



APS-OWNED PALOMA SOLAR POWER PLANT NOW ONLINE

First AZ Sun Facility Generates Power for 4,200 APS Customers

October 27, 2011 12:03 PM Eastern Daylight Time

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Solar Man makes his debut appearance at the Paloma Plant ribbon cutting



PHOENIX--[Arizona Public Service Co.](#) and [First Solar](#) announced today the completion of the 17-megawatt (MW) Paloma Solar Power Plant – the first facility to reach commercial operation as part of the AZ Sun Program.

Earlier this week, APS also placed the Cotton Center Solar Plant in commercial operation, the second AZ Sun facility to come online. Cotton Center added an additional 17 MW to the AZ Sun Program. Both plants are located in Gila Bend.

Through the first phase of the [AZ Sun Program](#), APS is investing in the development of 100 MW of turn-key, utility-scale solar photovoltaic power plants across Arizona. Third-party partners, such as Tempe-based First Solar, develop and construct the AZ Sun facilities, which APS will own and operate upon completion. The four-year program is expected to have 100 MW online by 2014 and create more than 1,000 Arizona construction jobs.

“Solar energy is a critical part of our planning to meet the energy needs of APS customers. Our customers embrace solar power, just as we do. That’s why we are so proud of the Paloma facility and our AZ Sun program – we are developing large solar plants that take the amount of solar we provide to customers to a new level,” said [Don Robinson, APS President and Chief Operating Officer](#). “We are also generating more than power from our solar development efforts – we’re creating jobs.”

More than 700 construction jobs were created this year in Arizona as a result of the AZ Sun Program. Paloma contributed 300 of those jobs. Paloma consists of 275,000 thin-film photovoltaic panels mounted on fixed-tilt steel supports. This installation marks the first time APS is using thin-film technology for one of its solar plants. This project also is the first on which APS has worked with First Solar. “Paloma is the culmination of a successful partnership between APS, Gila Bend and First Solar,” said Jim Lamon, First Solar Senior Vice President of Engineering, Procurement, Construction, Operations and Maintenance.

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Procurement, Construction, Operations and Maintenance. “First Solar’s efficient and innovative engineering and construction process, along with APS’s leadership and Gila Bend’s commitment in the renewable arena, led to this facility setting development records.”

From the initial contract signing in February between APS and First Solar until the Paloma Plant began producing electricity, this project was completed in the shortest time either APS or First Solar has achieved.

The fast development and construction timeframe also is a testament to the [Town of Gila Bend](#). Gila Bend is quickly becoming the solar hub of Arizona. Along with the Paloma and Cotton Center solar plants, Gila Bend is home to the Solana Generating Station – which is currently under construction by Abengoa Solar and, once complete in 2013, will be among the world’s largest solar facilities. APS has a contract to purchase all of the output from Solana.

“We are committed to promoting, locating and fast-tracking utility-scale solar in order to bring these projects to Gila Bend,” said [Gila Bend Mayor Ron Henry](#). “The Paloma plant represents another major solar energy investment APS has made in our community. We appreciate this continuing partnership, and we are proud to foster the development of solar energy.”

The first phase of the AZ Sun Program was approved by the [Arizona Corporation Commission](#) (ACC) in 2010. The Hyder Solar Plant in southwestern Arizona is expected to reach commercial operation in the fourth quarter of 2011, making it the third AZ Sun facility to be placed in service. Additionally, APS has an application pending before the ACC for another 100-MW phase of the AZ Sun Program.

With Paloma and Cotton Center, APS’s total renewable portfolio is 930 MW, including projects online and in development. Of that total, 362 MW are in service today, providing enough electricity to meet the needs of more than 90,000 APS customers. Complete details on current and future APS renewable projects are available online at [aps.com/remap](#).

[APS](#), Arizona’s largest and longest-serving electricity utility, serves more than 1.1 million customers in 11 of the state’s 15 counties. With headquarters in Phoenix, APS is the principal subsidiary of [Pinnacle West Capital Corp.](#) (NYSE: PNW).

