

**PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
505 VAN NESS AVENUE
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102-3298**



To: Interested Parties

From: John Boccio, Environmental Project Manager

**Subject: NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF A FINAL MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION –
PacifiCorp’s Yreka-Weed Transmission Line Upgrade Project (A.05-12-011)
SCH# 2006092006**

Date: October 17, 2006

The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) has prepared a Final Mitigated Negative Declaration (Final MND) under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) for consideration of PacifiCorp’s Application to Construct the Yreka-Weed Transmission Line Upgrade Project (A.05-12-011). The Final MND details the Proposed Project and Weed Segment, evaluates and describes its potential environmental impacts, identifies those impacts that could be significant, and presents mitigation measures to avoid or minimize these impacts.

Description of the Proposed Project. PacifiCorp, in its CPUC application (A.05-12-011), filed on December 13, 2005, seeks a Permit to Construct (PTC) approximately 18.6 miles of 115 kilovolt (kV) single-circuit transmission line between the Yreka and Weed Junction substations pursuant to CPUC General Order (GO) 131-D. Also included in this CEQA review, although not included as part of PacifiCorp’s original application, is a planned rebuilding of the Weed Substation and upgrade of approximately 1.5 miles of single-circuit 69 kV transmission line to a double-circuit 115 kV transmission line (collectively called the Weed Segment) which was added to the CEQA review by order of Commissioner Brown in his “Ruling Regarding Piecemealing and Substations,” filed June 5, 2006.

The objective of the Proposed Project is to improve reliability by increasing transmission capacity in the Yreka-Weed area in order to continue safe and reliable electric service to customers in the area, and to meet contractual obligations. The objective of the Weed Segment is to handle increased load and to provide transmission capacity.

Contents of the Final MND. The Final MND consists of three chapters plus and Appendices. Chapter 1 contains an introduction to the Final MND, including descriptions of the CEQA and public review processes and an overview of the comments received on the Draft MND. Chapter 2 contains the comments on the Draft MND as well as CPUC’s responses to the comments. Chapter 3 contains revisions to the Mitigation Monitoring, Reporting, and Compliance Program.

CPUC Actions After Final MND Publication. There is no comment period following issuance of the Final MND. The CPUC will determine the adequacy of the Final MND, and, if adequate, would adopt the document as compliant with CEQA. The CPUC would issue a Decision on the Application, which would be announced and published concurrent with a scheduled CPUC Meeting. After the Commission makes the decision on the Application, a Notice of Determination would be mailed to the State Clearinghouse within 5 days of the Decision. Within 30 days after the Decision is issued by the CPUC, parties can apply for rehearing. For further information on the CPUC’s decision-making process, call the CPUC Public Advisor at (415) 703-2074.

**PACIFICORP'S APPLICATION TO CONSTRUCT YREKA-WEED TRANSMISSION LINE UPGRADE PROJECT
INFORMATION REPOSITORIES**

Availability of Final MND. Copies of the Final MND are available for review at the Yreka Branch and Weed Branch of the Siskiyou County Library (see addresses below), and on the project website: <http://www.yreka-weed.com>. Library hours are available at www.snowcrest.net/siskiyoulibrary/branches.html or by calling the libraries. Hard copies or CD copies of the Final MND may be requested by telephone at (415) 962-8421 or by e-mail at yreka-weed@esassoc.com.

Yreka Branch Library
719 4th Street
Yreka, CA 96097
(530) 841-4175

Weed Branch Library
708 South Davis
Weed, CA 96094
(530) 938-4769

Map of the Proposed Project Location:

