



Aspen Environmental Group

PROJECT MEMORANDUM PG&E JEFFERSON-MARTIN 230KV TRANSMISSION PROJECT

To: Billie Blanchard, CPUC
From: Vida Strong, Aspen Project Manager
Date: February 15, 2005
Subject: Weekly Report #4: February 6, 2005 – February 12, 2005
CPUC Environmental Monitor (EM): Jody Fessler

Aspen EM Jody Fessler was on site from February 7 through February 11 on Segments 1, 2, and 5 to monitor construction activities.

SEGMENT 1:

Summary of Activity:

Construction activities continued during the subject week with excavation of manholes and the placement of vaults. Light rain fell on the project area on Monday and Friday. PG&E Environmental Inspectors (EIs) were on-site to ensure compliance with the adopted EIR, Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP), and other permit requirements. Three PG&E EIs were on-site to inspect environmental compliance at the work sites and two biological monitors were located on the west side of Cañada Road to watch for frogs and snakes and to make sure these species did not enter the work site. The following activities occurred on Segment 1 during the subject week:

1. On February 7, crews started excavating Manhole #3 (Station #37+00) and Manhole #4 (Station #54+25) on Cañada Road. The soil from the Manhole #3 pit and Manhole #4 pit was transported to Ox Mountain landfill in Half Moon Bay (Class 3 facility). Groundwater was a big problem at Manhole #3 and the west side of the pit kept caving in. Crews shored the pit on the first day of excavation and poured cement slurry on the east side of the shoring to help stabilize the shoring. They did this because when soil caved in from the west side of the pit, it would push the shoring to the east and destabilize it. Manhole #4 had no groundwater problems and it was shored on Monday and the bottom of the pit leveled with pea gravel. The manhole vault pits were dug to a level of approximately 12 to 13 feet. On Tuesday, a large crane was used to lower the vaults into the excavated pits. Once the vaults were set, crews poured cement slurry around and over the manhole vaults. After the load of cement slurry was emptied, the trucks washed out in the vault pits. Crews were still dealing with the cave-in issue at Manhole #3 on Tuesday evening (see Figure 1). They had to cut the asphalt and remove it over the cave-in so they could excavate the cave-in soils. On Wednesday, manhole rings were being set for both vaults. Cement slurry was finished being poured around the vaults on Wednesday (see Figure 2). On Thursday, the crew finished with the pouring of the asphalt and compacting the road. All materials and traffic controls were removed from these sites at the end of the day Thursday.
2. Trenching activities began between Manhole #7 and Manhole #8 on Monday. Muddy soil was encountered, which caused work to progress very slowly. Groundwater had seeped into the trench around Station #106+00. On Tuesday morning around 10:30 AM, right after the Segment 1 and Segment 5 meetings in Hayward, the CPUC EM received a voice message from one of PG&E's EIs that muddy spoils from trenching activities had spilled into a vegetated drainage on the east side of Cañada Road (see Figures 3 and 4). The CPUC EM conducted a site visit of the area around 11:30 AM. Trenching had stopped in the area causing the problem of spoil spillage (approximately Station #106+00 to 106+50), and moved further north to an area that was not saturated with groundwater. The Segment 1

Construction Manager asked permission to do shoring of the trench in the problem area for safety reasons. The CPUC EM gave permission for safety work to proceed. The CPUC EM gave PG&E two hours to notify CDFG, USFWS, and the SFPUC of the incident as per the condition in NTP #1. PG&E's EIs notified Bob Masuoka of PG&E of the spoil spill. Bob notified Joe Naris at the SFPUC on the day of the incident, but did not notify CDFG or USFWS until February 10 in an email. The issue of immediate notification of the agencies was discussed during the February 10 conference call with PG&E, Black & Veatch, CH2M Hill, Opus Environmental, and Aspen Environmental Group. It was explained by Aspen to the interested parties that a phone call would suffice for immediate notification to the agencies so the agencies have the opportunity to come out and look at any breach of construction into vegetated areas off the side of Cañada Road. The phone notification could then be followed up later with a more detailed description of what occurred at the site. Dave Johnston of CDFG came out to look at the site on Wednesday after receiving a call from the CPUC EM to verify that he had been notified about the incident. Mary Hammer of USFWS called the CPUC EM on Friday to inform the CPUC EM that she had not received notification of the incident until Thursday, February 10. The CPUC issued a Project Memorandum on February 9 regarding the breach into vegetated areas by trenching activities.

