



Devers-Palo Verde No. 2 Transmission Line Project

California SCH #2005101104

EPA OEPC Control No. DES-06-20



To: All Interested Parties
From: Billie C. Blanchard, CPUC, and John Kalish, BLM, EIR/EIS Project Managers
Subject: **Notice of Availability**, Final Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposed Devers-Palo Verde No. 2 Transmission Line Project
Date: October 24, 2006

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) have prepared the Final Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement (EIR/EIS) for consideration of the Proposed Devers-Palo Verde No. 2 Transmission Line Project. The Final EIR/EIS has been prepared in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), and incorporates changes resulting from comments submitted during the Draft EIR/EIS comment period (May 4, 2006 through August 11, 2006).

As evaluated in the Draft and Final EIR/EIS, SCE proposes to construct a new 230-mile, 500 kV electric transmission line between Devers Substation in California and Harquahala Generating Substation in Arizona (referred to as "Devers-Harquahala") and also to replace 48.2 miles of 230 kV transmission lines in California (referred to as "West of Devers"). The upgraded lines would connect directly to the Devers 230 kV bus. The entire project would span 278 miles, with approximately 176 miles in California and 102 miles in Arizona.

Contents of the Final EIR/EIS

The Final EIR/EIS consists of three volumes.

- **Volumes I and II** are completely re-printed from the Draft EIR/EIS, except that most color graphics are made available on a compact disk and not in printed copies. Changes made to the Draft EIR/EIS are marked in Volumes I and II: inserted text is underlined and deleted text is shown in ~~strikeout~~. Both types of changes are indicated with a vertical line in the margin.
- **Volume III** consists of all comments on the Draft EIR/EIS and responses to those comments. Over 475 pages of comments on the Draft EIR/EIS were submitted to the BLM and the CPUC. This volume includes transcripts from the July 2006 Public Participation Hearings.

Distribution of the Final EIR/EIS

Copies of the Final EIR/EIS have been mailed to parties of the CPUC's General Proceeding; to Federal, State, and local government agencies that commented on the Draft EIR/EIS; as well as to some members of the public. Copies of the Final EIR/EIS on CD (without detailed tower maps due to SCE security restrictions) or a separately bound Executive Summary may be requested by phone or fax at (800) 886-1888 or by e-mail at dpv2@aspenerg.com. There are also a limited number of copies of the complete Final EIR/EIS document available upon request at the above addresses/numbers. The document is also available on the CPUC's project website at:

<http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/environment/info/asp/dpv2/dpv2.htm>

Table 1 (next page) lists the public repository sites at which the Final EIR/EIS may be reviewed.

NEPA Process and BLM Record of Decision

The BLM circulates the Final EIS for 30 days prior to making a decision on the proposed action, and the U.S. EPA's Office of Federal Activities publishes a Notice of Availability of the Final EIS in the Federal Register. If no changes to the Final EIR/EIS are warranted based on the comments, the BLM will prepare a Record of Decision (ROD), which documents the selected alternative and specific mitigation measures. The ROD will not be issued until the 30-day no-action period has lapsed following the publication of the Notice of Availability in the Federal Register.

CEQA Process and CPUC General Proceeding

CEQA requires that the CPUC provide written responses to public agency comments at least 10 days prior to certifying the EIR (Public Resource Code 21092.5(a)). This is accomplished by sending the Final EIR/EIS to all agencies that commented.

The CPUC will determine the adequacy of the Final EIR/EIS, and if adequate, will certify the document as compliant with CEQA. The CPUC will issue a decision on the Proposed Project, which will be announced and published concurrent with a scheduled CPUC Meeting. The final decision is expected by the end of 2006. Within 30 days after the decision is issued by the CPUC, parties can apply for rehearing. For further information on the CPUC's decision-making process, call the CPUC Public Advisor at (866) 849-8390 or (415) 703-2074 or email public.advisor@cpuc.ca.gov.

Table 1. Repository Sites

Devers to Harquahala - Library Sites

Desert Hot Springs City Public Library	11691 West Drive, Desert Hot Springs, CA 92240.....	(760) 329-5926
City of Palm Springs Library	300 S. Sunrise Way, Palm Springs, CA 92262.....	(760) 323-8298
Cathedral City Branch Library	33520 Date Palm Drive, Cathedral City, CA 92234.....	(760) 328-4262
Rancho Mirage City Library	42520 Bob Hope Drive, Rancho Mirage, CA 92270.....	(760) 341-7323
Palm Desert City Library	73300 Fred Waring Drive, Palm Desert, CA 92260.....	(760) 346-6552
Indio Public Library	200 Civic Center Mall, Indio, CA 92201.....	(760) 342-0185
Coachella Branch Library	1538 7th Street, Coachella, CA 92236.....	(760) 398-5148
Palo Verde Valley Library District	125 W. Chanslorway, Blythe, CA 92225.....	(760) 922-5371
Quartzsite Public Library	465 N. Plymouth Ave, Quartzsite, AZ 85346.....	(928) 927-6593
Buckeye Public Library	312 N. 6th St, Buckeye, AZ 85326.....	(623) 386-2778

Devers to Harquahala - U.S Bureau of Land Management Offices

Palm Springs/South Coast Field Office	690 W. Garnet Avenue, N. Palm Springs, CA 92258.....	(760) 251-4800
Phoenix Field Office	21605 N. 7th Avenue, Phoenix, AZ 85027-2099.....	(623) 580-5500
Yuma Field Office	2555 East Gila Ridge Road, Yuma, AZ 85365-2240.....	(928) 317-3200

West of Devers - Library Sites

City of Riverside Library	5505 Dewey Avenue, Riverside, CA 92504.....	(951) 359-3906
San Bernardino County Library	104 W. Fourth Street, San Bernardino, CA 92415.....	(909) 387-5723
Colton Public Library	656 N. Ninth Street, Colton, CA 92324.....	(909) 370-5083
Grand Terrace Library	22795 Barton Road, Grand Terrace, CA 92313.....	(909) 783-0147
City of Loma Linda Library	25581 Barton Road, Loma Linda, CA 92354.....	(909) 796-8621
A.K. Smiley Public Library	125 West Vine Street, Redlands, CA 92373.....	(909) 798-7565
Mentone County Library	1870 Mentone Boulevard, Mentone, CA 92359.....	(909) 794-2657
Yucaipa Branch Library	12040 5th Street, Yucaipa, CA 92399.....	(909) 790-3146
Calimesa City Library	974 Calimesa Boulevard, Calimesa, CA 92320.....	(909) 795-9807
Beaumont Library District	125 East 8th Street, Beaumont, CA 92223.....	(951) 845-1357
Banning Public Library	21 W Nicolet Street, Banning, CA 92220.....	(951) 849-3192
Morongo Community Library	11581 Potrero Road, Banning, CA 92220.....	(951) 849-5937

West of Devers - U.S Bureau of Land Management Office

California Desert District Office	22835 Calle San Juan Del Los Lagos, Moreno Valley, CA 92553.....	(951) 697-5200
-----------------------------------	--	----------------

CPUC/BLM
Devers–Palo Verde No. 2 Transmission Project
c/o Aspen Environmental Group
235 Montgomery Street, Suite 935
San Francisco, CA 94104



Notice of Availability:
Final EIR/EIS