

	<p>California Public Utilities Commission <i>Mitigation Monitoring, Compliance, and Reporting Program</i></p>
	<p>CalPeco 625 and 650 Electrical Line Upgrade Project</p> <p>Compliance Status Report: 005</p> <p>October 20, 2015</p>

SUMMARY

The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) is responsible for overseeing implementation of the mitigation measures set forth in the Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)/EIS/Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the CalPeco 625 and 650 Electrical Line Upgrade Project. The CPUC has established a third-party monitoring program and adopted a Mitigation Monitoring, Compliance, and Reporting Program (MMCRP) to ensure that measures approved in the FEIS/EIS/EIR to mitigate or avoid impacts are implemented in the field. This MMCRP status report is intended to provide a description of construction activities for the project, a summary of site inspections conducted by the CPUC’s third-party monitors, the compliance status of mitigation measures required by the MMCRP, and anticipated construction activities. This compliance status report covers construction activities from October 4 through October 17, 2015.

MITIGATION MONITORING, COMPLIANCE, AND REPORTING

Site Inspections/Mitigation Monitoring

A CPUC third-party environmental compliance monitor conducted site observations in areas of active construction. Observations were documented using site inspection forms, and applicable applicant proposed measures (APMs) and mitigation measures (MMs) were reviewed in the field.

Implementation Actions

The following summarizes CalPeco’s implementation of applicable APMs and MMs. In addition, CalPeco has submitted Weekly Compliance Reports, in accordance with the project’s MMCRP.

Scenic Resources:

All construction areas kept clean to the extent possible. Timber harvesting and cutting activities include chipping, mastication, and/or lop and scatter treatment, as appropriate and as agreed to with property owners included within the Timber Harvest Plan (THP). Log skidding trails that are no longer in use are re-graded as needed and are being rehabilitated as appropriate (i.e., seeding, mulching, wood chips).

Barriers, such as boulders and downed logs, are being placed as appropriate at access points no longer in use to discourage public access/use. Stumps were cut to meet the 6-inch maximum height requirement (APM-SCE-1).

Air Quality and Climate Change:

Water trucks were on-site to control fugitive dust (APM-AQ-2 and APM-AQ-4) and soil stockpiles were covered (APM-AQ-6). Monitors and all project personnel continue to ensure that traffic speeds are limited to 15 miles per hour or less on all unpaved roads and the project right-of-way (ROW). Signs stating that the speed limit is 15 miles per hour in these areas have been conspicuously placed along project access routes and the ROW (APM-AQ-7). Monitors and all project personnel continue to ensure that vehicle idling times are limited to a maximum of 5 minutes for vehicles and construction equipment, except where idling was required for the equipment to perform its task. No vehicles have been left unmanned and idling (APM-AQ-14).

Biological Resources:

Biological monitors were present during project construction activity (APM-BIO-1). Cut stumps were treated with borate compound (APM-BIO-4). In accordance with APM-BIO-5 (and APM-AQ-8), vehicles and equipment arrived at the project area clean and were inspected by the on-site monitors for mud or other signs that weed seeds or propagules could be present prior to use in the project area. Designated weed-cleaning stations were utilized to minimize the potential to spread noxious weeds (APM-BIO-6). Dens were flagged in accordance with APM-BIO-15. Monitors with stop work authority were present with each vegetation removal crew to help ensure that impacts to biological resources were minimized (APM-BIO-21). Monitors inspected all open excavations and areas of active construction for trapped wildlife daily (APM-BIO-22). All salvaged topsoil was covered and has been replaced around the site of removal (APM-BIO-23). Work activities were confined to approved and adequately delineated project areas (APM-BIO-26). Project work areas were kept free of trash/debris and no pets/firearms on project site (APM-BIO-33 and APM-BIO-34). Tree survey data provided to CPUC prior to tree removal activities (MM-4.7-4). Seed mixes being utilized on site for restoration have been approved by the USFS-LTBMU botanist. The Contractor has obtained the approved seed in compliance with the project Habitat Restoration Plan, and its restoration, seeding, and mulching disturbed areas is in compliance with the Habitat Restoration Plan (MM-4.7-5).

Heritage, Cultural, and Paleontological Resources:

Archaeological monitors were present where construction activity occurred near cultural resources areas (APM-CUL-1 and APM-CUL-8). As required by APM-CUL-1 and the Cultural Resources Protection, Monitoring and Unanticipated Discovery Plan, a cultural resources monitoring team has been present during project-related activities conducted within culturally sensitive areas.

Geology, Soils, Land Capability and Coverage:

Appropriate sediment control BMPs were in place, monitored, and maintained in accordance with the project's Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) and APM-SOILS-1.

Hazards and Hazardous Materials:

Fire suppression equipment was kept within 25 feet of chainsaw use areas, as required under APM-HAZ-5. Smoking occurred in designated areas (APM-HAZ-6).

Hydrology and Water Quality:

Refueling areas were identified with signs and located 100 feet from waterways (APM-WQ-1). Concrete washout was collected for removal from the site (APM-WQ-2). BMPs installed to minimize rutting and sedimentation (APM-WQ-6).

Recreation:

Barriers, such as boulders and downed logs, have been placed at ROW access points no longer in use to discourage public access/use (APM-REC-7).

In addition, a Dewatering Plan for the removal of the Spittler crossing on Middle Martis Creek just south of Pole #291110 was submitted to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) (as required by Avoidance and Minimization Measure 2.12 of the project's Streambed Alteration Agreement (MM-4.7-2a)) and the Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) on October 7, 2015. Approval of the Dewatering Plan was received from the Lahontan RWQCB on October 8, 2015 and from CDFW on October 9, 2015.

In compliance with APM-BIO-1, APM-CUL-7, APM-CUL-10, and APM-HAZ-1, Liberty Utilities continued to implement a Worker Environmental Awareness Program (WEAP) for all personnel entering the project area. Liberty Utilities provided the required environmental awareness training to approximately 16 personnel during the reporting period.

Mitigation Measure Tracking

Mitigation measures applicable to the construction activities were verified in the field and documented in the CPUC's mitigation measure tracking database. A complete list of mitigation measures and applicant proposed measures is included in the project's MMCRP, as referenced in the Decision for the CalPeco 625 and 650 Electrical Line Upgrade Project, as adopted by the CPUC on March 27, 2015 (Decision D.15-03-020).

Compliance Status

Pre-construction mitigation measures have been completed as indicated in Notice to Proceed (NTP) No. 2 (Attachment B). Applicable mitigation measures were verified during site inspections and were determined to be implemented in accordance with the MMCRP.

CONSTRUCTION PROGRESS

The project has been broken into three phases, as summarized below:

Phase 1 (Rebuild and Upgrade of the 650 Line (Including the Northstar Fold (2015-2016))

Pre-Construction Invasive Weed Treatment (CPUC NTP No. 001)

Pre-construction weed treatment in areas identified in the project's Invasive Plant Risk Assessment document was initiated on July 2, 2015, consistent with APM-BIO-4. Weed treatment activities covered under NTP-1 were completed in July 2015.

650 Line Rebuild (CPUC NTP No. 002)

Project tasks associated with the 650 Line rebuild were initiated on August 10, 2015. During the period covered by this report, the following tasks were completed or initiated:

- Completion of installation of all poles and transmission and distribution wire on the Northstar fold and cutting off to ground level the existing wooden poles.
- Completion of pulling, sagging and clipping in of conductor on the Northstar Fold, from Pole #291267 to Pole #291105 (nine phases total; six for double-circuit transmission, and three for distribution).
- All pole and anchor sites, access roads, and other disturbed areas disturbed have been cleared, seeded, and hydro-mulched (from Pole #291034 to #291097).
- Continuation of excavation for and installation of new anchors and installation of pole bases, tops, and frames.
- Continuation of clipping in and pulling conductors and wire stringing for the fiber-optic cables.
- Electrical load in the northern portion of the Northstar fold was transferred from the old power lines to the newly installed lines. Kelley
- Re-energizing of the 650 transmission and 8600 distribution circuits from Lahontan to the Northstar Fold, including the fold, up to Kings Beach Substation.

