

Comment Set C.134: Melissa Dickey

September 25, 2006

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BY:.....

Mr. Boccio:

This letter is in regards to the Antelope-Pardee 500 KV Transmission Project. The proposal by Southern California Edison to transmit additional power between Lancaster and Santa Clarita, California has caused much fear and anxiety for my family and neighbors in Leona Valley.

C.134-1

While recognizing the need for additional transmission capacity, we are concerned about the possible loss of, or steep reduction in the value of our homes. Often our real estate is the most valuable asset any of us will ever own.

As a resident of 107th Street West it disturbs me that one of these gigantic towers may be erected only a few hundred feet from our property, and another just across the road, also in close proximity. Unresolved health issues regarding these ultra high voltage power lines is extremely troubling to me, especially after having read the presentation by Mr. Paul Brodeur to the Nebraska Legislature.

C.134-2

Because our well is our only source of water for domestic as well as agricultural purposes, I am concerned that the water table may somehow become polluted by runoff during construction or future maintenance needs of the towers and lines.

C.134-3

The danger and noise posed by helicopters flying low over our home during construction, inspection and maintenance periods is frightening to consider.

The narrow end of this canyon and the two others which branch from it would be seriously impacted in the event of a fire, as power towers and suspended lines would impair the ability of firefighters to use aircraft to battle the inferno.

C.134-4

Also among my concerns is the erosion of the mountainside resulting from this project, and how that will be handled in years when there is an abundance of rainfall.

(2)

Moreover, the proposed placement at the later location would open the way for further abuse of the terrain by off road vehicle riders. Without the present heavy growth of brush to hold the soil, mud and rocks would flow onto the unpaved road. With no gutter or storm drains to carry the debris away, it would cause difficulty for canyon residents to access the nearest paved road, Leona Avenue.

Adding insult to injury, the enormous expense of acquiring additional miles of right of way for Alternate #5 would necessitate using more towers, would require extra miles of cable, and cause increased maintenance costs due to the longer distance, all of which would be borne by Edison customers.

C.134-5

The National Forest between Lancaster and Santa Clarita is already traversed by a utility corridor 1000 feet wide, which is intended to accommodate the various energy needs of consumers on the other side of the forest.

The EIR states that relocating the power lines from the existing utility corridor through the Angeles National Forest and placing them further to the east will have a beneficial impact on the endangered condor. According to the map that I could locate, this part of ANF is on the outlying edge of the condor's historical range. So placement of the tower lines a mile or two to the east could hardly have an affect on a bird that may travel in excess of one hundred miles in a single day.

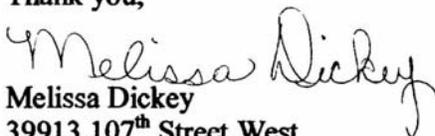
C.134-6

In fact it would seem that more danger to the condor is posed by the several shooting ranges that presently exist in this area of the forest, than by either the new or the existing power corridor.

From my perspective, continuing to utilize the present right of way remains the most feasible and least costly way to carry out this proposed upgrade to the power grid. It would also eliminate much of the disruption to the lives of countless individuals and families. Please exclude Alternate #5 from consideration.

C.134-7

Thank you,


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Response to Comment Set C.134: Melissa Dickey

C.134-1 Please see General Response GR-1 regarding the effect of the Project on property values. Please note that the project's intended purpose is to deliver power from current and future renewable power sources in the Antelope Valley and Tehachapi areas to SCE's high electrical demand areas. Based on the California Independent System Operator (CAISO), power will initially go to the Antelope Valley from Santa Clarita.

C.134-2 Please see General Response GR-3 regarding EMF concerns.

C.134-3 The supply and quality of water resources, including in the Leona Valley, would not be significantly affected by the proposed Project or an alternative. As discussed in Section C.8 (Hydrology and Water Quality) of the EIR/EIS, implementation of the proposed Project or an alternative is not expected to significantly interfere with groundwater supply and recharge (Criterion HYD2), or with existing surface water drainage patterns (Criterion HYD3). If the proposed Project or an alternative is approved, the required implementation of mitigation measures during construction and operation would ensure protection of water resources.

There is a potential for construction of the proposed Project or an alternative to affect local runoff patterns through the introduction of new infrastructure and impervious areas. Any impacts to surface water runoff from the construction of new impervious areas (such as access roads and transmission towers) would be less than significant for the proposed Project and Alternatives 2 through 5. For Alternative 1, Mitigation Measure H-5 (Permeability of Ground Cover) would be implemented to ensure that any potential impacts to runoff would be less than significant.

C.134-4 We recognize that Alternative 5 would constrain the ability to aggressively fight a wildland fire in the vicinity of the route, and would create additional fire risks to inhabited areas such as Leona Valley and Agua Dulce (see discussion in Section D.5). Your concerns will be shared with the decision-makers who are reviewing the Project at the USDA Forest Service and the CPUC.

As discussed in Section C.5 (Geology, Soils, and Paleontology), minor changes in topography associated with the project (Impact G-3) are not expected to be significant. Implementation of the required Mitigation Measures G-2 (Minimization of Soil Erosion) and B-1a (Provide Restoration/Compensation for Impacts to Native Vegetation Communities) would additionally avoid potential impacts to surface water runoff resulting from topographic changes.

C.134-5 Thank you for submitting your opinion regarding alternative 5. We agree that due to the increased length of Alternative 5, it would cost substantially more than the proposed Project. Your comments will be shared with the decision-makers who are reviewing the Project at the USDA Forest Service and the CPUC.

C.134-6 It is important to note that the analysis states that relocating the power lines "may" have a beneficial impact on California condors (if present) and is dependent on several assumptions as discussed in Section C.3 of the EIR/EIS.

C.134-7 Thank you for your opinion concerning the proposed Project and alternatives.