

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

505 VAN NESS AVENUE
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102-3298



May 16, 2011

Ms. Robyn Salvadori
Pacific Gas and Electric Company
Land Planner
245 Market Street, Rm. 1054B
San Francisco, CA 94105

Subject: Atascadero – San Luis Obispo 70 kV Power Line Reconductoring Project – Notice to Proceed #1

Dear Ms. Salvadori:

On May 16, 2011, Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) requested authorization from the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) to commence site preparation activities at the 5-acre lot located east of the PG&E Templeton Service Center (East Lot) located in Templeton, California, as part of the Atascadero – San Luis Obispo 70 kV Power Line Reconductoring Project (Project). The property owner of the East Lot has made requests for fire prevention maintenance to occur at the East Lot. In previous years, the property owner has received notices from San Luis Obispo County Fire Department to maintain the weeds on the East Lot. PG&E's lease for the East Lot requires PG&E to implement fire prevention maintenance.

The project was evaluated in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act. The mitigation measures (MMs) and Applicant Proposed Measures (APMs) described in the project Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration were adopted by the CPUC as conditions of project approval (Approval No. 11-04-014) dated April 15, 2011. The CPUC also adopted a Mitigation Monitoring, Compliance, and Reporting Program (MMCRP) to ensure compliance with all mitigation measures imposed on the project during implementation.

Notice to Proceed

PG&E is required to obtain a Notice to Proceed (NTP) in order to commence any project related activities. PG&E will submit multiple requests for NTPs during the construction process to cover specific areas and construction activities.

Areas and Actions Included in NTP #1

NTP #1 authorizes PG&E to commence site preparation activities at the East Lot. Site preparation activities include vegetation clearing, vegetation trimming, and minor grading.

Areas and Actions Not Included in NTP #1

NTP #1 does not authorize any activity not described under *Areas and Actions Included in NTP #1*. The staging of equipment and materials at the East Lot is not authorized at this time. NTP #1 does not authorize the activities described under *Areas and Actions Included in NTP #1* at any location other than the East Lot.

NTP #1 Conditional Approval

NTP #1 to commence site preparation activities at the East Lot is granted by the CPUC with conditions. The conditions of NTP #1 are based on the statuses of the preconstruction requirements.

The conditions listed below shall be met by PG&E prior to the commencement of NTP #1:

1. PG&E shall submit results of bird surveys, performed in accordance to MM BO-1, to the CPUC prior to the start of construction. Appropriately sized non-disturbance buffers shall be established prior to the start of construction, if required.
2. PG&E shall submit photo documentation of mark sensitive resources in the field, as described in APM BO-8, APM BO-14 and APM BO-15, to the CPUC prior to the start of construction.
3. PG&E shall submit photo documentation of flagged and recorded special-status plant species, as described in MM BO-29, to the CPUC prior to the start of construction.
4. PG&E shall submit documentation to the CPUC that confirms that all plant material and gravel used on the project site is weed free prior to the application of the material.

PG&E has obtained approval of the Avian Protection Plan from USFWS. The CPUC is aware that PG&E still needs to obtain approval of the Avian Protection Plan from CDFG. The site preparation activities requested by PG&E would support fire maintenance as required by San Luis Obispo County Fire Department. The site preparation activities are common activities that would occur within the area, even without the implementation of the project. Due to the human safety and fire hazard concerns that prompted this request, and the low potential for birds to be affected by the proposed activities with the implementation of MM BO-1 and other applicable MMs and APMs, the CPUC will exempt the requirement of CDFG's approval of the Avian Protection Plan for NTP #1.

All applicable project MMs, APMs, compliance plans, and permit conditions shall be implemented. Some measures include on-going/time-sensitive requirements and must be implemented prior to and during construction where applicable.

Please contact me or Bonny O'Connor at RMT if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Billie Blanchard
CPUC Project Manager

Cc: Bonny O'Connor, RMT
Tania Treis, RMT
Jo Lynn Lambert, PG&E Attorney