



Aspen *Environmental Group*

PROJECT MEMORANDUM SCE – VIEJO SYSTEM PROJECT

To: Jensen Uchida, CPUC
From: Vida Strong, Aspen Project Manager
Date: May 24, 2005
Subject: Weekly Report #42, May 15 – May 21, 2005.
CPUC Environmental Monitor (EM): Christopher Meyer

The CPUC EM conducted a site visit on May 20th 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 (see Figure 1).
2. A small crew with KGC worked on excavating a trench and connecting it to the pre-formed concrete trench adjacent to the 220 kV fence (see Figure 2). Empty conduit will be placed in the trench that can be used for later expansion of the facility without removing the paving that will cover the area. KGC crews also worked to excavate foundation for additional light standards within the substation site. These foundations have been formed for concrete pours that will occur the following week.
3. The substation is now completely surrounded by either block wall or cyclone fencing and a small crew worked to remove the temporary cyclone fencing that was placed around the facility during construction.
4. The block wall contractor, Reycon, returned to the substation site to start the installation of the glass blocks in the pilasters used to break up the block wall (see Figure 3). A special type of glass block was used that absorbs light energy during the day and is luminous at night without the need for electricity. The pilasters are decorative and do not serve a structural purpose.
5. A crew with Arizona Pipeline worked on Ellipse Road excavating trench for the 12 kV buried cables connecting the substation to the distribution network. The crews have set a vault for the 12 kV conduit outside the access road gate on Definition Road (see Figure 4). A crew also worked on Portola Parkway pouring and finishing the concrete sidewalk at the site of the underground vault.
6. 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 was 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. Several sections of the 66 kV portion of the site that will be energized have been surrounded with a cyclone fencing as well. 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 turbidity and sediment travel in the case of rainfall.

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.

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 previously 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. The area adjacent to the project is dominated by native species and is part of a habitat conservation area. The invasive plant species were removed and SCE will be watching the area for any emerging non-native plants.

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. Three crews were working on the 66 kV segment during the site visit. No construction was observed on the 66 kV line within Mission Viejo (NTP #4).

1. A crew worked with a drilling machine to complete excavations for one of the 66 kV H-structures that will run from the Viejo Substation into the City of Mission Viejo. The operator used a backhoe to load the spoils from the excavation into dump trucks for hauling back to the substation work area for stockpiling.
2. A crew worked on the center pad overlooking the substation site, unloading equipment for setting the anchor bolts and rebar cage into the H-structure foundations on the top of the hill (see Figure 5).
3. The excavations for the H-structure nearest the substation site has been completed and appears to have been filled with slurry (see Figure 6). This may be in order to hold the hole in the loose, sandy material. The rebar cage and anchor bolts are staged on-site, but have not been set in the excavations.

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. New exclusion fencing has been placed between the work areas and sensitive avian habitat along the 66 kV right-of-way.

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 – NRG crews worked on adjusting the insulators and other equipment during the site visit.



Figure 2 – KGC excavated a trench for future expansion and tie it into the existing pre-formed concrete trench adjacent to the 220 kV fence.



Figure 3 – Reycon started installing the glass blocks in the pilasters on the block wall.



Figure 4 – Arizona Pipeline set a vault for the 12 kV conduit on Definition Road at the substation site.



Figure 5 – Arizona Pipeline crews unloaded equipment for setting the rebar cages and anchor bolts for the 66 kV H-structure above the substation site.



Figure 6 – Crews prepared the rebar cages for the 66 kV H-structure foundations during the site visit.