

ORIGINAL

Decision No. 87808 SEP 7 1977

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Application of PACIFIC POWER & LIGHT COMPANY, a corporation, for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity to construct and operate a 230 kv transmission line extension in Siskiyou County, California.

Application No. 57302
(Filed May 12, 1977)

O P I N I O N

Pacific Power & Light Company (Pacific) seeks an order of the Commission granting it a certificate that present and future public convenience and necessity will require the construction and operation by applicant of a 230 kv electric transmission line extension from their existing Line No. 59 in southern Oregon to a proposed substation near Copco, California.

EIR Process and Public Hearings

In compliance with the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the Guidelines and Rule 17.1 of the California Public Utilities Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, Pacific filed as part of their application: an allegation that the project will not have a significant effect on the environment; that the proposed project qualifies for issuance of a Negative Declaration; and they requested issuance of said Negative Declaration. In support of their allegation, Pacific submitted with the application, as separate exhibits, information and studies for staff use in preparing an Initial Study.

The exhibits were evaluated and analyzed by the Commission staff. An independent report entitled an Initial Study was subsequently prepared by the staff. Copies of the Initial Study were submitted to other state and public agencies having expertise in various environmental areas involved in the project. As a consequence of comments received in this early consultation procedure and resultant additional information supplied by the applicant, the Commission staff revised the Initial Study.

On the basis of the revised Initial Study the presiding officer (Examiner) determined that no substantial environmental issues had been raised and that no public hearings need be held. Accordingly, on July 14, 1977, Examiner D. B. Steger issued a Negative Declaration.

The Negative Declaration, with attached Initial Study was submitted to required state and local agencies on July 15, 1977, and notice to the public of the completion of the Negative Declaration was published in the Siskiyou Daily News on July 20, and 27, 1977.

No exceptions to the Negative Declaration were filed.

Project Description

The proposed project consists of a 230 kv alternating current transmission line and a 230/115 kv substation in northern Siskiyou County, California, and the extreme southeast part of Jackson County, Oregon. The proposed route would extend from the new substation to be located immediately north of the Copco No. 2 powerhouse approximately 3 miles north to an existing 230 kv line in southern Oregon. A total of 6 miles of new transmission line will be required in the 175-foot wide right-of-way. Parallel transmission lines would originate from the new substation and terminate at the existing 230 kv line which would then be broken at this junction, thus effectively looping the existing line through the new substation.

The transmission lines will be constructed on H-frame wood structures with an average structure height of 75 feet. These structures would be spaced about 1,000 feet apart. A total of 32 structures will be required for the two segments of the line. The lines will have a 35-foot minimum ground clearance.

The substation will be located approximately 1,000 feet northwest of the existing Copco No. 2 substation and will physically occupy an area 308 feet by 412 feet. The substation will contain one 230/115 kv transformer and the necessary switching equipment. The substation construction will require the building and maintenance of a service road to the facility from the Fall Creek road to the west.

Need for the Project

The Yreka, California, district of Pacific's system (essentially Siskiyou County) registered a peak load during the winter of 1975-76 of 76 megawatts (mw) and in recent years this load has been increasing at about 4 percent (or 3 mw) per year. Total nameplate capacity of all the hydroelectric generating units in the district is 67.2 mw. Pacific estimates that by the 1977-78 winter the district load will exceed capacity by approximately 15 mw.

At present only one transmission line is available to transfer appreciable amounts of power into the Yreka District. This is the 115 kv line which extends from the Lone Pine Substation in Oregon to Copco No. 2. If a fault occurs in this 115 kv line, it will relay open. This occurrence would probably cause one or more generating machines in the Copco area to relay off, causing a blackout in the Yreka district. The proposed 230 kv facilities will greatly reduce the exposure to power outages in the Yreka area, and thus will contribute to the future safety, health, comfort and convenience of the public.

Alternatives to the Project

No apparent viable alternative routes exist unless consideration is given to much longer routes and their accompanying increases in right-of-way disturbance and land use. The route selected by the utility is the shortest feasible one.

The alternative of undergrounding is not feasible on steep slopes and rocky terrain. Placing a transmission line underground also requires digging a trench, with substantially higher environmental costs.

The possibility of adding additional generation in the Yreka District was rejected due to lack of feasible sites for development.