- Installation of new communications underbuild on the Fold structures and removal of existing communications cable from the existing wood poles. AT&T transferred their cable from the old wooden poles to the new poles (Poles #291101 to #291103).

The estimated completion date for the 2015 phase of the 650 Line rebuild is October 2015.

Vegetation Management (Pole 291034 to 291169 and Pole 291105 to Northstar Substation) (CPUC NTP No. 002)

Tree removal associated with the 650 Line rebuild were initiated on August 31, 2015. During the period covered by this report, the following tasks were completed or initiated:

- Tree trimming and removal has been completed along the east side of SR 267, to Pole #291131.
- Slash treatment within areas where tree removal had been completed.
- Installation and maintenance of erosion control measures within the timber harvest area.
- Initiation of restoration efforts for landings and skid trails in THP Unit 1 and 2.
- Removal of the Spittler crossing near Pole #29110.

The estimated completion date for the 2015 phase of vegetation management is November 2015.

Northstar Substation Rebuild (CPUC NTP No. 002)

Project tasks associated with the Northstar Substation rebuild were initiated on September 23, 2015. During the period covered by this report, the following tasks were completed or initiated:

- Completion of transformer installation at the Northstar Substation.

The estimated completion date for the Northstar Substation rebuild is October 15, 2015.

Phase 2 (Substation Upgrades, Decommissioning of the Brockway Substation (2017))

Not Started. Estimated completion date is October 2017.

Phase 3 (Upgrade of the 625 Line and Additional Modifications of the Substation (2019-2020))

Not Started. Estimated completion date is October 2020.

CONSTRUCTION SCHEDULE

Phase 1 (Rebuild and Upgrade of the 650 Line (Including the Northstar Fold (2015-2016))

Pre-Construction Invasive Weed Treatment (CPUC NTP No. 001)

Completed in July 2015.

650 Line Rebuild (CPUC NTP No. 002)

Initiated on August 10, 2015, estimated completion date is October 2015.

Vegetation Management (Pole 291034 to 291169 and Pole 291105 to Northstar Substation) (CPUC NTP No. 002)

Initiated on August 31, 2015, estimated completion date is November 15, 2015.

ATTACHMENT A Photos



Photo 1: Right-of-way cleared of equipment and materials, rock barriers installed to prevent unauthorized access, and disturbed areas hydro-seeded. Between Poles #291080 and #291081.

ATTACHMENT A (Continued)



Photo 2: Base for Pole #291261 poured and being prepared for pole installation.

ATTACHMENT A (Continued)



Photo 3: Pole #291105 installed and native topsoil replaced (APM-BIO-23).

ATTACHMENT A (Continued)



Photo 4: Demobilization at landing for timber operations near Pole #291112. Equipment being removed and erosion control measures being installed.

ATTACHMENT A (Continued)



Photo 5: Spittler crossing at Pole #291110 being removed.

ATTACHMENT A (Continued)



Photo 6: Right-of-way in Martis Valley between Poles #291067 and #291068 following removal of timber matting, timber bridges, equipment, and materials. Disturbed areas hydro-seeded and areas where timber matting had been used hand-seeded. The ROW has been fenced to prevent unauthorized access.

ATTACHMENT B Notices to Proceed

NTP No.	Date Issued	Description	Conditions Included (Y/N)
CPUC-001	July 2, 2015	Pre-Construction Weed Treatment from Martis Tap Pole to Brockway Summit	Y
CPUC-002	August 5, 2015	650 Line Re-Build Between the Martis Tap Pole and the Northstar Substation, Northstar Substation Civil Work, and Vegetation Management Between the Martis Tap Pole and Brockway Summit	Y

ATTACHMENT C

Minor Project Refinement Request

Minor Project Refinement Request No.	Submitted	Description	Status	Approval
001	September 23, 2015	Additional Temporary Work Areas at Poles #291087 and #291098	Approved	September 29, 2015
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