



Aspen *Environmental Group*

PROJECT MEMORANDUM PG&E ATLANTIC-DEL MAR REINFORCEMENT PROJECT

To: Jensen Uchida, CPUC
From: Vida Strong, Aspen Project Manager
Date: December 21, 2005
Subject: Weekly Report #35: December 11, 2005 – December 17, 2005
CPUC Environmental Monitor (EM): Heather Stiles

Aspen Environmental Monitor (EM) Heather Stiles toured the Atlantic-Del Mar Project location on Tuesday, December 13. The PG&E Environmental Inspector (EI), Shannon Ceresola, was on-site to ensure compliance with the adopted Final Mitigated Negative Declaration and other permit requirements. The PG&E EI is conducting environmental trainings for all new crewmembers. The PG&E EI also serves as a project biologist conducting California tiger salamander (CTS) aestivation surveys, on-going bird surveys, as well as installation of resource flagging and managing the installation and maintenance of sediment controls.

OVERHEAD:

Summary of Activity:

All overhead construction including pole, foundation, and line stringing work is being done by PG&E. The only remaining pole areas where work has yet to occur are Transition Poles #9 and #10. The transition poles located at tower site 9 and 10 will be installed in January. The foundations for these tower sites will be poured as soon as the vault installation is completed at the Horizontal Directional Drill (HDD) bore entrance (Vault #1). All of the poles have been placed on the foundations with the exception of Poles #1, #2 and #3. These poles will be erected when the adjacent lines at the Del Mar Substation are de-energized. The PG&E crew has completed all current work and has left the site. The PG&E EI inspected existing erosion controls including those near vernal pool areas. Per the PG&E EI, all inspected erosion controls remain in functional condition and do not require maintenance.

The PG&E crews have set a staging area and construction trailer within the fenced perimeter of the Atlantic Substation. The crews installed guard structures at various street and highway crossings between the Atlantic Substation and Structure 18. During the subject week, travelers and insulators were installed between Towers 25 through 19. New wire was installed and sagged between Towers 25 and 19.

Environmental Compliance Activities:

The CPUC EM observed the current overhead construction activities to be in compliance with mitigation measures adopted in the MND and other permit requirements. Erosion controls are inspected weekly and remain in place around sensitive resource areas adjacent to the construction areas. An environmental briefing was conducted for four additional PG&E overhead crewmembers during the subject week.

UNDERGROUND:

Summary of Activity:

The underground work has been contracted to Wilson Construction. Wilson has subcontracted the ground construction work to Zayas Construction. The horizontal bore work has been subcontracted to Cherrington.

During the subject week, Zayas Construction completed digging and installing Vault #1 located at approximately Station 0+00. Subsequently, the surrounding vault area was backfilled. The tie-in was completed at the exit site of the HDD at approximately Station 8+00. Interstate Construction made the transition between the HDPE and the PVC pipes. Neil's Controlled Blasting completed a blast located at Vault #3 located approximately at the intersection of Railroad Avenue and Rocklin Road.

The crew stockpiled, covered, and contained with either silt fence or straw wattles all spoil piles along the right-of-way.

Horizontal directional boring operations which commenced on Friday, November 18, were completed during the previous week. The HDD contractor completed clean up at the entrance and exit sites of the bore pits. During the CPUC EM site tour on December 13, the area was investigated (see Figure 1). No issues were noted. The HDD contractor demobilized on Wednesday, December 14. The area will be reclaimed and reseeded at the end of the project upon completion of the wire pull and energization of the line.

Far Western has been conducting the project cultural monitoring. The underground work encounters several culturally sensitive areas. A cultural monitor must be present for work in all culturally sensitive areas as specified in Mitigation Measure C-1 and the Cultural Resources Treatment Plan. Per the PG&E EI, during the subject week, no excavation work occurred in previously identified culturally sensitive areas and Far Western was not required to be on-site.

All open excavations, including trench line, are being covered with steel plates or chain link fence and topped with construction fencing at the end of the work day. Each morning, crews walk the excavations to check for trapped wildlife.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE SUMMARY

All new equipment has been inspected for leaks as they are brought onto the site. A road sweeper was operated along Railroad Avenue between Pine Street and Oak, the turnaround at the Amtrak parking lot, Farron Street, and Pacific Avenue in order to keep the street clear of any mud deposited by construction vehicles and machinery.

The CPUC EM observed that all other underground construction activities were in compliance with mitigation measures adopted in the MND and other permit requirements. The existing erosion control measures that have been installed at Seasonal Drainage #37, Seasonal Drainage #5, Seasonal Drainage #6, Seasonal Drainage #30, Ephemeral Drainage #007, Seasonal Drainage #12, Seasonal Drainage #30 from Station 55+60 to the end of the drainage and parallel to Seasonal Drainage #36 have been maintained and are in satisfactory condition.

As presented in Table 1, one NCR has been issued for the project to date.

TABLE 1
ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE STATUS
(Updated 12-21-05)

Project Memo or NCR	Date Issued	Description	Follow-Up Activities
NCR (Level 2)	6-23-05	PG&E contractors removed 22 large trees without notifying the project EI and without conducting avian nest surveys prior to removal, which is a violation of Mitigation Measure B-3 and APM 7-6. Additionally, the trees were removed outside of the allowable window of November 1 through February 15 as established in Mitigation Measure B-3 and overland travel was used instead of existing access roads.	PG&E has conducted post removal surveys at the tree removal sites and surrounding area, and supplied the CPUC with results on July 17, 2005. PG&E also notified CDFG.

NOTICES TO PROCEED (NTP):

Table 2 presents the NTPs issued by the CPUC for the Atlantic–Del Mar Project to date. No additional NTPs are anticipated.

TABLE 2
NOTICES TO PROCEED
(Updated 12-21-05)

NTP #	Date Issued	Description
1	11-03-03	Mobilization within the Atlantic and Del Mar Substations, and overhead installation from the Del Mar Substation to the railroad right-of-way (northern 0.25 miles), City of Rocklin.
2	3-08-05	Construction of the remaining overhead portion (approximately 4 miles) and the underground portion (approximately 1.3 miles) of the Atlantic-Del Mar Reinforcement Project, within the Cities of Roseville and Rocklin in Placer County.

VARIANCE REQUESTS:

No new variance requests were submitted during the subject week. Table 3 presents the Variance Requests reviewed to date.

TABLE 3
VARIANCE REQUEST STATUS
(Updated 12-21-05)

Variance Request #	Date Submitted	Description	Status	CPUC Approval Date
1	4-19-05	Modify the implementation of Applicant Proposed Measure 7.2 at Wetlands #2 and #30 to allow the use of non-rubber tired vehicles and to allow discretionary re-fueling on the project right-of-way.	Approved	5-2-05
2	5-19-05	Allow overland travel from an existing access road to the Pole 3/19 site.	Approved	5-25-05
3	6-28-05	Allow specific tree removals outside of the allowable window of November 1 to February 15 as outlined in Mitigation Measure B-3.	Approved	7-7-05
4	6-28-05	Allow movement of track and rubber tired equipment through approximately 15 feet by 100 feet of Cultural Resource site Y2.	Approved	7-7-05
5	9-2-05	Remove either a berm or oak tree to open up space needed for boring operations south of Sunset Ave. Use of an existing disturbed staging area. String and pull conduit through a delineated wetland area.	Approved	9-8-05

UPCOMING ITEMS:

None of note.

AGENCY PERSONNEL CONTACTS:

None

Photographs



Figure 1 – Site of the cleaned up HDD entrance pit,
December 13, 2005.