



Aspen *Environmental Group*

PROJECT MEMORANDUM SCE – VIEJO SYSTEM PROJECT

To: Jensen Uchida, CPUC
From: Vida Strong, Aspen Project Manager
Date: April 13, 2005
Subject: Weekly Report #36: April 3 – April 9, 2005.
CPUC Environmental Monitor (EM): Christopher Meyer

The CPUC EM conducted a site visit on April 1 and reviewed the substation, 220 kV, and 66 kV construction activities, and Best Management Practices (BMPs). Construction activities were occurring in all three areas during the site visit.

SUBSTATION CONSTRUCTION

Summary of Activity:

1. Work continued on the main trench running east-west, dividing the 220 kV and 66 kV sections of the substation site. The crew constructed the wooden forms that provide for both the bottom and sides of the trench (see Figure 1). The form was almost ready for concrete at the time of the site visit.
2. NRG continued making connections within the 66 kV section of the substation site. The crew worked on many of the short connections between various pieces of equipment and the conductors running from the risers.
3. Reycon continued working on cutting and installing the cap-stones for the block wall on the western side of the station during the site visit (see Figure 2). The crew continued to make very good progress on the walls throughout the substation site.
4. 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. 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 was provided with an orientation on visiting an energized station during the previous week.

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 CPUC EM spoke with SCE on the washout of the grout mixer for the Reycon crew. The mixer was located close to a drain and extra attention will be needed to protect the drain in case of any spills or excess high-pH water.

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:

One SCE transmission line crew worked on the 220 kV transmission line segment during the site visit. The crew removed the short sections of conductor that bypassed the substation site and installed jumpers so that both transmission lines will now feed into the 220 kV section of the substation site (see Figure 3).

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 southern area near the active birds. The outriggers for the man-lift were set into the habitat outside the gate to the steel pole pad. The SCE biologist will have to assess the area to see if any impact to the habitat occurred.

66 kV TRANSMISSION LINE SEGMENT

Summary of Activity:

1. The NTP for the 66 kV work within the City of Lake Forest was issued on February 1, 2005. A larger crew worked with Hill Crane to set the steel poles on the 66 kV foundations poured recently (see Figure 4). The crane was parked on the disturbed area at the base of the hill and no grading was required. The crew used the lower bolts to attain the proper angle for the pole (see Figure 5). The poles are set at a very slight angle away from the load to minimize stresses on the foundation and the pole.
2. The permanent plated crossings for the v-ditch on the 66 kV section east of the substation site have been completed (see Figure 6). The rock placed up-slope of the crossing should minimize sediment transport into the v-ditch.

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 31. The geotechnical report was received on April 1 and the revised Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan was received on April 4. 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: None.

AGENCY PERSONNEL CONTACTS: None

Photographs



Figure 1 – Crews worked on the wooden form that surrounds the rebar cage for the concrete trench west of MEER #1..



Figure 2 – The Reycon crew worked to set the cap-stones for the block wall.



Figure 3 – The SCE transmission line crew worked to connect the jumpers between the two sections of conductor at the turning pole. Note the missing jumper on the top right-hand side of the steel pole.



Figure 4 – A larger crew worked with Hill Crane to set a steel pole on a 66 kV foundation.



Figure 5 – The crew used the lower bolts to attain the proper angle for the pole.



Figure 6 – The permanent plated crossings for the v-ditch on the 66 kV section east of the substation site have been completed.