

**ORIGINAL**Decision No. 88338 JAN 17 1978

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the matter of the application of SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EDISON COMPANY for a certificate that the present and future public convenience and necessity require or will require construction and operation by applicant of a single circuit 220 KV transmission line between the existing Devers-Julian Hinds transmission line and the proposed Indio Substation.

Application No. 57191  
(Filed March 30, 1977)

OPINION AND ORDER

Southern California Edison Company (Edison) seeks an order of the Commission granting it a certificate that the present and future public convenience and necessity require or will require the construction and operation of approximately one-fourth mile of single-circuit 220 kv transmission line between the existing Devers-Julian Hinds transmission line and the proposed Indio Substation to be located approximately nine miles east of Indio, California, and one-half mile north of Interstate Highway 10.

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", Edison moved, pursuant to Section e(2)(E), that a Negative Declaration rather than an Environmental Impact Report be issued in this proceeding. On August 15, 1977 Administrative Law Judge N. R. Johnson ruled that the Commission is the lead agency as defined in State EIR Guidelines responsible for the preparation of the Negative Declaration or Final EIR and found that the proposed

project will not have a significant effect upon the environment. This finding was based on an initial study prepared by the Commission staff. A Negative Declaration was prepared and was filed with the State Clearinghouse and copies were served on those parties listed in Appendix A. The State Clearinghouse assigned No. 77091982 to the project and by letter dated October 21, 1977, stated that the environmental document was distributed to selected State agencies for review and that none of the agencies have comments. It also verified our compliance with the environmental review requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act. In addition, as is required by Rule 17.1(f)(2), notice of preparation of the Negative Declaration was given to the general public by advertisement two weeks successively in newspapers of general circulation in the area in which the project will be located. There were no exceptions filed to the Negative Declaration.

#### Project Description

The proposed transmission line will be located entirely within the west one-half of Section 29, T5S, R9E, S8B&M, and will extend approximately one-fourth mile in a northeasterly direction from the existing Devers-Julian Hinds 220 kv transmission line to the proposed Indio Substation located approximately nine miles east of Indio, California, and one-half mile north of Interstate Highway 10.

The structures will consist of one lattice steel tower 109 feet high, two wood H-frames 70 feet high, and two groups of three poles ranging from 60 to 70 feet high. Aluminum cable steel reinforced conductors of 653,900 circular mils (cm) will be placed in horizontal configuration in a 150-foot-wide right-of-way with one conductor per phase. The initial capacity of the line will be 10 megawatts and the ultimate capacity will be 20 megawatts.

Project Need

The Standard Oil Company of Ohio (SOHIO) proposed west coast to mid-continent project is a west-to-east pipeline system for pumping Alaskan oil from a proposed crude oil tanker receiving terminal at the Port of Long Beach eastward. This movement of oil will require the installation of electrical facilities at seven pumping stations along the pipeline to maintain flow pressure. Five of these pumping facilities will be located in California and supplied by Edison. Four of the five pumping facilities are to be served from 66 kv lines but the Indio pumping station is to be supplied by tapping the Devers-Julian Hinds 220 kv line, building one-fourth mile of transmission line, and installing a 220/4 kv substation at the Indio pumping plant. It is axiomatic that this transmission line project will be necessary only if the SOHIO project is approved essentially as described in the environmental documents compiled for the SOHIO project.

Schedule for Construction of Line

The estimated schedule for construction of the lines

is as follows:

| <u>Item</u>            | <u>Start</u> | <u>Complete</u> |
|------------------------|--------------|-----------------|
| Land Acquisition       | 11-1-76      | 12-1-77         |
| Roads and Clearing     | 12-15-77     | 1-1-78          |
| Foundations            | 1-1-78       | 2-1-78          |
| Tower Erection         | 2-1-78       | 3-1-78          |
| Conductor Stringing    | 3-1-78       | 3-15-78         |
| Inspection and Testing | 3-15-78      | 3-15-78         |
| Operating Date         | 4-1-78       |                 |

