



Aspen Environmental Group

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

To: Billie Blanchard, CPUC
From: Vida Strong, Aspen Project Manager
Date: March 8, 2005
Subject: Weekly Report #7: February 27, 2005 – March 5, 2005
CPUC Environmental Monitor (EM): Jody Fessler

Aspen EM Jody Fessler was on site February 28, March 1, 2, and 3, along Segment 1, 2, and 5.

SEGMENT 1:

Summary of Activity:

Construction activities continued during the subject week with excavation of manholes, placement of vaults, excavation of trenches, and installation of conduit. The weather was partly cloudy and overcast at times throughout the week and it rained, heavy at times, on March 1 and March 3. PG&E Environmental Inspectors (EI) were on-site to ensure compliance with the adopted EIR, Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP), and other permit requirements. At least three PG&E EIs were on-site during daytime activities to inspect environmental compliance at the work sites and six to eight 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 28, crews started excavating the trench from approximately Station #72+00 north to Manhole #5 (station #74+00), and between Manhole #5 and Manhole #6 (station #92+00) on Cañada Road (see Figure 1). The soil from the trenching activities was transported to Ox Mountain landfill in Half Moon Bay (Class 3 facility). Serpentine soil and rock was encountered and a geologist was onsite Tuesday and Wednesday to determine serpentine areas. Crews shored the trench as they excavated. On Wednesday night, the hillside at around Station #84+000 started to fail. A geologist was called out to the site as well as San Mateo County. On Thursday morning, the hillside slip was excavated so it would not slide into the trench or road (see Figure 3). The County approved of a temporary fix and is reviewing options proposed by PG&E for a permanent fix. Conduit was installed in the trench as the excavation progressed, and cement slurry was poured around the conduit as it was installed. Crews worked through the night shift installing conduit in the trench. 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. On Thursday and Friday, crews conducted asphalt paving of the trench. On Friday, the crew completed the asphalt paving on Cañada Road. All materials and traffic controls were removed from the construction area at the end of the day Friday.
2. On Thursday, PG&E's EI pointed out an area near a culvert around Station #88+00 where silty water was seeping out of the ground and into the creek. The silty water was probably coming from an old french drain that was discovered running parallel to the trench that the county said was not in use anymore. The area where the water was seeping out of was surrounded with straw wattles and sandbags to filter out some of the silt before it ran into the creek. Once the trench was sealed up, the water seeping out of the ground ran clean.
3. Traffic controls (signs, cones, and lights) were set up on Cañada Road. Traffic control flaggers were in place at either end and in the middle of the construction area along Cañada Road. Bright lights were set up on either end of the project at night.

4. On Tuesday, the CPUC EM observed that about 15 dump trucks were parking on the side of the road on the Edgewood off-ramp from Highway 280 South. The PG&E EI informed the CPUC EM that the Segment 1 Construction Manager had gotten approval to park dump trucks there while they waited to move to the construction area for loading from Caltrans and the CHP. The CPUC EM requested confirmation of this approval for the CPUC records. The CPUC EM followed up on the issue on Wednesday and was informed by the PG&E EI that the Construction Manager for Segment 1 decided to have all trucks park on the side of Cañada Road in the approved work area.
5. Construction in the Caltrans right-of-way (ROW) on Skyline at the Highway 92 West exit off Highway 280 began Sunday night. Work hours at that location are from 9 PM to 6 AM. K-rails were set up around the manhole and traffic controls were set up around the construction zone. Caltrans is allowing the manholes to stay open with K-rails around them as long as two lanes can be open throughout the day. Crews excavated Manhole #20 on Monday night, set the vault on Tuesday night and poured some cement slurry, set manhole rings on Wednesday night and poured more cement slurry, and completed paving Thursday night (see Figure 2).
6. Biological exclusion fencing (BEF) was installed on the west side of Skyline along the construction area in the Caltrans right-of-way. PG&E is waiting to get more clarification on the installation of the BEF in this area.
7. On Friday, February 25, crews conducted cleanup activities along Cañada Road in preparation for the weekend.

Environmental Compliance Activities:

On Monday, February 28, a nesting hummingbird was found near Manhole #5. The CPUC EM and CDFG were not informed about the nest until Thursday. A Project Memorandum was issued by the CPUC on Friday, March 4, regarding immediate notification of any nesting birds.

One small spill was reported to the CPUC EM this week on Tuesday for Segment 1. The spill was near Station #78+00 and was approximately 5 gallons of hydraulic fluid from a line that broke on a backhoe and spilled into the trench area. The spill was cleaned up and disposed of at an appropriate facility.

Some minor vehicle and equipment leaks occurred this week and were cleaned up as soon as they were discovered with absorbent material.

On Friday, March 4, the CPUC EM was informed that water overwhelmed the trench at approximately Station #88+00 on Thursday night during heavy rains and flowed into a creek. The PG&E EI had been watching the area all night because it had happened earlier in the week as well. Crews were pumping the water out of the area continuously, but there was too much storm water to keep up with it. The RWQCB was contacted by PG&E's EIs and they were asked to revise their BMPs so that something like this will not occur in the future. The CPUC EM asked for a copy of the revised BMPs.

The CPUC EM observed that all 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, UNDERGROUND & OVERHEAD

Summary of Activity

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

The CPUC EM conducted a site visit of the underground section a couple of times during the week. No work was observed along Segment 2.