The no-project alternative does not warrant the increasing risk of loss of service caused by exceeding local capacity during times of outages on the existing single circuit.

Environmental Matters

A comprehensive record on environmental matters has been developed in this proceeding through preparation of the Initial Study, consultation with public agencies, and investigation by the staff of the project site, all of which are elements in the EIR process culminating in the preparation and issuance of the Negative Declaration. Adverse impacts associated with the project are mostly short-term, and the tradeoffs do not involve significant commitments of resources. The principal adverse impacts of the proposed project are on the fauna of the area through partial disruption of their habitat and the increased human access into the surrounding areas as a result of new access roads.

In this case, the extent of natural vegetation and animal life displaced by tower sites and new access roads will be minor and Pacific will re-seed disturbed areas with native plant species beneficial to wildlife.

Other mitigation measures will include proper design of access roads to provide erosion control, scheduling of construction to avoid migratory wildlife, use of existing roads whenever possible, restriction of right-of-way clearing to the minimum necessary, use of construction materials native to the woodland area, and protection of any archaeologically or historically sensitive areas that may be encountered.

Findings

The Commission has carefully considered the evidence on environmental matters, especially the contents of the Negative Declaration and makes the following Findings pursuant to Rule 17.1(j)(3) of its Rules of Practice and Procedure.

1. Land Resources - Minor alterations of physiographic features will result from the project. The disturbances associated with construction will be of short duration while those associated with operation will only affect a negligible total land area.

2. Biological Resources (vegetation and wildlife) - The major disturbance to vegetation and wildlife will be during construction. The construction contemplated in this project will cause no significant permanent adverse impacts on the biological resources of the area. Other possible adverse impacts have been adequately mitigated by the applicant.

3. Air, Water and Mineral Resources - The proposed transmission line is expected to have negligible impact on the water and no significant impact on the air or mineral resources of the area.

4. Cultural Resources - There will be no significant impact to archaeological, paleontological or historical resources as a result of the project. A field survey of the archaeological and historical resources along the proposed right-of-way made by Dr. David Cole of the University of Oregon Museum of Natural History located several possible sensitive areas. Measures suggested by Dr. Cole to mitigate any possible significant effects have been accepted by Pacific.

5. Aesthetics - The project will have only a slight visual impact on the landscape of the area. The applicant's use of tower materials native to the area and the limiting of clearing to only that absolutely necessary will enable the transmission line to blend into the surrounding area. The re-vegetation of construction areas as proposed by Pacific will further conceal the project while providing beneficial food-stock for wildlife.

Conclusions

1. The project will help maintain reliable electric service in an integrated system serving a major portion of Siskiyou County; its benefits should thus outweigh any possible minor environmental impact; its planned construction and operation is an economic, efficient, and appropriate means of meeting projected loads and maintaining reliable service.

2. The consequences of not implementing the proposed transmission line would be great in both the short and long-term effects on the Pacific service territory, and would deprive the customers in the Yreka service territory of the benefits of the power which is available from out-of-state generation.

3. In conformance with General Order No. 131-A, the construction and operation of the 230 kv transmission line extension and appendant substation at Copco:

- A. Is reasonably required to meet area demands for present and/or future reliable and economic electric service; and
- B. Will not produce an unreasonable burden on natural resources, aesthetics of the area in which the proposed facilities are to be located, public health and safety, air and water quality in the vicinity, or parks, recreational and scenic areas, or historic sites and buildings or archaeological sites.

4. Present and future public convenience and necessity require the construction and operation of this transmission project.

5. This decision should be made effective on the date of signing so that Pacific can schedule construction ahead of winter and the arrival of migratory wildlife.

Applicant is placed on notice that operative rights, as such, do not constitute a class of property which may be capitalized or used as an element of value in rate fixing for any amount of money in excess of that originally paid to the State as the consideration for the grant of such rights. Aside from their purely permissive aspect, such rights extend to the holder a full or partial monopoly of a class of business. This monopoly feature may be modified or canceled at any time by the State, which is not in any respect limited as to the number of rights which may be given.

The action taken herein is not to be considered as indicative of amounts to be included in future proceedings for the purpose of determining just and reasonable rates.

The Notice of Determination for the project is attached as Appendix A to this decision, and the Commission certifies that the Negative Declaration has been completed in compliance with CEQA and the Guidelines and that it has reviewed and considered the information contained in the Negative Declaration.