**Cost of Project**

The estimated cost of the project is as follows:

| <u>Account No.</u> | <u>Item</u>                                     | <u>Amount</u>    |
|--------------------|---|------------------|
| 354.00             | Footings  | \$ 1,300         |
|                    | Tower Steel                                     | 20,800           |
|                    | Labor   | 10,700           |
|                    | <b>Subtotal</b>                                 | <b>32,800</b>    |
| 355.00             | Wood Poles                                      | 9,500            |
|                    | Labor   | 12,000           |
|                    | <b>Subtotal</b>                                 | <b>21,500</b>    |
| 356.00             | Conductor                                       | 2,000            |
|                    | Insulation & Hardware                           | 2,400            |
|                    | Labor   | 8,700            |
|                    | <b>Subtotal</b>                                 | <b>13,100</b>    |
| 359.00             | Roads & Trails                                  | 2,300            |
|                    | <b>Subtotal</b>                                 | <b>2,300</b>     |
|                    | Engineering                                     | 61,700           |
|                    | <b>Total Escalated Work Order Cost</b>          | <b>131,400</b>   |
|                    | Division Overhead Allowance During Construction | 7,200            |
|                    | Miscellaneous Construction Expenditure          | 1,400            |
|                    | <b>Total Element Costs</b>                      | <b>\$157,400</b> |

**Environmental Matters**

Based on the recommendation contained in the initial study prepared by the Commission staff, the presiding Administrative Law Judge issued a Negative Declaration on August 15, 1977. In preparing the initial study the Commission staff made a field investigation of the project and consulted with the county of Riverside's planning department. During the consulting process

it was determined that the following agencies have some jurisdiction over the project:

- (1) County of Riverside
- (2) State of California Department of Parks and Recreation
- (3) State of California Department of Fish and Game

The following potential environmental impacts were investigated by the Commission staff: air quality, noise, aesthetics, flora and fauna, water quality, and historic values. Because of the limited scope, size, and remoteness of the site, the staff concluded that none of the above listed concerns will materialize in an unacceptable or significant effect on the environment if the project is implemented.

During construction, noise, dust, and some access road grading will impact the project area. Displacement of local fauna and some destruction of desert flora is expected to occur. However, on termination of construction, it is expected that both fauna and flora will reoccupy essentially all of the project area. The mitigative measures proposed by Edison, such as care in the selection and grading of access roads to minimize soil erosion and route selection to avoid areas of flooding, are considered adequate by the staff.

Undergrounding the transmission line would reduce the visual impact of the project; however, since the visual impact is not considered significant and underground costs are prohibitive, this alternative is not considered to be viable by the staff. The proposed location of the pump station has been determined in the SOHIO draft EIR. Any alternate route to the pump station, if practical, would have similar impacts as the proposed project and would result in a longer overall route.

Governmental Agency Review

Copies of the Negative Declaration, the Commission's staff's initial study, and Edison's environmental data study were mailed to: Office of Planning and Research, State Clearinghouse; State of California Department of Fish and Game, Environmental Services Branch; State of California Department of Parks and Recreation, Environmental Impact Review Section; County of Riverside, County Administration Center; Library Center, Palm Springs; Indio Library, Indio; and Edison. No adverse comments or requests for a public hearing have been received by the Commission.

The next section of this decision includes, pursuant to Rule 17.1 of our rules, an extensive series of findings based on the initial study's coverage of (a) the significant environmental effects of the proposed project; (b) any significant environmental effects which cannot be avoided if the proposal is implemented; (c) mitigation measures proposed to minimize the significant effects; (d) alternatives to the proposed action; (e) the relationship between local short-term uses of man's environment and the maintenance and enhancement of long-term productivity; (f) any irreversible environmental changes which would be involved in the proposed action should it be implemented; and (g) the growth-inducing impact of the action.

The Commission has carefully considered the evidence on environmental matters and makes the following findings pursuant to Rule 17.1(j)(3) of its Rules of Practice and Procedure.

Findings

1. The proposed project is needed to serve the electric needs of a new SOHIO 10 MVA oil pumping station to be located approximately nine miles east of Indio, California, provided the SOHIO west-east pipeline project is approved and constructed approximately as presently planned.

2. Because of the limited scope, size, and remoteness of the site there will be no unacceptable or significant effects on air quality, noise, aesthetics, flora and fauna, water quality, or historic values if the project is implemented.

3. Minor displacement of local fauna and minimal destruction of flora that will occur during construction will not have a significant effect on the environment because, upon termination of construction, it is expected that both fauna and flora will reoccupy essentially all of the project area.

4. The proposed line will have minor temporary impacts on air quality (dust pollution) and noise levels during the construction phase.

5. There will be no significant environmental effects which cannot be avoided if the proposal is implemented.

6. Mitigation measures adopted to minimize the effects of the project are: (1) the selection of a route far enough removed from public roads to reduce visibility; (2) the selection and grading of access roads to minimize soil erosion; and (3) the selection of routes to avoid areas of flooding.

