



Aspen *Environmental Group*

PROJECT MEMORANDUM SCE – VIEJO SYSTEM PROJECT

To: Jensen Uchida, CPUC
From: Vida Strong, Aspen Project Manager
Date: February 8, 2005
Subject: Weekly Report #27: January 30, 2004 – February 5, 2005
CPUC Environmental Monitor (EM): Christopher Meyer

The CPUC EM conducted a site visit on February 1 and reviewed the substation and 220 kV construction activities, Best Management Practices (BMPs), and the upcoming 66 kV construction with SCE.

SUBSTATION CONSTRUCTION

Summary of Activity:

NRG crews worked on the 66 kV cable and disconnect switches, as well as circuit breakers during the subject week (see Figure 1). Crews with NRG also worked on conductoring at the disconnect switch and circuit breaker on the 220 kV section of the substation.

A crew from SCE was working to dress the A-bank transformers during the site visit (see Figure 2). Dressing the transformers includes making all the external connections and preparing the transformer for the oil fill.

The Mechanical Electrical Engineering Room (MEER) contractor, EMSS, worked on wiring the 19-inch racks within MEER #1. A crew from the SCE Testing and Maintenance section worked to test the 66 kV and 220 kV equipment within MEER #1.

A small crew with Kindness continued work on the foundations for the 12 kV section of the substation site (see Figure 3). The foundations have been poured and the crew was preparing the foundations for the support structures.

Southwest Ditch worked within the substation site on the drainage system. The system is designed to take water from throughout the substation site to catch-basins located on the north side. Very little, if any, water drains through the very compact native soil on the site.

Environmental Compliance:

For all operations, the CPUC EM observed that construction was in compliance with mitigation measures adopted in the MND and other permitting requirements.

The site vegetation has been removed from the substation site and a LSA Environmental Inspector (EI) has not been on-site full-time. The LSA EI is periodically checking the excavations and foundation holes for sensitive and common animals. Several fossils have been discovered and collected for examination by the paleontologist during the course of the project. The majority of the excavation has been completed on the substation site and no fossil discoveries were reported during the subject week.

The Best Management Practices (BMPs) installed on the substation site have been installed and maintained. Crews were observed replacing BMPs that were impacted by daily construction activities. The reliance on straw waddles instead of silt fencing for sediment control will require additional maintenance and can be overwhelmed by flows during heavy rainfall. No off-site impacts were noted during the site visit and the maintenance of the BMPs appeared to be effective.

220 kV TRANSMISSION LINE SEGMENT

Summary of Activity:

A small crew was working on the 220 kV transmission line right-of-way during the CPUC EM site visit. The crew worked on the large turning-pole in a man-lift, well below the transmission cables (see Figure 4). No other work was observed on the 220 kV transmission line segment during the site visit.

Environmental Compliance:

The LSA EI was not on-site on the transmission line right-of-way during the CPUC EM site visit; however, no construction was occurring in sensitive areas. A paleontologist was available to monitor if ground disturbance occurred. The majority of excavation has been completed and no fossils were noted on the transmission line corridor during the subject week.

66 kV TRANSMISSION LINE SEGMENT

Summary of Activity:

The NTP for the 66 kV work adjacent to the substation site was issued on February 1, 2005, no construction occurred during the subject week.

The SCE transmission line contractor surveyed the location of steel poles for the 66 kV system within the substation site. No work on the drilling had occurred at the time of the sit visit.

Environmental Compliance:

The CPUC EM met with the SCE Biologist on January 25 to review the habitat fencing and access roads for the 66 kV transmission line segment adjacent to the substation site. Some of the habitat fencing may need to be altered due to the type of equipment used by the contractor. Any shifts in the footprint of the fencing that remain within the studied Area of Potential Effect (APE) will be addressed in the field with the CPUC EM.

LSA has been contacted on the upcoming drilling for the 66 kV poles within the substation site and will have a paleontological monitor on-site.

NOTICES TO PROCEED (NTP):

NTP #1 was approved for substation construction by the CPUC on July 15, 2004, and NTP #2 was approved for the 220 kV upgrade on September 29, 2004. NTP #3 for 66 kV construction at the substation site was issued by CPUC on February 1, 2005.

VARIANCE REQUESTS:

No variance requests were submitted for review during the subject week.

UPCOMING ITEMS:

None.

AGENCY PERSONNEL CONTACTS: None

Photographs



Figure 1 – A small NRG crew worked with lifts to prepare the 220 kV circuits.



Figure 2 – SCE crews worked to dress the two A-bank transformers.



Figure 3 – Kindness worked on the 12 kV foundations on the northern section of the substation site.



Figure 4 – The transmission line crew worked in a man-lift to on the large turning pole.