Based on the foregoing the Commission concludes that the Copco (Line 59) 230 kv transmission line extension should be authorized in the manner set forth in the following order.

O R D E R

IT IS ORDERED that a certificate of public convenience and necessity is granted to Pacific Power & Light Company to construct and operate the 230 kv transmission line extension and related appurtenances in Siskiyou County, California, as proposed by Pacific Power & Light Company in this proceeding.

The Executive Director of the Commission is directed to file a Notice of Determination for the project, with contents as set forth in Appendix A to this decision, with the Secretary for Resources.

The effective date of this order is the date hereof.

Dated at San Francisco, California, this 7th day of SEPTEMBER, 1977.

Commissioner Vernon L. Sturgeon, being necessarily absent, did not participate in the disposition of this proceeding.

Robert Bateman
President
William Aguirre Jr.

Richard D. Howell
Clare J. Delich
Commissioners

NOTICE OF DETERMINATION

TO: Secretary for Resources
1416 Ninth Street, Room 1312
Sacramento, California 93814

FROM: California Public
Utilities Commission
350 McAllister Street
San Francisco, Calif. 94102

SUBJECT: Filing of Notice of Determination in compliance with
Section 21108 or 21152 of the Public Resources Code.

Project Title
COPCO Substation and 230-kv Transmission Line Extension

State Clearinghouse Number (If submitted to State Clearinghouse)
77080224

Contact Person Telephone Number
John A. Yager (415) 557-1259

Project Location
COPCO area of Northern Siskiyou County

Project Description
Request by Pacific Power and Light Company for a certificate that public convenience and necessity requires the construction and operation of a 230-kv electric transmission line extension from its existing Line No. 59 in Southern Oregon to a proposed substation near COPCO.

This is to advise that the California Public Utilities Commission as lead agency has made the following determination regarding the above described project:

1. The project has been approved by the Lead Agency.
 disapproved
2. The project will have a significant effect on the environment.
 will not
3. An Environmental Impact Report was prepared for this project pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.
 A Negative Declaration was prepared for this project pursuant to the provisions of CEQA. A copy of the Negative Declaration is attached.

Date Received for Filing _____

Executive Director _____

Date _____

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Application of PACIFIC POWER & LIGHT COMPANY, a corporation, for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity to construct and operate a 230 kv transmission line extension in Siskiyou County, California.

Application No. 57302
(Filed May 12, 1977)

NEGATIVE DECLARATION

In accordance with the provisions of this Commission's Rule of Procedure 17.1 entitled "Special Procedure for Implementation of California Environmental Quality Act of 1970", it is my determination that the Commission is the Lead Agency as defined in State EIR Guidelines responsible for the preparation of the Negative Declaration or Final EIR. On motion of the applicant, it is my finding that the proposed project will not have a significant effect upon the environment.

This finding is based on the Initial Study prepared by the Commission staff, a copy of which is attached.

In accordance with Rule 17.1(f)(2) and the State EIR Guidelines, copies of this Negative Declaration with attached Initial Study will be submitted to governmental agencies for review and notice of its preparation will be provided to the general public.

Dated at San Francisco, California, this 14th day of July, 1977.



Donald B. Steger
Examiner

CALIFORNIA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
Utilities Division
Environmental Impact BranchINITIAL STUDY
APPLICATION NO. 57302
OF PACIFIC POWER & LIGHT COMPANY FOR THE
CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATION OF A 230 KV TRANSMISSION
LINE EXTENSION AND NEW SUBSTATION IN NORTHERN SISKIYOU COUNTYPROJECT DESCRIPTIONLocation

1. Pacific Power & Light Company proposes to construct and operate a 230 kv alternating current transmission line and a 230/115 kv substation in northern Siskiyou County, California, and the extreme southeast part of Jackson County, Oregon. The proposed route would extend from a new substation to be located immediately north of the Copco No. 2 powerhouse approximately 3 miles north to an existing 230 kv line in southern Oregon.

Characteristics

2. The proposed project includes construction of a 230/115 kv substation immediately north of the existing Copco No. 2 powerhouse and a total of 6 miles of 230 kv transmission line over a 3-mile right of way. The transmission lines would parallel each other from the new substation and would each connect to the existing 230 kv line which would then be broken at this junction. The total width of the right of way would be 175 feet.