7. The short length of the transmission line (one-fourth of a mile) makes any alternative route unfeasible. The high cost and relatively minor benefits preclude undergrounding the line as a viable alternative.

8. The short-term uses of man's environment consist mainly of adverse visual effects and a slight reduction in land use available for wildlife. In this case, the extent of natural vegetation and animal life displaced by new tower sites and new access roads will be negligible.

9. The irretrievable loss consists of energy consumed in construction of the project and probable minor loss of wildlife due to the removal of habitat during construction. After the lines have served their useful lives, towers and lines could be removed and the right-of-way would eventually return to its natural state.

10. Future growth induced by an adequate supply of energy can only occur if other growth-inducing factors, such as local economic conditions, land use changes, transportation expenses, and the policy of local governing bodies are also present.

11. Future plans related to this project include increasing the Indio Substation capacity from 10 MVA to 20 MVA should pumping requirements necessitate this increase in size.

12. In conformance with General Order No. 131, the construction and operation of the proposed project:

(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, community values, 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.

13. The Negative Declaration, having been sent for all required governmental review and adopted by the Commission as described below, constitutes full compliance with EIR requirements.

14. The Negative Declaration issued by Administrative Law Judge Johnson on August 15, 1977 is adopted by the Commission, and its contents have been considered in making a decision on the project.

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

16. A public hearing is not necessary.



Southern California Edison Company 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 is attached as Appendix B to this decision.

Based on the foregoing findings the Commission concludes that the transmission line between the existing Devers-Julian Hinds transmission line and the proposed Indio Substation should be authorized in the manner set forth in the following order.

**IT IS ORDERED that:**

1. A certificate of public convenience and necessity is granted to Southern California Edison Company to construct and operate a 220 kv transmission line from the existing Devers-Julian Hinds transmission line to the proposed Indio Substation, together with related appurtenances, as proposed by Southern California Edison Company in this proceeding.

2. The authorization granted by this decision shall expire if the SOHIO west-east pipeline system is not approved and constructed essentially as contemplated herein.

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

The effective date of this order shall be twenty days after the date hereof.

Dated at San Francisco, California,  
this 17th day of JANUARY, 1978.

William J. Sproul, Jr. President  
Terrence L. Steigen  
Charles D. Shuck  
Clair T. Schick Commissioners

Commissioner Robert Batinovich, being necessarily absent, did not participate in the disposition of this proceeding.

APPENDIX A

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Office of Planning and Research  
 State Clearinghouse  
 1400 Tenth Street  
 Sacramento, California 95814

State of California  
 Department of Fish and Game  
 Environmental Services Branch  
 1416 Ninth Street  
 Sacramento, California 95814

State of California  
 Department of Parks and Recreation  
 Environmental Impact Review Section  
 P. O. Box 2390  
 Sacramento, California 95611

County of Riverside  
 County Administration Center  
 4080 Lemon Street  
 Riverside, California 92501

Library Center  
 300 South Sunrise Way  
 Palm Springs, California 92262

Indio Library  
 200 Civic Center Mall  
 Indio, California 92201

Southern California Edison Company  
 P. O. Box 800  
 Rosemead, California 91770

Executive Director  
 State Clearinghouse

Date Received for Review

NOTICE OF DETERMINATION

TO:  Secretary for Resources FROM: (Lead Agency)
1416 Ninth Street, Room 1311A SACRAMENTO
Sacramento, CA 95814

County Clerk
County of \_\_\_\_\_

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

Project Title Devers-Julian Hinds to Indio Substation
220 kv Transmission Line
State Clearinghouse Number (If submitted to State Clearinghouse) 77091982
Contact Person Phillip E. Blecher Telephone Number 415-557-1487
Project Location Nine miles east of Indio and one-fourth mile north of Interstate 10.
Project Description Application by Southern California Edison Company to construct one-fourth mile of 220 kv transmission line from the existing Devers-Julian Hinds 220 kv transmission line to a proposed Indio substation to provide power to one of SOHIO's pumping plants moving Alaskan oil from Long Beach eastward.

This is to advise that the California Public Utilities Commission (Lead Agency) has made the following determinations regarding the above-described project:

- 1. The project has been approved by the Lead Agency.
2. The project will have a significant effect on the environment.
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

Signature Phillip E. Blecher
Title Executive Director
Date