



Aspen Environmental Group

PROJECT MEMORANDUM PG&E ATLANTIC-DEL MAR REINFORCEMENT PROJECT

To: Jensen Uchida, CPUC
From: Vida Strong, Aspen Project Manager
Date: April 25, 2006
Subject: Weekly Report #53: April 16, 2006 – April 22, 2006
CPUC Environmental Monitor (EM): Heather Stiles

CPUC Environmental Monitor EM Heather Stiles toured the Atlantic-Del Mar Project location on Thursday, April 20th. The PG&E Environmental Inspector (EI), Kevin Kilpatrick, was on-site and met with the CPUC EM. Due to decreased levels of construction and lessened risks to sensitive resources, mitigation monitoring has been reduced to an as-needed basis. While on-site, 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 overhead crew installed a wood pole on Americana Way in Rocklin to allow the clearance between the conductor and a recently installed distribution line. Additionally, conductor was strung and tensioned between Tower 9 at Midas Avenue and the Del Mar Substation using a helicopter (see Figure 1). The helicopter experienced a small leak from the fuel cap while tilted sideways to pull rope. A small amount of jet fuel was dissipated in small droplets across the ground. The problem was identified immediately and the helicopter landed and was inspected. The fuel quickly evaporated and was not traceable to allow for cleanup. No spill occurred at the landing area as the problem only occurred while the helicopter was in flight. The crew re-rigged the helicopter so it would pull rope while maintaining a level attitude, and they reported that they would address this fuel leakage issue at an aircraft facility in Sacramento.

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.

The PG&E EI monitored the nest on Wednesday (prior to conductor pulling activities) to gather baseline nesting activities of the red-shouldered hawks. It was determined that the pair appeared to be incubating eggs. Near the nest site there has been ongoing non-project related construction within 250 to 500 feet for several months. In addition, numerous freight and passenger trains per day travel past the nest site within 100 feet. No reaction by the birds to these activities was noted by the PG&E IE or CPUC EM. On Thursday, the nest was monitored by both the CPUC EM and PG&E EI while the overhead crew worked approximately 200 to 300 feet away using helicopters to place the linemen on the towers and to pull ropes through the tower pulleys. The nest site was monitored for the duration of the helicopter work. The birds occasionally observed the passage of the helicopter, but at no time did the pair appear disturbed or prone to leaving the nest.

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.

Wilson and its subcontractors worked on various cable related activities at the vaults and transition structures. They removed additional construction debris including the wooden spools for the cable from the contractor yard and removed the entire length of silt fence along Railroad Avenue. Zayas crews removed a small spoils pile off Railroad Avenue, and began spreading topsoil between Farron Street and Sunset Avenue (see Figure 2).

Horizontal directional drilling (HDD) operations commenced on November 18th and 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 14th. The area will be reclaimed and reseeded at the end of the project, upon completion of the wire pull and energization of the line.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE SUMMARY

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 and functional around sensitive resource areas adjacent to the construction areas.

Far Western has been conducting cultural monitoring on the project. All of the excavation work has been completed. As such, a cultural monitor no longer needs to be present. 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 04-25-06)

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. Spoil piles have been removed and are not expected to regenerate.

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 04-25-06)

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 04-25-06)

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 – Wire-pulling between Del Mar Substation and Tower 9 using a helicopter, April 20, 2006.



Figure 2 – Topsoil spreading between Farron Street and Sunset Avenue, April 20, 2006.