Trenching continued north and south of the spoil spill site from approximately Station #105+00 to 108+80. More groundwater and saturated soil was encountered and cave-ins occurred along the trenching segment. PG&E's Lead EI left the CPUC EM a voice message on February 10 around 8:30 AM informing her that there had been a break in the excavator's hydraulic fluid line and that about 2 gallons of hydraulic fluid had spilled onto the road and into the trench. The CPUC EM conducted a site visit of the area later in the morning and observed that cleanup had commenced. The asphalt around the spill had been cut and was removed and taken away with the contaminated soil. The CPUC EM will obtain information about where the contaminated soil and asphalt were taken and how it was disposed of. Conduit was installed in the trench from approximately Station #105+00 to 106+50 and a customized cement slurry was poured over the conduit for insulation purposes on February 10. From approximately Station #106+50 to 108+80, another type of cement slurry was poured into empty trenches because of the requirement to have all trenches and pits paved over by the weekend because of recreational uses along Cañada Road. The cement slurry will be excavated out of this area on Monday, February 14, so conduit can be installed. Crews paved over the trenched area on Friday and finished around 3:30 PM.

3. Traffic controls (signs, cones, and lights) were set up on Cañada Road. Traffic control flaggers were in place at either end of the construction areas along Cañada Road. Large vehicles were parked on either side of the manhole vaults to keep vehicles and people from entering the area. Traffic cones were left in place blocking off the eastern lane. Bright lights were set up on either end of the project at night. A small night crew stayed on-site at night and did some work. A biological monitor also stayed at the site at night to observe construction, watch for animals, and in case a crew member needed to move their vehicle.
4. On Wednesday, February 9, crews were observed pumping groundwater out of a water truck and into a baker tank at the Mueller/InfraSource staging yard. PG&E's subcontractors were reminded that they do not have a permit to discharge groundwater, only storm water. PG&E's subcontractor informed the CPUC EM that they would store the groundwater in the baker tank and then use it for dust control.
5. On February 10, crews started setting up Biological Exclusion Fencing along the west side of the road at Manhole #5 (Station #69+50 to 74+00) and Manhole #6 (Station #87+50 to 92+00) on Cañada Road. The CPUC EM observed crews cutting asphalt for Manhole #5 and Manhole #6 vault pits on February 10 in preparation for excavation, which is scheduled for February 14.
6. On Friday, January 11, crews conducted cleanup activities along Cañada Road in preparation for the weekend traffic.

Environmental Compliance Activities:

On February 8, the CPUC EM observed that trenching activities from approximately Station #106+00 to 106+50 had breached the road and un-vegetated road side and spilled muddy spoils into the vegetated drainage along the east side of Cañada Road. On February 9, the CPUC issued a Project Memorandum regarding this incident. On February 10, PG&E responded to the Project Memorandum and described how they would address the situation.

Other Segment 1 construction activities were in compliance with mitigation measures adopted in the EIR and other permit requirements. Erosion controls were in place around the construction areas.

SEGMENT 2, OVERHEAD

Summary of Activity

A Notice to Proceed has not been issued for the overhead component of Segment 2.

Environmental Compliance Activities:

1. On February 8, Dave Johnston of CDFG wrote an email to PG&E's biological consultants, CH2MHill, with questions regarding the dismantling and removal of woodrat nests on the overhead portion of Segment 2. On February 9, PG&E's biological consultant replied to some of the questions posed by CDFG. PG&E has requested a meeting with CDFG to discuss the issue in more detail.

SEGMENT 5:

Summary of Activity:

Construction activities continued during the subject week with excavation of a manhole and the placement of a vault. Light rain fell on the project area on Monday and Friday. One of the PG&E EIs was on-site to ensure compliance with the adopted EIR, Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP), and other permit requirements. The following activities occurred on Segment 5 during the subject week:

1. Excavation of Manhole #68 (Station #1271+45) vault pit began February 7 along Guadalupe Canyon Parkway on San Bruno Mountain. Crews finished excavating the manhole to about 15 feet on Tuesday (see Figure 5) and the vault was installed on Wednesday. Cement slurry was poured on Thursday and final paving was completed on Friday (see Figure 6).
2. Traffic controls (signs, cones, and lights) were set up on Guadalupe Canyon Parkway. Traffic control flaggers were in place at either end of the construction areas. Large vehicles were parked on either side of the manhole vault to keep vehicles and people from entering the area. Traffic cones were left in place blocking off the southern lane. Bright lights were set up on either end of the project at night. A small night crew stayed on-site at night and did some light work.
3. On February 10, the CPUC EM gave approval to place porta-potties within 100 feet of drainage outlets along the road, as long as the porta-potties were downhill from the drainage outlets and there would be no chance of contaminated waste getting into the drainages.
4. On February 11, the CPUC EM observed crews getting ready to re-cut asphalt for Manhole #67 (Station #1255+06) vault pit to make it larger in preparation for excavation, which is scheduled for February 14.
5. On Friday, January 11, crews conducted cleanup activities along Guadalupe Canyon Parkway in preparation for the weekend.