3. The transmission lines will be constructed on H-frame wood structures with an average structure height of 75 feet. These structures would be spaced about 1,000 feet apart. A total of 32 structures will be required for the two segments of the line. The lines will have a 35-foot minimum ground clearance.

4. The substation will be located approximately 1,000 feet northwest of the existing Copco No. 2 Substation and will physically occupy an area 308 feet by 412 feet. The substation will contain one 230/115 kv transformer and the necessary switching equipment. The substation construction will require the building and maintenance of a service road to the facility from the Fall Creek road to the west.

Objectives

5. The Yreka, California, district of Pacific's system (essentially Siskiyou County) registered a peak load during the winter of 1975-76 of 76 megawatts (mw) and in recent years this load has been increasing at about 4 percent (or 3 mw) per year. Total nameplate capacity of all the hydro-electric generating units in the district is 67.2 mw. Pacific estimates that by the 1977-78 winter the district load will exceed capacity by approximately 15 mw.

6. At present only one transmission line is available to transfer appreciable amounts of power into the Yreka district. This is the 115 kv line which extends from the Lone Pine Substation in Oregon to Copco No. 2. If a fault occurs in this 115 kv line, it will relay open. This occurrence would probably cause one or more generating machines in the Copco area to relay off, causing a probable blackout in the Yreka district. The proposed 230 kv facilities will greatly reduce the exposure to power outages in the Yreka area.

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

7. The proposed project lies in the sparsely populated southern reaches of the Cascade Mountains in Oregon and northern California. The relief of the area is dominated by the steep canyon of the Klamath River and the elevation of the proposed project varies from 2,400 feet above sea level near the site of the proposed substation to near 3,700 feet above sea level at the intersection of the proposed project with the existing line No. 59.

8. The climate conditions near the proposed project are characterized by a wide range in temperatures, considerable variability in precipitation (including depth of snow at higher elevations) and occasional winter storms. The climate is generally dry and warm in the summer and cold in the winter. Most of the variability in the weather is related to the topography of the area.

9. The land near the proposed project is mainly used for cattle and sheep grazing. Some logging of Incense cedar, Yellow and Sugar pine, is also conducted at higher elevations near the existing line No. 59. Some land near the origin of Fall Creek is also used for the production of hay.

10. The land provides additional recreational values in the forms of hunting, fishing, rock collecting and camping activities.
11. The proposed project route encompasses three major landscapes, the flat area along the Klamath River where the substation would be located, the steep oak, sage, rabbit-brush and Mountain mahogany-covered canyon wall above the Klamath and the mixed conifer forest along upper Fall Creek and the existing line No. 59. No major scenic, wilderness or recreation sites are located along the proposed route.

Geology

12. The proposed project would be within the Cascade Range Physiographic Province and generally consists of Eocene to Recent age volcanic rocks. These rocks consist of lava flows, pyroclastics, and scattered volcanic plugs and cinder cones.

Hydrology

13. Annual rainfall amounts in the area are substantially less than those experienced in the coastal regions and probably range between 20 and 30 inches.
14. The proposed transmission line lies entirely within the Klamath River watershed and will be mainly associated with Fall Creek, a tributary stream.
15. Fall Creek originates primarily from springs located about one mile north of the intersection of the proposed line and the existing line No. 59. Downstream of this site, the stream is diverted into a canal which supplies a small hydroelectric plant operated by Pacific. Below the power plant, water from Fall Creek is pumped to the city of Yreka for use as a domestic water supply.

Vegetation

16. The naturally occurring vegetation along the proposed line is as diverse as are physical features of the area. There are at least two major vegetative zones, or areas composed of similar dominant plant species, in the vicinity of the proposed line.

- A. The Mixed Conifer Zone, which contains tree species such as Douglas fir, Western yew, Sugar pine, Ponderosa pine, Incense cedar and White fir. This zone occurs in the upper elevations along the proposed line near its junction with the existing line No. 59.
- B. The Oak Woodland Zone, which is comprised of savannah vegetation dominated by trees such as White and Kellogg's oaks and Douglas fir, with rabbitbrush, juniper and Mountain mahogany as important shrub species. The zone occurs generally at the intermediate and lower elevations along the proposed line route and substation.

