 at 4:13 PM Kirschmann, Robert <[RKirschmann@cochise.az.gov](mailto:RKirschmann@cochise.az.gov)> wrote:

Good afternoon,

Please find the documents we discussed attached. If you or your team have any questions, please let me know.

Best regards,

**Robert Kirschmann**