

Comment Set C.13: Randall and Glenna Becker

From: Emptynester59@aol.com [mailto:Emptynester59@aol.com]
Sent: Tue 8/29/2006 10:00 PM
To: Antelope-Pardee Project; HorsingRound@aol.com
Subject: Antelope-Pardee Project

August 29, 2006

Dear Sirs,

I would like to comment on the "Antelope-Pardee Transmission Project" and have my comments included in the official transcript.

It seems that we, the citizens of Leona Valley, are constantly being threatened with the loss of our way of life in our rural community. We have been threatened by private developers as well as the large monopoly known as Southern California Edison Company. It would seem that there are those who, being envious of our way of life, will stop at nothing in the attempt to destroy it!

First, it was Edison's desire to create a "wind farm" on the hills surrounding our little valley. We would have been blessed with the hum of the generators replacing the songs of wild birds and the joy of gazing at the towers with their spinning propellers which had replaced the pristine beauty of the native flora on our mountains. We fought that project and won!

Then came the "Ritter Ranch Project" which would have turned our little farming community into a piece of suburbia, robbing from our residents their rural way of life. We fought that development and won! Ultimately, there will be ranchettes built on the Ritter land but with nowhere near the density that was once proposed!

Now we are faced with possibly the worst threat of all! If Alternative #5 goes through, many of our residents will lose their homes altogether through "eminent domain" and, those of us who don't, will see our property value drop into the basement...if we could sell our homes at all should we desire to do so. You may think the public isn't aware of the dangers of living near 500kV lines but you are very wrong! We have talked with a realtor and she has lost many sales because the client saw high-voltage power lines nearby.

This brings me to the next point...why would people fear these 500kV lines? Because they cause both childhood and adult leukemia, brain tumors in children, heart attacks and stroke to those living in proximity to the electro-magnetic fields created around the lines. That is definitely something to fear, don't you think?

So, we can't sell...what does that mean? Well, it means we are all condemned to health problems of our own due to close proximity to the towers and lines. Not a pretty picture, is it?

These are some of the reasons we oppose the implementing of Alternative #5 of the Antelope-Pardee Project. There are other alternatives which would do far less harm to the lives of this group of California citizens. Promote those and let us live in peace and safety in our rural homes.

One other point needs to be made. At the time we were fighting the wind farm project, we were informed by the commander of Plant 42 at Lockheed and Edwards Air Force Base that the generating of electricity by a wind farm on our mountains would create a hazard for the navigation of the military aircraft which fly over the area frequently. These power lines, with their electro-magnetic field, would pose a like hazard for military aircraft. At the Lane Park meeting, we also learned that Southwest Airlines also has a flight pattern which goes over our mountains. Has the danger to aircraft been considered?

Now, as to the underhanded way in which this project has been handled, there are no words to convey the anger, disillusionment, frustration and disgust we, the residents of Leona Valley, feel. We have been ignored and deceived throughout the year plus that the study has been underway. Even now, only a handful of the residents, those who Edison wants to deprive of their property, were told about it. The rest of us, though severely impacted, were still ignored! If our neighbors of 107th Street, Leona Avenue and Lost Valley Road had not made us aware of what was going on, we would have known nothing of the "secret" project or the public meetings held on August 28th, 29th and 30th! You probably didn't count on the way country folk stick together...a threat to one is a threat to all!!! And, actually, this threatens all of us though only a few were informed. How shameful, dishonest, illegal and reprehensible your actions have been!!!! It's time to re-evaluate your plans, this time including all the citizens impacted and extending the deadline for objections beyond September 18th. You've had over a year...give us a fair amount of time and the opportunity to provide input to the proposed project.

Sincerely,
Randall and Glenna Becker
39280 Bouquet Canyon Road
Leona Valley
California 93551

C.13-1

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C.13-4

C.13-5

C.13-6

Response to Comment Set C.13: Randall and Glenna Becker

- C.13-1 As discussed in Section C.9.10.2, the majority of land uses that would be restricted as a result of Alternative 5 would be from the erection of new structures within the alternative ROW. However, given that SCE has not conducted construction or final alignment and design studies for Alternative 5, the EIR/EIS has assumed that the removal of one or more homes may occur. As such, Section C.9.10.2 (Impact L-3) concluded that potential impacts to residential land uses as a result of Alternative 5 would be significant and unavoidable.
- C.13-2 Please see General Response GR-1 regarding potential effects on property values.
- C.13-3 Please see General Response GR-3 regarding EMF concerns.
- C.13-4 Your comment will be shared with the decision-makers who are reviewing the Project and alternatives at the USDA Forest Service and the CPUC.
- C.13-5 Impacts to aviation activities are discussed in Section C.13, Traffic and Transportation (Criterion TRA11). Impacts to aviation activities could occur during both construction and operation of a transmission line project because aviation impacts are caused by physical impediments to the navigable airspace. According to the guidelines of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), construction of a project could potentially have a significant impact on aviation activities if a structure or any equipment is positioned such that it would be more than 200 feet above the ground or if an object would penetrate the imaginary surface extending outward and upward from a public or military airport runway or a helipad. Transmission towers greater than 200 feet (double-circuit towers) are only proposed within the existing Pardee-Vincent utility corridor. The Project, including all helicopter construction activities, would be required to comply with all appropriate regulations of the FAA. After the Project route is selected, SCE would be required to submit FAA Form 7460-1, Notice of Proposed Construction or Alteration, to the Manager of the FAA Air Traffic Division for review and approval of the route. Adherence to FAA guidelines would ensure that operation and construction of the Project would not cause a significant impact to aviation activities.
- With respect to electro-magnetic fields effecting military aircrafts, the strength of electro-magnetic fields attenuates significantly with distance from the transmission line and will be negligible at the altitude of aircraft in the area. Furthermore, the Project area is currently traversed by numerous transmission lines, many of which are 500-kV, similar to what is proposed as part of the Project. From the Antelope Substation, the Project would be placing transmission lines approximately 5 miles southwest of General William J. Fox Airfield and approximately 11 miles southwest of Edwards Air Force Base, or farther, as the Project extends south and west to the Pardee Substation.
- C.13-6 Please see General Response GR-5 regarding the noticing procedures for an EIR/EIS. On September 13, the CPUC and the Forest Service formally extended the public review period for the Draft EIR/EIS to October 3, 2006.