Wildlife

17. Wildlife near the proposed project is also variable. Wildlife which is normally associated with the Mixed Conifer vegetative zone would include grouse, pigeon, quail, dove, turtle, garter snake, alligator lizard, bobcat, porcupine, mountain beaver, chipmunks, pika, black bear and black-tailed deer.
18. Wildlife associated with Oak Woodland vegetative zone includes the jackrabbit, kangaroo rat, woodrats, meadow mice, pocket gophers, white-footed mice, brown-collared lizard, Pacific rattlesnake, valley quail, grouse, dove, pigeon, black bear and black-tailed deer.
- *19. Within the region, several endangered, rare, threatened, and status undetermined species have been reported. These are the American Osprey, Southern Bald Eagle, Aleutian Canada Goose, and the American Peregrine Falcon. There are three known active osprey nest sites located near the proposed substation adjacent to the Copco No. 2 Powerhouse and a bald eagle winter roost area is centered near Copco Lake. The Aleutian goose may occur in the project area as a winter resident or only pass through the area while the falcon has a distribution which encompasses the study area, but is not known to be present at this time. There also is a small herd of wild horses located near the Fall Creek drainage.
- *20. The habitat in the project area has been degraded in the past due to overuse by cattle and deer. This has had an adverse effect on the migratory Jenny Creek deer herd that winters in this area.

*Paragraph revised in response to comments received from California Department of Fish and Game (CDF&G).

Fish

21. The aquatic resources located near the proposed project are those found in the Klamath River near Copco No. 2 Dam and in Fall Creek. The primary fish species in the Klamath River are the Pacific lamprey, Brown, Rainbow and Cutthroat trout, Mountain, Bridgclip and Lost River suckers, Tui chub, Brown bullhead, Large-mouthed bass, Yellow perch and Pit sculpin. Anadromous fish, including spring and fall run Chinook salmon, Coho salmon and Steelhead trout are found upstream as far as Iron Gate Dam.

22. The lower portions of Fall Creek, below the Fall Creek powerhouse or the natural falls, contains similar fish species as the Klamath River near Copco No. 2 Dam. Above the falls, the stream contains Rainbow and Brown trout as the dominant fish species.

Land Use and Ownership

23. The land near the proposed project is almost totally in private ownership, with Pacific owning some of the property. A small amount of land near the proposed joining of the existing line No. 59 is federal land administered by the Bureau of Land Management.

Archeological and Historic Values

24. A field survey of the archeologic and historic resources along the proposed right-of-way was made by Dr. David L. Cole of the University of Oregon Museum of Natural History.

25. Although the proposal is not located near any site listed in the National Park Services publication "National Register of Historic Places" Dr. Cole discovered three possible areas of archeological interest and an additional site of probable historic interest.

26. Dr. Cole has expressed the opinion that if these areas are not disturbed by access roads or construction activities, then the physical presence of the project will not be detrimental.

IDENTIFICATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS

27. Minor alteration of physiographic features will result from three major activities associated with the proposed project; construction of work access and maintenance roads, excavation and blasting at structure sites, preparation and construction of the substation near Copco Dam No. 2.

28. The disturbances associated with the excavation and erection of the structures will be of short duration and, due to the length of the line, affect a very small total land area. The impacts of constructing the required substation will be slightly larger since more land is disturbed.

29. The construction of roads for work access and maintenance will also alter the basic land form to a slight degree. Work roads will only be constructed in areas where none now exist or those in existence are not adequate.

30. The proposed project, when completed, should not modify the use of the land along the right-of-way, except for a minor loss of potential growth of Ponderosa pine.

Vegetation

31. Some vegetation, primarily grasses, shrubs and forbs, will be lost where the ground is prepared for construction of the substation near Copco No. 2.

32. Road construction and maintenance will also require the removal of some low growing shrubs and some trees. Little clearing, other than for maintenance roads, is expected to occur in the oak, rabbitbrush and grassland areas found at lower elevations. Some selective tree removal will be required near the upper elevations of Fall Creek near the existing line No. 59. Little adverse impact is expected due to the diverse tree species present in this area, many of which will not require cutting due to their low height.

Wildlife

*33. Some disruption to wildlife of the area is expected. This disruption will be minimized by Pacific's policy of restricting clearing to only that necessary for safe construction and operation of the line.

