

ATLANTIC-DEL MAR REINFORCEMENT PROJECT MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION AND INITIAL STUDY

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Pursuant to the California Public Utilities Commission's (CPUC) General Order 131-D, Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) has filed an application with the Commission for a Permit to Construct power lines and associated substation modifications known as the Atlantic-Del Mar Reinforcement Project (A.01-07-004). The Application was filed on July 9, 2001 and includes the Proponents Environmental Assessment (PG&E, 2001a) prepared by PG&E pursuant to Rules 17.1 and 17.3 of CPUC's Rules of Practice and Procedure. PG&E requests authority to: (1) construct approximately 4 miles of 60-kilovolt (kV) single-circuit electric power line; and (2) install a new 60 kV breaker at the existing Atlantic Substation, and installing a new switch at the existing Del Mar Substation. Under the Commission's General Order 131-D, approval of this project must comply with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) in order to assess the potential environmental impacts of the proposed project. Based on this assessment from the Initial Study, this Mitigated Negative Declaration has been prepared.

On October 17, 2001, the CPUC released for public review a Draft Mitigated Negative Declaration and Draft Initial Study (MND/IS) for the proposed construction of PG&E's Atlantic-Del Mar Reinforcement Project in Roseville and Rocklin, California, in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and Rule 17.1 of the CPUC's Rules of Practice and Procedure. The reports were filed with the State Clearinghouse on October 17, 2001. A 30-day review and comment period (CEQA Guidelines § 15105) began on October 17 and closed on November 16, 2001.

Following closure of the public review period, responses to all comments received on the document were prepared, and modifications to the MND/IS were undertaken, as appropriate, to reflect these comments.

In response to numerous comments on the potential of the visual impacts of the project, the CPUC revised the MND/IS visual resources analysis and prepared new visual photo simulations of the proposed project. This new analysis, which considered the importance of the historic district to the residents of Rocklin, concluded that the project would create potentially significant impacts to visual resources within Rocklin's historic district. To eliminate the potential for significant impacts within Rocklin's historic district, the revised Aesthetics Section of the MND/IS recommends mitigation that requires the Proposed Project to be installed underground from a location just south of Sunset Boulevard to a location north of Midas Avenue. As a result, every other environmental issue area was reassessed for potential impacts associated with this undergrounding mitigation measure. Where potential impacts were identified, those impacts were described and additional mitigation measures were added. The study concludes that, with the addition of several new mitigation measures, the project including the underground segment would have less than significant impacts.

The majority of the other issues raised during the comment period were with regard to health impacts associated with Electric and Magnetic Fields (EMF), property values, and hazards associated with the potential for the poles and lines to fall on people and structures, including the Kinder Morgan tank farm located south of Sunset Boulevard. It was concluded that no additional mitigation measures are required to reduce EMF and property value impacts and that impacts associated with these issues remain less than significant. However, with regard to hazards associated with the potential for the poles

and power lines to fall on the Kinder Morgan tank farm, it was concluded that a mitigation measure to limit project pole placement to at least 200 feet away from the tanks (to ensure that poles are out of striking distance of the tanks) would reduce this potentially significant impact to less than significant.

This document is a Revised Draft MND/IS to be circulated for a 30-day public review period. It includes the revised Aesthetics Section and incorporates revisions to the other environmental issue areas, where appropriate. Many of the comments received on the initial Draft MND/IS are addressed in this Revised Draft MND/IS; however, this Revised Draft MND/IS does not include specific responses to the comments received on the Draft MND/IS. Those responses to comments, as well as the responses to the comments that will be received on this Revised Draft MND/IS, will be presented in the Final MND/IS, which the Commission will consider for approval of the Project.