



# **Aspen** *Environmental Group*

## **PROJECT MEMORANDUM PG&E ATLANTIC-DEL MAR REINFORCEMENT PROJECT**

**To:** Jensen Uchida, CPUC  
**From:** Vida Strong, Aspen Project Manager  
**Date:** March 2, 2006  
**Subject:** Weekly Report #45: February 19, 2006 – February 25, 2006  
**CPUC Environmental Monitor (EM):** Heather Stiles

CPUC Environmental Monitor (EM), Heather Stiles, toured the Atlantic-Del Mar Project location on February 24<sup>th</sup>. The PG&E Environmental Inspector (EI), Jeremy Sofonia, 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 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 needs to be completed are Transition Poles #9 and #10. Prior to the subject week, the foundation for Transition Pole #10 was modified to accommodate the hardware design requirements and the transition pole was erected. The overhead line now connects Transition Pole #10 all the way through to the Pole #24 at the Atlantic Substation. During the subject week, ground conduit and the “jumpers” between the three phases at the top of the tower were installed at Transition Pole #9.

All of the towers have been placed on the foundations with the exception of Poles #1, #2 and #3. These towers will be erected when the adjacent lines at the Del Mar Substation are de-energized.

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. The CPUC EM periodically verifies the condition of the erosion control devices.

### **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 routinely inspected and remain in place around sensitive resource areas adjacent to the construction areas.

### **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 was subcontracted to Cherrington. Interstate Safety has been subcontracted by Wilson to complete conduit installation.

Interstate Safety began the installation of PVC conduit North of Midas Avenue within the vault 4/Transition Pole #9 connection (see Figure 1). Thermal concrete was poured; however, additional concrete will be required to sufficiently cover the trench. Once the concrete is delivered and poured, the remainder of the trench will be backfilled with thermal slurry and native material.

The trench along Rocklin Road was backfilled with aggregate base and topped with cold-patch to serve as a temporary surface until this area of the road is repaved. During the previous week, crews encountered problematic soils north of Rocklin Road, which showed a lack of stability in terms of being able to support the underground line. Wilson is currently engineering plans to deal with the soil conditions. Meanwhile, construction crews have moved to other areas of the project. Orange safety fencing has been placed around the trench.

Construction continued west of Rocklin Rock, north of Farron Drive. Trench excavation was completed during the previous week and crews completed the installation of PVC conduit, thermal concrete, and thermal slurry within the trenched area (see Figure 2). In addition, backfilling was completed in the trench using native soil and the area was compacted and restored to original grade. Placement of topsoil materials will occur after construction and wire pulling activities have been completed.

Previously spoils piles off Midas Road adjacent to Drainage #30 had remained large. Subsequent to the issuance of a Failure to Comply notice by the City of Rocklin, PG&E and Zayas have coordinated effectively to have all spoils piles removed as they are generated.

During the previous week, Zayas commenced the trench line tie-in operations from Vault 4 to the area directly adjacent to the Drainage #30 bank. Crews used extreme caution and care excavating slowly and hand digging some portions. After the PVC conduit tie-ins, thermal concrete and top slurry were poured one foot at a time as to not overwhelm the fragile bank. No damage to the bank or drainage occurred throughout these operations. During the subject week, Zayas crews completed backfilling the Drainage 30/Midas Avenue trench with native soil material. The area was compacted and restored to original grade (see Figure 3). All construction materials have been removed from this area and erosion control measures were deemed satisfactory.

Horizontal directional drilling (HDD) operations, which commenced on November 18<sup>th</sup>, were completed in early December. The HDD contractor completed clean up at the entrance and exit sites of the bore pits and demobilized on December 14<sup>th</sup>. The area will be reclaimed and reseeded at the end of the project upon completion of the wire pull and energization of the line. The underground crews worked on the tie-ins located at the bore entrance and exit pits. One joint of the pipe at the entrance pit was cut off, at approximately Station 8+00. Following this procedure at the bore entrance pit required encroachment onto Wetland #2. This encroachment has been reviewed and approved under mitigation agreements and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers permits. A mandrel proofing will be completed prior to concluding the tie-in processes. Underground construction crews have continued work within Wetland #2 to link the HDPE pipe to Vault #1. At the end of the subject week, Interstate completed the installation of PVC conduit and has completed the connection between the HDPE pipe and Vault 1. Three trucks of thermal concrete were poured at the HDPE/PVC connection point. The remainder of the concrete will be poured and backfilling procedures will commence next week.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE SUMMARY**

During the tour on February 16<sup>th</sup>, the CPUC EM noticed that portable restroom facilities had been placed upslope and within approximately 50 feet of an inlet to Drainage #30. The PG&E EI was informed that this posed a potential spill issue. The City of Rocklin Inspector was also on-site and expressed similar concerns. The PG&E EI informed the PG&E Inspector that the facility needed to be moved or that secondary containment must be placed around the unit. At the time of the February 24<sup>th</sup> site visit, the portable restroom facility had been relocated north of Midas.

Wilson Construction has hired a third party company to provide on-call erosion control maintenance and installation of additional BMPs throughout the remainder of the construction process.

Far Western has been conducting cultural monitoring on the project. All of the underground work through culturally sensitive areas has already been completed. A cultural monitor no longer needs to be present during the remaining ground disturbing activities. There were no unanticipated discoveries made during the subject week. PG&E understands that a cultural monitor will be required if any additional ground disturbance occurs in these culturally sensitive areas. The workers have been trained to notify the PG&E EI and follow proper procedure if any potentially cultural material is discovered during work anywhere on the project.

As presented in Table 1, one NCR and two Project Memoranda have been issued for the project to date.

**TABLE 1  
ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE STATUS**

(Updated 03-02-06)

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.
Project Memo	1-6-06	PG&E contractors mechanically pumped the water from the casing of the underground conduit into Wetland #1 through a filter bag without adequate testing. Wetland #1 is under the Army Corps of Engineers jurisdiction.	Dewatering from the pipe is being conducted into Baker tanks. Test results and subsequent action are pending. The ACOE has been notified.
Project Memo	1-6-06	Large spoil piles are being stored in close proximity to Seasonal Drainage #30 without adequate erosion control measures, which is a violation of APM 7-2. The erosion control along the drainage was in disrepair, which led to silt from the spoil piles being emptied into the CDFG drainage. Siltation entering the drainage is a violation of Condition #2 of the CDFG Streambed Alteration Agreement.	Crews reinforced the erosion control along Seasonal Drainage #30. The CDFG has been notified. A decision to move the spoil piles is being considered by PG&E.

**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 03-02-06)

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 03-02-06)

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.

**AGENCY PERSONNEL CONTACTS:**

None.

**Photographs**



**Figure 1** – Tie-in to Transition Structure #9, February 24, 2006.



**Figure 2** – Construction progress west of Rocklin Rock, February 24, 2006.



**Figure 3** – Backfilled and graded trench between Drainage #30 and Midas Road, February 24, 2006.