



Linda S. Adams
Secretary for
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Department of Toxic Substances Control

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A0026



Arnold Schwarzenegger
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April 8, 2008

Ms. Billie C. Blanchard
California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC)
235 Montgomery Street, Suite 935
San Francisco, California 94104

NOTICE OF PREPARATION OF A DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT (EIR) FOR SUNRISE POWERLINK PROJECT (SCH#2006091071)

Dear Ms. Blanchard:

The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) has received your submitted (EIR) document for the above-mentioned project. As stated in your document: "SDG&E propose to construct a new 91-mile, 500 kilovolt (kV) electric transmission line from Imperial Valley Subdivision (in Imperial Valley, near the City of El Centro) to a new Central East Subdivision (in central San Diego County, southwest of the intersection of County Highways S22 and S2) and a new 59-mile 230 kV transmission line includes both overhead and underground segments from the new Central East Subdivision to SDG&E's existing Penasquitos Substation (in the City of San Diego)".

Based on the review of the submitted (EIR) document DTSC has comments as follow:

1. The draft EIR needs to identify and determine whether current or historic uses at the Project site have resulted in any release of hazardous wastes/substances at the Project area.
2. The draft EIR needs to identify any known or potentially contaminated sites within the proposed Project area. For all identified sites, the draft EIR should evaluate whether conditions at the site pose a threat to human health or the environment. A Phase I Assessment may be sufficient to identify these sites. Following are the databases of some of the regulatory agencies:
 - National Priorities List (NPL): A list is maintained by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S.EPA).
 - CalSites: A Database primarily used by the California Department of Toxic Substances Control.

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- Resource Conservation and Recovery Information System (RCRIS): A database of RCRA facilities that is maintained by U.S. EPA.
 - Comprehensive Environmental Response Compensation and Liability Information System (CERCLIS): A database of CERCLA sites that is maintained by U.S.EPA.
 - Solid Waste Information System (SWIS): A database provided by the California Integrated Waste Management Board which consists of both open as well as closed and inactive solid waste disposal facilities and transfer stations.
 - Leaking Underground Storage Tanks (LUST) / Spills, Leaks, Investigations and Cleanups (SLIC): A list that is maintained by Regional Water Quality Control Boards (RWQCBs).
 - Local County and City maintain lists for hazardous substances cleanup sites and leaking underground storage tanks.
3. The draft EIR should identify the mechanism to initiate any required investigation and/or remediation for any site that may be contaminated, and the government agency to provide appropriate regulatory oversight. If hazardous materials or wastes were stored at the site, an environmental assessment should be conducted to determine if a release has occurred. If so, further studies should be carried out to delineate the nature and extent of the contamination, and the potential threat to public health and/or the environment should be evaluated. It may be necessary to determine if an expedited response action is required to reduce existing or potential threats to public health or the environment. If no immediate threat exists, the final remedy should be implemented in compliance with state laws, regulations and policies.
 4. If the subject property was previously used for agriculture, onsite soils could contain pesticide residues. Proper investigation and remedial action may be necessary to ensure the site does not pose a risk to the future residents.
 5. All environmental investigations, sampling and/or remediation should be conducted under a Workplan approved and overseen by a regulatory agency that has jurisdiction to oversee hazardous waste cleanup. The findings and sampling results from the subsequent report should be clearly summarized in the EIR.

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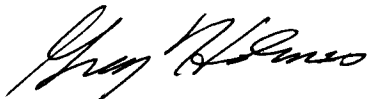
6. Proper investigation, sampling and remedial actions, if necessary, should be conducted at the site prior to the new development or any construction, and overseen by a regulatory agency.
7. If any property adjacent to the project site is contaminated with hazardous chemicals, and if the proposed project is within 2,000 feet from a contaminated site, then the proposed development may fall within the "Border Zone of a Contaminated Property." Appropriate precautions should be taken prior to construction if the proposed project is within a "Border Zone Property
8. Human health and the environment of sensitive receptors should be protected during the construction or demolition activities. A study of the site overseen by the appropriate government agency might have to be conducted to determine if there are, have been, or will be, any releases of hazardous materials that may pose a risk to human health or the environment.
9. If it is determined that hazardous wastes are, or will be, generated by the proposed operations, the wastes must be managed in accordance with the
10. California Hazardous Waste Control Law (California Health and Safety Code, Division 20, chapter 6.5) and the Hazardous Waste Control Regulations (California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Division 4.5).
11. If it is determined that hazardous wastes are or will be generated and the wastes are (a) stored in tanks or containers for more than ninety days, (b) treated onsite, or (c) disposed of onsite, then a permit from DTSC may be required. If so, the facility should contact DTSC at (818) 551-2171 to initiate pre application discussions and determine the permitting process applicable to the facility.
12. If it is determined that hazardous wastes are, or will be, generated by the proposed operations, the wastes must be managed in accordance with the California Hazardous Waste Control Law (California Health and Safety Code, Division 20, chapter 6.5) and the Hazardous Waste Control Regulations (California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Division 4.5). If so, the facility should obtain a United States Environmental Protection Agency Identification Number by contacting (800) 618-6942.
13. Certain hazardous waste treatment processes may require authorization from the local Certified Unified Program Agency (CUPA). Information about the requirement for authorization can be obtained by contacting your local CUPA.

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14. If during construction/demolition of the project, soil and/or groundwater contamination is suspected, construction/demolition in the area should cease and appropriate health and safety procedures should be implemented. If it is determined that contaminated soil and/or groundwater exist, the EIR should identify how any required investigation and/or remediation will be conducted, and the appropriate government agency to provide regulatory oversight.
15. In future CEQA documents, please provide the contact person's title and e-mail address.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact me at (714) 484-5461 or call Mr. Al Shami, Project Manager, at (714) 484-5472 or at "ashami@dtsc.ca.gov".

Sincerely,



Greg Holmes
Unit Chief
Southern California Cleanup Operations Branch - Cypress Office

cc: Governor's Office of Planning and Research
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