



235 Montgomery Street, Suite 935, San Francisco, CA 94104-3002
Tel. 415-955-4775, Fax 415-955-4776, www.aspeneg.com

**PROJECT MEMORANDUM
PG&E SEVENTH STANDARD SUBSTATION PROJECT**

To: Monisha Gangopadhyay, CEQA Project Manager, CPUC
From: Vida Strong, Aspen Project Manager
Date: June 16, 2010
Subject: Report #7: May 30, 2010 – June 12, 2010

CPUC ENVIRONMENTAL MONITOR (EM): Lynn Stafford

CPUC EM Lynn Stafford was on site June 11th. During the visit, he met with Holly Hill, the Transcon Biological Monitor, John Tart, PG&E Inspector, and the site superintendent for TTR, electrical contractor.

The PG&E Seventh Standard Project includes: construction of a new 115/21-kilovolt (kV) electric distribution substation, constructed on an approximately five acre almond orchard site at 33815 Seventh Standard Road in Bakersfield, California. The project also includes installation of three tubular steel poles, including two dead-ends, two drop-down structures, up to nine distribution circuits (at full build-out), and a paved 550-foot-long access road from Seventh Standard Road to the substation.

During the subject period, work continued on the activities permitted by Notices to Proceed (NTP) #1 and #2. NTP #1 permits activities includes site grading, civil work, and installation of three tubular steel pole foundations and poles for the power line within the Seventh Standard Substation property. NTP #2 permits activities include the remaining aspects of construction including general electrical work, installation of steel structures, low and high voltage equipment, installation of the electrical controls enclosure and telecommunications equipment, equipment testing, paving of roads, and final grading of the property. The civil contractor is D & C, and the electrical contractor is TTR.

SUMMARY OF CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY:

Prior to the issuance of Notice to Proceed #1, the almond trees within the five acre site had been removed by PG&E during fall 2009, in preparation for substation construction. Also, Crimson Oil Company, which owns a nearby capped oil well, placed an oil pipe encased in corrugated steel culvert pipe in a trench across the location of the to-be-constructed access road to the substation.

During the subject period, construction of structure foundations, below-ground conduit trenches, and the ground grid system continued (see Figure 1). The structures will begin to be erected during the following week. The concrete pad for the transformer was placed.

The tubular steel poles were installed near the eastern edge of the site (see Figure 2).

Work on the perimeter chain link fencing continued during the subject period (see Figure 3). The eight-foot high chain link fencing is expected to arrive at the site during the following week. Chain link perimeter fence will be placed on both sides of the access road and along the south, north and east boundaries of the substation. A concrete paneled wall will be placed along the perimeter of the west edge of the substation site in anticipation of future home development in that area. Supports for the concrete wall paneling have been placed (see Figure 4). The prefab concrete panels for the wall will be arriving on site within the next few weeks.

The western portion of the site will not be used for the current substation. During construction it is being utilized for vehicle and equipment parking, and for materials storage. This section may be used for future substation expansion.



The contractors currently are working from 0700 hours through 1730 hours Monday through Friday, and sometimes on Saturday.

Security is on site after work hours and 24 hours/day on non-work days.

SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE:

In addition to the PG&E construction inspector(s), a Transcon Environmental Inc. biological monitor has been present during all work activity. The biological monitor performed kit fox sweeps before commencement of construction each day, checked periodically for nearby nesting birds and other wildlife, inspected newly arriving equipment for cleanliness, checked stored pipe for closures, checked trenches and holes, checked for food-related trash, and trained new employees as they arrived. She, with the inspectors, also ensured compliance with all other environmental mitigation measures such as fugitive dust control and fluid spill prevention and containment. The biological monitor uses a 32-point check list each work day based on this project's mitigation measures to ensure coverage of all environmental issues.

All personnel working on site, including the security guard staff, have received environmental training by the biological monitor prior to commencing work on the Project site. This training includes all subjects included in the mitigation measures and the SWPPP for the project. The training materials, as well as pertinent permits, and other Project documents, were available on a daily basis onsite. The sign-sheets have been viewed by the CPUC EM. The sign-up sheets will be sent to the CPUC.

