



Aspen *Environmental Group*

PROJECT MEMORANDUM SCE – VIEJO SYSTEM PROJECT

To: Jensen Uchida, CPUC
From: Vida Strong, Aspen Project Manager
Date: February 24, 2005
Subject: Weekly Report #29: February 13 – February 19, 2005.
CPUC Environmental Monitor (EM): Christopher Meyer

The CPUC EM conducted a site visit on February 18 and reviewed the substation, 220 kV, and 66 kV construction activities, Best Management Practices (BMPs). Recent and predicted rainfall limited the activities on the project during the site visit.

SUBSTATION CONSTRUCTION

Summary of Activity:

1. SCE continued working on the A-bank transformers during the site visit. The crew worked on the installation of external cooling fins on the A-bank transformers during the site visit (see Figure 1).
2. The Mechanical Electrical Engineering Room (MEER) contractor, EMSS, continued on wiring the 19-inch racks within MEER #1. The crew from the SCE Testing and Maintenance section continued testing the 66 kV and 220 kV equipment within MEER #1.
3. A small crew with Kindness worked to place the pre-formed concrete trench for the 12 kV section of the substation site (see Figure 2).

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. SCE has placed additional rock on the substation site, reducing the turbidity and sediment travel in rain events.

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 wattles 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 as SCE prepared for upcoming rains.

220 kV TRANSMISSION LINE SEGMENT

Summary of Activity:

Only climbing guard installation occurred on the 220 kV transmission line right-of-way during the CPUC EM site visit. The crew worked with lifts and in harnesses to attach the spiked climbing deterrents to the lower sections of the lattice towers (see Figure 3).

Environmental Compliance:

Although additional BMPs have been installed on the 220 kV transmission line right-of-way, maintenance has not occurred since the last storm event. The silt fencing that has been installed around the northern structure is full of sediment (see Figure 4). The straw waddles are also overwhelmed with silt is several locations on the 220 kV segment. The CPUC EM reviewed the issues in the field with SCE and issued a verbal warning on BMP installation and maintenance.

66 kV TRANSMISSION LINE SEGMENT

Summary of Activity:

The NTP for the 66 kV work within the City of Lake Forest was issued on February 1, 2005, and grading on the pads was completed during the subject week (see Figure 5). No construction on the 66 kV transmission line segment adjacent to the substation occurred during the site visit due to the wet condition of the right-of-way and the predicted rain. 66kV work within the substation included the following:

1. The SCE transmission line contractor poured the foundations for the 66 kV steel poles within the substation site.
2. A small crew was on-site to check the status of the concrete forms and BMPs on the 66 kV transmission line pads.

Environmental Compliance:

The CPUC EM reviewed concerns over the placement and installation of BMPs on the 66 kV right-of-way with the SCE contractor. Many of the BMPs stopped sediment from leaving the construction area; however, some were installed parallel to the slope and others need maintenance (see Figure 6). The contractor dispatched the workers on-site to maintain the BMPs and improve the BMPs that were installed parallel to the slope.

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 within the City of Lake Forest 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 SCE crew worked to install the external cooling fins on the A-bank transformers.



Figure 2 – The Kindness crew worked to place and adjust the pre-formed concrete trenches for the 12 kV section of the substation.



Figure 3 – The 220 kV construction contractor worked to install climbing deterrents on the lattice towers.



Figure 4 – The silt fencing on the 220 kV transmission line corridor was overwhelmed in several places and requires maintenance.



Figure 5 – Pads have been graded and one foundation poured on the 66 kV transmission line corridor.



Figure 6 – The BMPs originally installed on the 66 kV right-of-way will need improvement to handle the predicted rain events.