*Revised in response to CDF&G.

Clearing will be limited to construction access and maintenance roads, power pole locations, the substation site, and several staging areas.

Selective tree removal near the upper elevations of Fall Creek will slightly increase light intensity received by the remaining species thereby increasing the "edge effect." This may provide enhanced browsing areas for deer. Increased human access into the surrounding areas as a result of new access roads will impact wildlife intolerant of man's activities.

The most severe disruption could occur to the migratory black-tailed deer populations which move into the project area from Eastern Oregon to winter along the Klamath River and its tributaries, Fall and Jenny Creeks, if construction continued during the winter. Construction, however, will be of short-term duration and is not expected to have a significant impact on this interstate deer herd or any of the other species involved.

No mortalities as a result of electrocution are expected to occur to birds due to the more than 17 foot spacing of the conductors. This wide spacing effectively prevents phase-to-phase contacts by the largest birds in the area of the proposed project. Some mortalities to birds due to collision with the lines may occur, but it is not expected to have a significant impact on any of the species in the area. Mortalities to birds in other areas due to line collisions are minor with transmission lines of this size (Ahrend 1970, Stout 1967).

Social Environment

34. Construction will require up to 15 men for approximately three months duration and will not involve construction camps. Demands on facilities of the area will be minor and of short duration. Maintenance will not require addition to personnel in Pacific's Yreka district. The social environment of the area will experience few effects as a result of this project.

Visual

35. The proposed transmission lines will be visible in the open oak and grassland areas, but will have slight impact due to the variety of plant species present and their irregular growth patterns which tend to obscure the route of the line. The substation will have less visual impact since it is near an existing powerhouse and substation and is not in an easily-viewed location.

MITIGATION MEASURES PROPOSED BY
THE APPLICANT TO MINIMIZE THE IMPACT

36. The following mitigation measures are proposed by the applicant.
- *37. Existing roads will be utilized wherever possible. Some upgrading of existing roads or construction of new roads will be necessary. Work roads will be built to either Pacific's specifications or to those stipulated to by individual landowners. After construction, roads not needed for substation access or transmission line maintenance will be stabilized and revegetated, as denoted in paragraph 38 below, as soon as feasible. Roads necessary for maintenance activities will adhere to the following policies:
- A. Roads will be located on or near the right-of-way to provide direct access to structures.
 - B. Roads will be designed to provide proper drainage and water bars will be installed to control erosion.
 - C. Roads will be stabilized with plantings of grasses and/or legumes and fertilized as necessary.
- *38. Any area used for staging or storage areas which have been disturbed during the construction will be revegetated after being contoured to approximately their original condition. The revegetation will utilize native plant species beneficial to wildlife to the maximum extent possible.
- *39. Right-of-way clearing will be restricted to the minimum necessary for safe construction and operation of the line. An improved right-of-way management policy will be developed in cooperation with field representatives of the California Department of Fish and Game.
- *40. The three-month construction phase has been scheduled for completion prior to the winter season and the arrival of the migrating black-tailed deer, the Aleutian Canada goose, or the Southern Bald eagle.
41. Cutting of trees will be restricted to those posing a threat to the line. The diversity of tree species present along the right-of-way will allow many to remain due to their low height.
42. The proposed wood pole structures for the transmission line are normally assembled on the ground and placed into position in their proper location with a mobile crane or other suitable equipment. The poles are

*Revised in response to CDF&G.

APPENDIX A
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placed in holes prepared with a mechanical auger, hand digging or by blasting, depending on the soil material at each site. After the structure is erected, the hole is backfilled with original material and the site reshaped to its original contour and reseeded. This use of materials native to the woodland area will eliminate the disruptive effects of hauling in large quantities of concrete and steel while also reducing the visual impact of the structures.

43. The utility has expressed a desire to cooperate with the suggestions of the archeologist Dr. David Cole by not allowing construction of roads or staging of equipment in any of the four sensitive areas. There is a possibility that clearing of several small pine trees will be required near one of the sensitive areas in the vicinity of Fall Creek. Pacific Power & Light has proposed removal of these trees by hand if necessary to preserve the integrity of the site.

ALTERNATIVES TO THE
PROPOSED PROJECT

44. No apparent viable alternative routes exist unless consideration is given to much longer routes and their accompanying increases in right of way disturbance and land use. The route selected by the utility is the shortest feasible one.

