



Aspen Environmental Group

PROJECT MEMORANDUM SCE – VIEJO SYSTEM PROJECT

To: Jensen Uchida, CPUC
From: Vida Strong, Aspen Project Manager
Date: April 6, 2005
Subject: Weekly Report #35: March 27 – April 2, 2005.
CPUC Environmental Monitor (EM): Christopher Meyer

The CPUC EM conducted a site visit on April 1st and reviewed the substation, 220 kV, and 66 kV construction activities, and Best Management Practices (BMPs). All construction activities during the site visit were within the substation site.

SUBSTATION CONSTRUCTION

Summary of Activity: Limited activity was occurring at the substation site during the site visit due to late work performed by NRG the previous shift (see Figure 1). NRG worked late to prepare for the energization of the 220 kV section of the substation and the crews were on a rest period during the site visit. The crews returned later in the day after having the required time off between shifts. The following activities were observed during the site visit:

1. Work continued on the main trench running east-west, dividing the 220 kV and 66 kV sections of the substation site. The crew worked to attach an extension to the rebar cage in order to have the proper distance from the top of the rebar cage to the surface of the concrete (see Figure 2).
2. Testing crews worked on the A-bank transformers to test the function of the cooling and other systems (see Figure 3).
3. Reycon continued working on the block wall on the northern side of the station during the site visit. The cap has been placed on the top of the along the southern and western sides. Reycon also worked to set the blocks for the spill wall on the north side of the substation site. The spill wall will be coated and will block any spilled petroleum from reaching the drainage system.
4. The Union crew has prepared the foundation forms for the second gate, but it has not been poured.
5. The 220 kV circuits from the risers to the 220 kV section of the substation site have been removed as a safety measure when the 220 kV portion of the substation site is energized (see Figure 4). The 220 kV section of the substation site will be marked off with caution tape when energized and the disconnection of the circuit will allow crews to work safely in the 66 kV and 12 kV sections of the substation site. With the completion of the majority of the civil work, the remaining crews at the substation site have experience working in energized stations. SCE provided the CPUC EM with an orientation on visiting an energized station.

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. No off-site impacts were noted during the site visit and the maintenance of the BMPs appeared to be effective as SCE prepared for any future rains. The substation crews have been constantly improving the BMPs as work is completed in sections of the substation site.

220 kV TRANSMISSION LINE SEGMENT

Summary of Activity:

No construction occurred on the 220 kV transmission line segment during the site visit.

Environmental Compliance:

The BMP issues at the steel pole pad on the 220 kV transmission right-of-way have been addressed and no other storm water related issues were noted during the site visit.

Several sensitive bird species were noted in the habitat adjacent to the 220 kV right-of-way. No construction work was occurring in the vicinity.

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. The fence on the hillside between the substation site and the habitat conservation area has been replaced (see Figure 5). This was completed by the time of the site visit and no other work occurred on the 66 kV transmission line segment during the site visit.

Environmental Compliance:

Many of the BMPs stopped sediment from leaving the construction area; however, some continue to need maintenance. The v-ditches will need to be cleaned of sediment prior to any predicted rain events.

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. SDG&E submitted the request for NTP #4 for the 66 kV H-structures on March 31st. The geotechnical report was received on April 1st and the revised Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan was received on April 4th. The NTP request and associated documents are currently under review.

VARIANCE REQUESTS:

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

UPCOMING ITEMS:

The 220 kV section of the substation site should be energized by April 2nd.

AGENCY PERSONNEL CONTACTS: None

Photographs



Figure 1 – Overview of the substation site as of April 1, 2005. Only limited work was occurring on the substation site during the site visit.



Figure 2 – Crews worked on the rebar cage for the concrete trench west of MEER #1.



Figure 3 – Testing crews worked to check the various functions of the A-bank transformers prior to operation.



Figure 4 – The circuits on the risers connecting the 220 kV portion to the rest of the substation site have been removed for safety.



Figure 5 – The cyclone fence on the hillside above the substation site was replaced.