



Aspen *Environmental Group*

PROJECT MEMORANDUM SCE – VIEJO SYSTEM PROJECT

To: Jensen Uchida, CPUC
From: Vida Strong, Aspen Project Manager
Date: May 19, 2005
Subject: Weekly Report #41, May 8 – May 14, 2005.
CPUC Environmental Monitor (EM): Christopher Meyer

The CPUC EM conducted a site visit on May 10th and reviewed the substation, 220 kV, and 66 kV construction activities, and Best Management Practices (BMPs). Construction activities were occurring in the substation and on the 66 kV right-of-way during the site visit.

SUBSTATION CONSTRUCTION

Summary of Activity:

1. Several small NRG crews 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 insulators.
2. Manual disconnect switches have been connected on the north end of the 66 kV portion of the site (connecting to the 12 kV portion) and the foundations have been poured. A welder worked on the disconnect switches during the site visit (see Figure 1).
3. Several forms around the A-bank transformers were prepared for concrete and poured during the later part of the previous week. The next sections have been formed in preparation for future concrete pouring (see Figure 2). An asphalt berm will be placed around the perimeter of the pad to contain the oil from the transformers in case of an accident.
4. The main and side gates have been hung on the previously completed supports (see Figure 3). The substation is now completely surrounded by either block wall or cyclone fencing.
5. A small crew with KGC worked on augering small foundations for light standards throughout the substation site (see Figure 4). These light standards will be tied into the grounding grid when completed.
6. A crew with Arizona Pipeline worked on Definition Road outside the substation site on the 12 kV buried cables connecting the substation to the distribution network. The crews have been trenching, placing conduit, and backfilling with a slurry mix. The crew experienced difficulty cleaning out the conduit placed by Three Kings Construction earlier in the project (see Figure 5). The crew worked to clean out cement slurry that entered an uncapped conduit near the access entrance on Definition Road.
7. 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 has been marked off with caution tape now that it is 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. The section of the 66 kV portion of the site that will be energized has been surrounded with a cyclone fence. With the completion of the majority of the civil work, the remaining crews at the substation site have experience working in energized stations. SCE previously provided the CPUC EM was provided 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 from the rainfall over the previous weeks.

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 with the recent rainfall.

220 kV TRANSMISSION LINE SEGMENT**Summary of Activity:**

No work was observed on the 220 kV transmission line segment during the site visit.

Environmental Compliance:

The CPUC EM informed the SCE biologist during the previous week that the invasive plant species in the recontoured area of the 220 kV right-of-way need to be removed due to the proximity of the native plant communities. This issue has yet to be addressed. The area adjacent to the project is dominated by native species and is part of a habitat conservation area.

Several sensitive bird species were noted in the habitat adjacent to the 220 kV right-of-way. The SCE biologist will work with the crews to avoid any impact to the habitat or disturbance of the nesting birds.

66 kV TRANSMISSION LINE SEGMENT**Summary of Activity:**

NTP #3, for the 66 kV work within the City of Lake Forest was issued on February 1, 2005 and NTP #4 was issued on April 19, 2005 for the remaining 66 kV H-structures. Only one crew was working on the 66 kV segment during the site visit.

A crew worked with a drilling machine to start excavations for the 66 kV H-structures that will run from the Viejo Substation into the City of Mission Viejo (see Figure 6). No construction was observed on the 66 kV line within Mission Viejo (NTP #4).

Environmental Compliance:

All work observed on the 66 kV right-of-way above the substation site during the site visit was in compliance with the mitigation measures adopted in the MND and other permitting requirements.

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. NTP #4 for the remaining 66 kV H-structures (Mission Viejo and City of Lake Forest) was issued by CPUC on April 19, 2005.

VARIANCE REQUESTS:

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

UPCOMING ITEMS: None.

AGENCY PERSONNEL CONTACTS: None.

Photographs



Figure 1 – The foundations for the manual disconnect switches have been poured and a welder worked to complete the installation.



Figure 2 – The forms between the various foundations are ready for concrete. The concrete pads on either side were poured the previous week.



Figure 3 – The main gate and side gate have been set on the previously installed supports.



Figure 4 – KGC worked on excavating for the light standard foundations throughout the substation site.



Figure 5 – Arizona Pipeline worked to clean out the previously placed conduit between Definition Road and the substation site.



Figure 6 – Crews worked on drilling for the 66 kV H-structure foundations during the site visit.