During the subject period, open trenches were less than two feet deep and were sloped enough to allow escape by animals. One partially buried pipe with a diameter of six inches was left open over night accidentally (see Figure 5). A plug was pushed gently through the pipe to the other open end to ensure no animal was present. The pipe then was closed.

No fox or other mammal tracks or other evidence was found within the substation site during the subject period. The surface of the soil on the site is crusty and non conducive to track formation at this time. Several bird species have been observed in the area. One active Killdeer nest was present on site during the subject week (see Figure 6). The area surrounding the nest was roped off (see Figure 7). No other birds were nesting in the immediate vicinity of the Project during the subject period.

The contractor continued to use a water truck for dust control. Fugitive dust did not appear to be an issue during the subject period.

A shaker plate with rock apron continued to be in place at the entrance of the access road to Seventh Standard Road.

No leakage of fluids from equipment was observed. Equipment was being monitored continually. Newly arriving equipment was checked for cleanliness.

No concrete clean-out basin is on site, because the concrete delivery trucks used are equipped with internal recycling systems that clean the concrete delivery chamber and stores the wash-out within the truck for reuse.

The chain link perimeter fence under construction was fitted with temporary supporting wiring between the poles during the subject period. The wires were festooned with flagging to prevent bird collision events (see Figure 3).

The CPUC EM observed that the work site was clean with no trash, including food-related materials, present. A hand board was present at the site with safety instructions and equipment in place.

The biological monitor and the construction superintendent inspect the site thoroughly at the end of each work day.

The CPUC NTP #1 included seven specific conditions to be met during or prior to construction. Evidence was either obtained prior to the CPUC EM site visit or observed on site that all conditions were being met. All permits, compliance plans, NTP #1, copies of environmental training materials, and training sign-up sheets were on site. The pre-construction biological survey was executed on February 12, 2010, and subsequently reported. Because PG&E decided to provide a fulltime Biological Monitor, the five NTP #1 questions concerning implementation and documentation of biological resource protection measures are being addressed on a daily basis.

No Project Memorandum or Non-Compliance Report (NCR) has been issued by the CPUC EM for the project to date.

NOTICES TO PROCEED (NTP):

On March 2, 2010, NTP #1 was issued by the CPUC for site grading, civil work, and installation of three tubular steel pole foundations and poles for the power line within Seventh Standard Substation property.

On May 10, 2010, NTP #2 was issued by the CPUC for the remaining aspects of construction.

VARIANCE REQUESTS:

No Variance Requests have been submitted to date.

PROJECT PHOTOGRAPHS



Figure 1: Construction of structure foundations, below-ground conduit trenches, and the ground grid system continued during the subject period. The concrete pad for the transformer was placed (see concrete truck in front of the electrical controls enclosure in the distance). The photograph faces northward.



Figure 2: The tubular steel poles were installed near the eastern edge of the site. The photograph faces eastward.



Figure 3: Work on the perimeter chain link fencing continued during the subject period. While under construction the fence was fitted with temporary supporting wiring between the poles. The wires were festooned with yellow flagging to prevent bird collision events. The photograph faces southwestward.



Figure 4: A concrete paneled wall will be placed along the perimeter of the west edge of the substation site in anticipation of future home development in that area. Supports for the concrete wall paneling have been placed. The wall panels are scheduled to arrive in a few weeks.



Figure 5: One partially buried pipe with a diameter of six inches (similar to, but with larger diameter than the one photographed) was left open over night accidentally. A plug was gently pushed through the pipe to the other open end, under supervision by the biological monitor, to ensure no animal was present. The pipe then was closed.



Figure 6: One active Killdeer nest was present on site during the subject week. One parent is in the middle of the photograph straddling the eggs.



Figure 7: The area surrounding the nest was roped off for protection. The photograph faces northward within the western storage and staging area of the site. The nest is located in the middle of the photograph beyond the pipe, and below the fence line.