Environmental Compliance Activities:

PG&E continues to work with CDFG regarding woodrat removal activities that previously occurred without CDFG concurrence. PG&E is also consulting with USFWS and CDFG on the whole overhead segment.

SEGMENT 5:

Summary of Activity:

Construction activities continued during the subject week with the excavation of a manhole, placement of a vault, installation of stub-outs on either side of the previously set manhole vault, and trenching activities. One of the PG&E EIs was on-site to ensure compliance with mitigation measures adopted in the 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 #70 (Station #1305+82) vault pit began February 28 along Guadalupe Canyon Parkway on San Bruno Mountain. Crews finished excavating the manhole to about 14 feet and shored the pit on Monday (see Figure 4). The vault was installed on Tuesday and cement slurry was poured on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. Paving was completed on Saturday.
2. Crews worked on the stub-outs at Manhole #69 throughout the week. Conduit was installed on either side of the manhole, cement slurry poured, and the areas paved over on Saturday.
3. Excavation of trench to approximately Station #1275+00 east of Manhole #68 (Station #1271+45) began on Monday for the installation of conduit (see Figure 5). On Wednesday night, the trench was covered with plywood and plastic sheets that were anchored with sandbags to prevent storm water from getting into the trench. Conduit was installed throughout the week, cement slurry poured, and final paving done on Saturday.
4. 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.
5. On Tuesday, March 1, the Segment 5 Construction Manager asked the CPUC EM if a couple of crew members would be allowed to walk into the vegetation to look at a culvert for construction purposes. The CPUC EM approved this activity as long as the PG&E EI was contacted and watched the activity. PG&E also received approval for this activity from the San Bruno HCP Manager.
6. On Friday, March 4, crews conducted cleanup activities along Guadalupe Canyon Parkway in preparation for the weekend.

Environmental Compliance Activities:

PG&E’s EI informed the CPUC EM of a small diesel fuel spill near Manhole #70 on Monday, February 28. The spill was cleaned up immediately with absorbent material.

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. CPUC issued NTP #2 for the Segment 2 underground portion of the project on March 8. PG&E has noted that they are interested in receiving the next NTP for Segment 3 and 5 incorporated.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE:

One Non-Compliance Report (NCR) and three Project Memorandums (PMs) 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. A multi-agency meeting was conducted with PG&E and their subcontractors on February 28 to discuss non-compliance issues. Draft minutes were issued on March 4 for meeting participant comments.

TABLE 1
ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE STATUS
(Updated 3-9-05)

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.
PM	2-16-05	Segment 5 – Dewatering of Manhole #67 vault pit without consulting with RWQCB on handling of water	PG&E consulting with RWQCB on how to proceed with storm water and groundwater.
PM	3-04-05	Segment 1 – Hummingbird nest found near Manhole #5 on Monday, Feb. 28, and not reported to CPUC or CDFG until Thursday, March 3.	PG&E discussing better communication between PG&E and sub-contractors.

VARIANCE REQUESTS:

Variance Request #3 was submitted on February 22 to change the compliance timing for Mitigation Measure U-1c, corrosion, from pre-construction to during-construction. This request was approved by the CPUC on Friday, March 4.

TABLE 2
VARIANCE REQUEST STATUS
(Updated 3-9-05)

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, Airport Boulevard & North Access Road., South San Francisco.	Approved	2-09-05
3	2-22-05	Change compliance timing for Mitigation Measure U-1c, corrosion, from pre-construction to during construction.	Approved	3-04-05

UPCOMING ITEMS:

PG&E holds weekly meetings to review issues and upcoming events for Segment 1 on Friday (12:00 pm, San Mateo BV office) and Tuesday (8:00 am, Hayward BV office), and a weekly meeting for Segment 5 on Monday (3:00 pm, South SF Mueller/InfraSource Staging Yard) and Tuesdays (9:00 am, Hayward BV office).

A CPUC sponsored meeting with CDFG, USFWS, RWQCB, and PG&E and their subcontractors to discuss non-compliance issues was conducted on February 28. Draft minutes for the meeting were issued for meeting participant comments on March 4.

AGENCY PERSONNEL CONTACTS:

Dave Johnston of CDFG called the CPUC EM on Thursday, March 3rd regarding the nesting hummingbird found near Manhole #5 on Monday. Segment 2 underground was also discussed and Mr. Johnston waived the need for PG&E to consult about biological issues on that portion of the segment since it is in an urban area. Mr. Johnston still wants to discuss bird survey issues for Segments 2, 3, and 4, with PG&E. Mr. Johnston asked the CPUC EM to review the Avian Protection Plan that was submitted by PG&E to CDFG and give him comments.

Photographs



Figure 1 – Trenching along Cañada Road, Segment 1, February 28, 2005



Figure 2 – Setting manhole rings at Manhole #20 in the Caltrans ROW, Segment 1, March 2, 2005



Figure 3 – Hillside failure along trenching at approximately Station #84+00 on Cañada Road, Segment 1, March 3, 2005



Figure 4 – Shoring Manhole #70 on Guadalupe Canyon Parkway, Segment 5, February 28, 2005



Figure 5 – Crews installing conduit in trench east of Manhole #68, Segment 5, March 3, 2005