45. The alternative of undergrounding is not feasible on steep slopes and rocky terrain. Placing a transmission line underground also requires digging a trench, with substantially higher environmental costs.

46. The possibility of adding additional generation in the Yreka District was rejected due to lack of feasible sites for development.

47. The no-project alternative does not warrant the increasing risk of loss of service caused by exceeding local capacity during times of outages on the existing single circuit.

RECOMMENDATION

48. Based on this initial study it is concluded that no significant impact will occur to the environment by implementation of the proposed project. Therefore, it is recommended that a Negative Declaration be issued for this application.

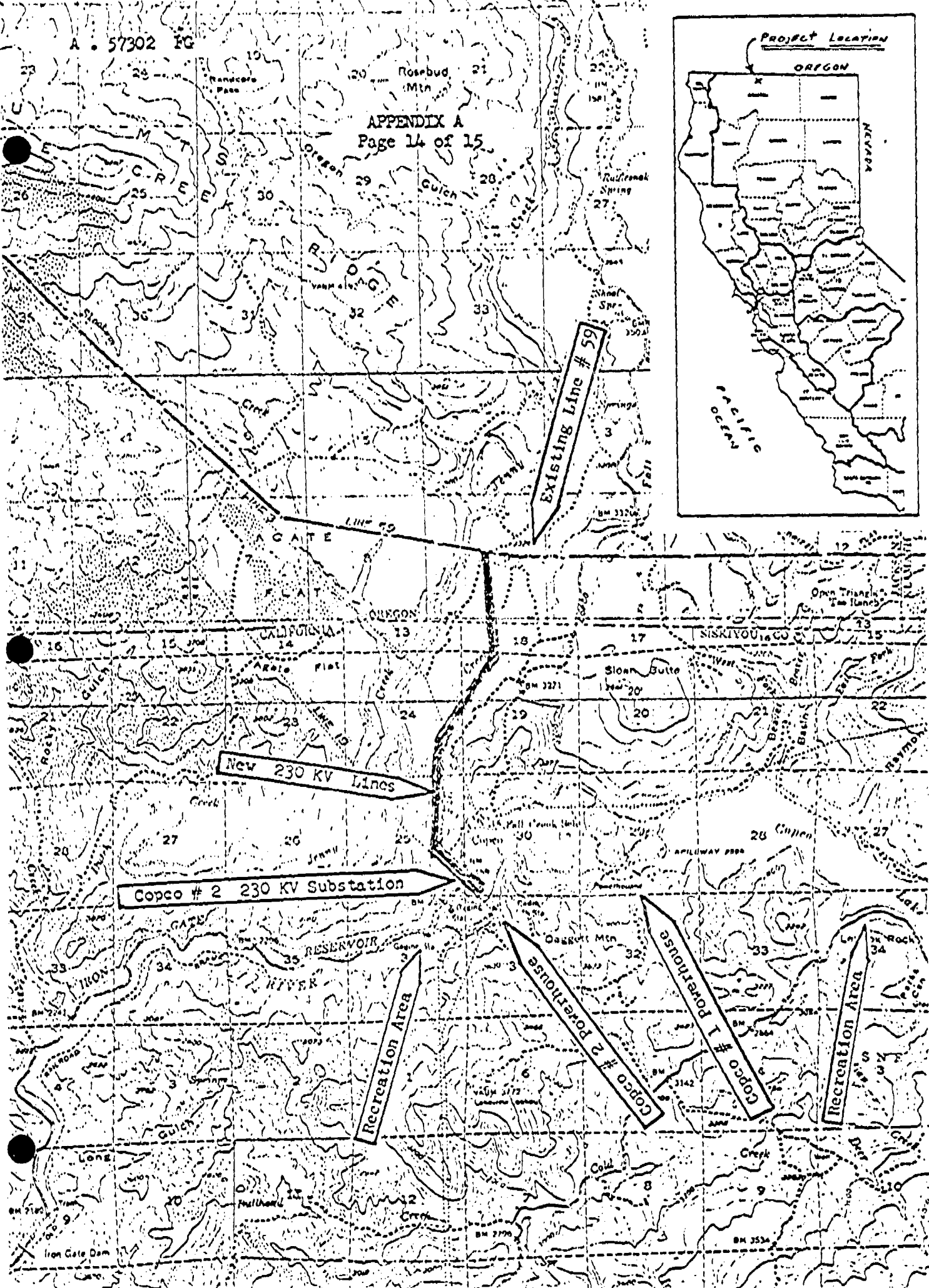


John A. Yager
John A. Yager
Assistant Utilities Engineer
Environmental Impact Branch
Date: June 15, 1977
Revised July 15, 1977