November Community Calendar

November 1, 2011



- 11/5 & 6 – 9th Annual Desert Shrimp Fest
- **11/07 – Council Meeting –GBHS Media Center (6:00pm)**
- 11/08– Council Meeting Changed to 11/07
- 11/22 -Council Meeting – Regular Meeting(6:00pm)
- 11/23 – Town Offices close at 1:00pm
- 11/24 – Thanksgiving – Town Offices Closed
- 12/03 – Hoop Shoot

Residential Holiday Trash Collection

November 1, 2011

Schedule for Holiday Trash Collection

Thursday, Thanksgiving Day – San Lucy Village pick up **only**

Friday, November 25th – Residential pick up

Christmas – No change

New Years – No change

9th Annual Desert Shrimp Fest This Weekend

November 1, 2011



This year the 9th Annual Desert Shrimp Fest will be held on Saturday, November 5th (10am – 10pm) and Sunday, November 6th (10am – 6pm). The festival benefits local charities, schools, youth groups, senior programs, local organizations and more by distributing festival proceeds to the charity of choice of each volunteer.

The Town's recently acquired 9/11 artifact from the World Trade Center will be displayed publicly for the first time. Live music on Saturday will be provided from 1pm-10pm. The Shrimp Eating Contest will be held on both days, as will the Coloring Contest and Bobbing for Shrimp (in Cocktail Sauce).

Over 30 food, merchandise and informational vendors will be participating this year. Shrimp lovers must try one of the many tasty shrimp dishes prepared at the Chamber's Shrimp Alley.

Come and have some fun at the 9th Annual Desert Shrimp Fest.

Town Office Closure



Town offices will close on Wednesday, November 23, 2011 at 1:00pm and will remain closed through the 24th in observance of Thanksgiving. Offices will open at their regularly scheduled times on Monday, November 28th. The Mayor, Town Council, town management and staff wish you a safe and happy Thanksgiving.

Town Manager Presents Gila Bend to Washington, D.C.

October 31, 2011



Town Manager Rick Buss traveled to Washington, D.C. to present *Gila Bend's Renewable Energy Initiatives* to the Department of Energy's Public Affairs and to the Solar Energy Technologies Program on October 21st through the 23rd.

According to the Town Manager, the meetings were primarily focused on economic development with "jobs and prosperity for the residents of the Gila Bend region" as the number one issue. Mr. Buss spoke on Gila Bend leading the effort, our lead in innovative policy making (Solar Field Overlay Zone) and being first with a 'vision of the future' when it comes to the emerging industry for solar and renewable energy.

Two challenges to the solar industry that Gila Bend, Arizona and the U.S. faces are the Transmission Line Infrastructure and the Supply Chain. According to the Town Manager, "The transmission line infrastructure in the U.S. is fragile at best, and this fragility was put on display about a month ago when the North Gila Substation went offline, blacking out power to Yuma, San Diego, and the region. The transmission line infrastructure of the US needs to be upgraded (for both renewable and non-renewable generation), to support reliability, redundancy and national security."

The challenge of the transmission line infrastructure provides a great opportunity for the Gila Bend region. The construction of a transmission line into California to export power into California and Mexico would create thousands of jobs with possibly another 20 plants being built in this region.

"The presentations have been very well received", according to the Town Manager and by the feedback provided, "they were very impressed with what we are doing in Gila Bend". There were comments on the exclusivity of what Gila Bend is doing and that nothing like it has been seen anywhere else in the country.

In regards to the supply chain, by identifying the elements we will be better prepared to target all the value added products and services associated with the supply chain, referred to as "owning the technology". By doing this, job growth is greater and wage levels more prosperous. The supply chain often represents 80% of the jobs associated with an industry.

For more information on the presentation and Gila Bend goes to Washington, D.C. you can visit our website at www.gilabendaz.org or call the Town Office at 928-683-2255.