Environmental Compliance Activities:

The CPUC EM observed that Segment 5 construction activities were in compliance with mitigation measures adopted in the EIR and other permit requirements. Erosion controls were in place around the construction areas.

NOTICES TO PROCEED (NTP):

On January 10, 2005, NTP #1 was issued by CPUC to construct the Segment 1 (underground) and Segment 5 (unincorporated San Mateo County only) portions of the Jefferson-Martin 230 kV Transmission Project within San Mateo County. PG&E continues with the submittal of pre-construction compliance materials for other portions of the project. PG&E has noted that they are interested in receiving the next NTP for Segment 3 and Segment 5 (incorporated).

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE:

One Non-Compliance Report (NCR) and one Project Memorandum (PM) have been issued for the project to date (see Table 1). A letter from the CPUC was issued on February 9 discussing the non-compliance issues and other unresolved issues. Soil test results for the entire project should be presented to the CPUC for review next week.

TABLE 1
ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE STATUS
(Updated 02-15-05)

Project Memo or NCR	Date Issued	Description	Follow-Up Activities
NCR (Level 3)	2-01-05	Segment 2 – Dismantling and removal of woodrat nests along the overhead route without consulting with CDFG.	PG&E consulting with CDFG on how to proceed.
PM	2-09-05	Segment 1 - Breach of trenching activities into vegetated drainage on east side of Cañada Road between MH #7 and MH #8.	PG&E consulting with CDFG and USFWS on how to proceed.

VARIANCE REQUESTS:

Variance Request #2 for use of staging area in South San Francisco was submitted for review on February 4 and was approved by the CPUC on February 9.

TABLE 2
VARIANCE REQUEST STATUS
(Updated 02-15-05)

Variance Request #	Date Submitted	Description	Status	CPUC Approval Date
1	1-14-05	40 Edwards Court, Burlingame – Paved parking lot that is fenced to be used as a staging yard.	Approved	1-18-05
2	2-04-05	Staging yard, Old Bayshore Hwy & San Bruno Avenue E., South San Francisco.	Approved	2-09-05

UPCOMING ITEMS:

PG&E holds weekly meetings to review issues and upcoming events for Segment 1 on Monday (1:00 pm, San Mateo BV office) and Tuesday (8:00 am, Hayward BV office), and a weekly meeting for Segment 5 on Tuesdays (9:00 am, Hayward BV office).

AGENCY PERSONNEL CONTACTS:

On February 7, the CPUC EM contacted Dave Johnston of CDFG to inform him that woodrat nests had been removed and dismantled along the overhead portion of Segment 2 based on a tree removal survey that had not yet been approved by the CPUC. Therefore, there is the distinct possibility that many woodrat nests were unnecessarily dismantled based on this preliminary tree survey.

On February 9, the CPUC EM contacted Dave Johnston and left a voice message to confirm that CDFG was notified of a breach of the road and un-vegetated shoulder along Cañada Road and the spill of muddy spoils into the vegetated drainage on the east side of Cañada Road. The CPUC EM was later informed that CDFG had not been immediately notified, and after Dave had received the CPUC EM’s phone message, he conducted a site visit of the breached area.

On February 9, the CPUC EM contacted Mary Hammer of USFWS and left a voice message to confirm that USFWS was notified of a breach of the road and un-vegetated shoulder along Cañada Road and the spill of muddy spoils into the vegetated drainage on the east side of Cañada Road. Mary Hammer called the CPUC EM on February 11 and informed the CPUC EM that she had not received notification of the spill incident until February 10 by email.

On February 10, Anne Sweet of Aspen Environmental Group contacted Habti Kifle at the RWQCB to get clarification on the requirements for the discharge of groundwater. Habti emailed Bob Masuoka of PG&E regarding groundwater requirements.

On February 11, Anne Sweet of Aspen Environmental Group emailed Habti Kifle to get clarification on the use of groundwater for dust control.

Photographs



Figure 1 – Manhole #3 on Cañada Road, Segment 1, February 8, 2005.
Vault installed and ready to excavate cave-in on west side of vault.



Figure 2 – Manhole #4 on Segment 1, February 9, 2005.



Figure 3 – Spoil spill due to trenching activities at Station #106+00 on Cañada Road, Segment 1, February 8, 2005.



Figure 4 – Spoil spill into vegetated drainage at Station #108+00 on Cañada Road, Segment 1, February 8, 2005



Figure 5 – Preparing for shoring to arrive at MH #68 on Segment 5, February 8, 2005.



Figure 6 – Manhole #68 paving complete on Segment 5, February 11, 2005.