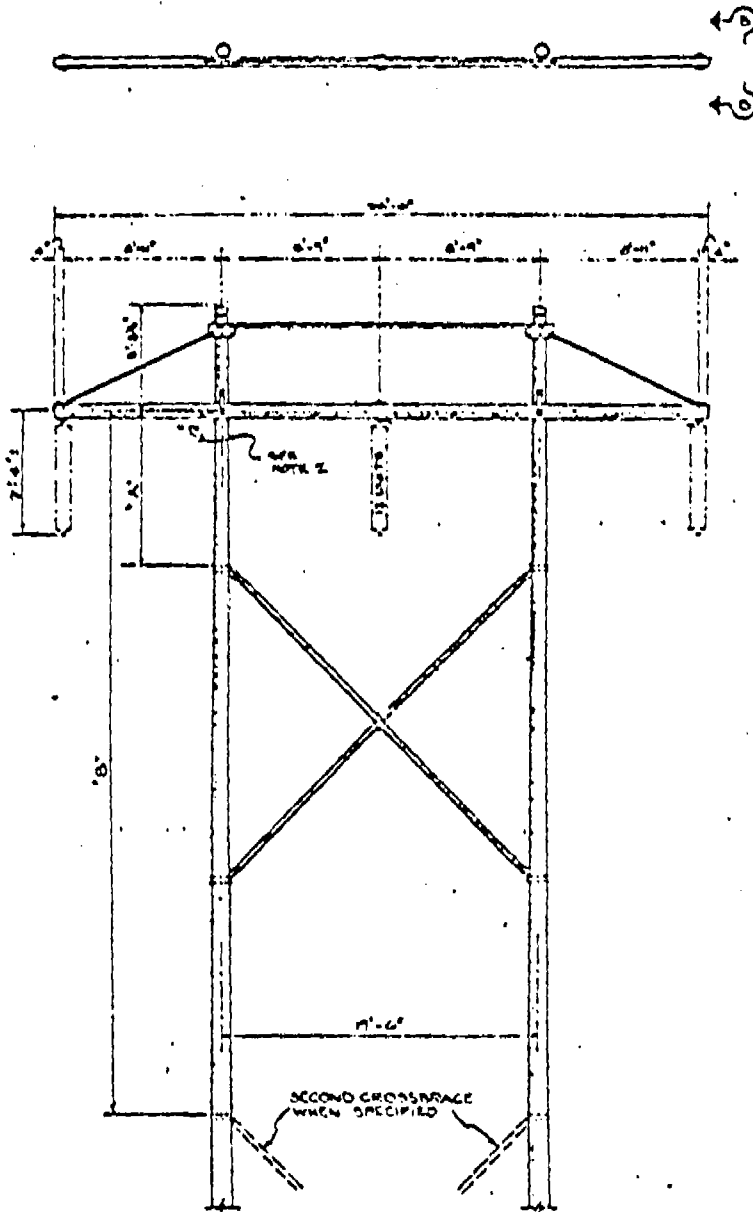
Attachments

Agencies and Persons Consulted

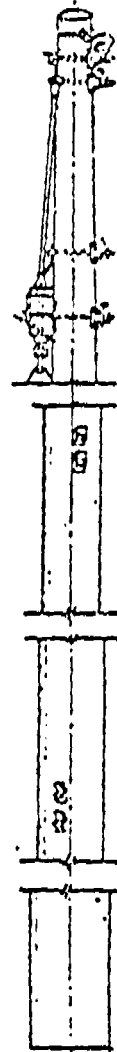
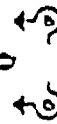
1. Siskiyou County Planning Department
2. California Department of Fish and Game
3. California Department of Parks and
Recreation
4. Dr. David L. Cole, University of
Oregon Museum of Natural History



TYPICAL H-FRAME WOOD STRUCTURE



GENERAL ELEVATION



ELEVATION B-B