

Comment Set C.141: Rolf Linden and Janna Smith-Linden

From: Rolf Linden [mailto:rolf.linden@gmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, October 01, 2006 2:46 PM
To: Antelope-Pardee Project
Subject: Antelope-Pardee Alt 5 power line proposal

Dear Sirs,

We are writing this in opposition to the Southern California Edison's proposed Antelope Transmission Project, specifically to Segment 1 Antelope-Pardee, Alternative 5. The initial project proposal would replace an existing 66kV power line with a new 500kV line running in a direct route from Antelope Valley to Santa Clarita through the Angeles National Forest (ANF). It would follow a corridor through ANF that already has several other power lines in it. As such it would have a minimal impact on the existing forest and the people and properties surrounding ANF.

Alternative 5 (Alt 5), is an attempt to route the power line around the ANF and in the process it disrupts several communities along the proposed route. In addition the proposed route is 50% longer than the original route suggested by SCE. That additional length alone will cause an additional 5% power loss which cost would be paid by additional rate hikes by SCE.

Alternative 5 is a bad proposal for many reasons, some of which are as follows:

1. It has a severe impact on the citizens of the town of Leona Valley. We moved here to experience the country life, free of the trappings of a city and to enjoy nature. The presence of the power line with its 200ft towers within a 1000ft of our backyard is an intrusion that will affect our life in many ways, including property values. C.141-1
2. It appears that SCE and CPUC have not taken a close look at newer technologies available that would minimize the intrusion and the effects of a high voltage AC power line. Technologies such as High Voltage DC (HVDC) power should be thoroughly investigated as an option to the exiting proposal. This technology allows one to easily bury the lines underground and thus eliminate the visual impact of the lines as well as the detrimental electromagnetic effects of an AC line. HVDC has been used in many countries including USA and is the next step in technology that would make an excellent statement that the state of California is concerned of the effects of high voltage AC power. Let's not use tunnel vision but be open to all technology options that exist, particularly one that will improve the environment. C.141-2
3. The erection of the power line would severely impact the fire fighting abilities in the area. The power line towers, which are 200ft tall, would be placed on the ridges surrounding the town of Leona Valley. This would prohibit use of air tankers in fighting forest fires. Air assault on fires is almost the only way to fight fires in this area since the terrain is steep and many homes are not very accessible. The Leona Fire in 2002 would have been much more difficult to fight with the Alt 5 power line in place. C.141-3
4. There is enough uncertainty about the effects of EMF (electric and magnetic fields) on people's health to warrant a more thorough investigation and avoid running the high voltage AC power lines near populated areas. Scientists all agree that EMFs can cause increased risk of childhood leukemia, brain cancer, Lou Gehrig's disease and other medical and physical effects. These are long term effects and it would be a mistake to route the power line close to a populated area and years later find that it caused severe health problems in the population. C.141-4

5. The EIR (environmental impact report) for the project seems to focus very little on the impact of Alt 5 on the people that would be affected by the routing of the line. Construction of the line would potentially affect the wells in the area, in particular the shallow wells such as ours. Most homes in Leona Valley have their own wells and a disruption of the water table or pollution by the construction would be a severe financial impact on the town. C.141-5
6. The EIR takes in consideration the habitat of the wildlife in the ANF. What about the wildlife in our own properties? The same animals that the USFS is trying to protect in the forest will disappear from our property. Furthermore the Alt 5 will displace many people from their homes and the land they came to love. C.141-6
C.141-7

In conclusion, the Alt 5 of the proposed Antelope-Pardee power line is a bad idea. After all, the legacy we want to leave our children is not one of bad planning and execution of a project that could be made a lot better.

It is up to the US Forest Service, the CPUC and our elected officials to make sure this alternative is not implemented and that some of the issues raised are revisited.

Sincerely,

Rolf W. Linden

Janna Smith-Linden

Response to Comment Set C.141: Rolf Linden and Janna Smith-Linden

- C.141-1 Your comments will be shared with the decision-makers who are reviewing the Project and alternatives at the USDA Forest Service and the CPUC. Please also see General Response GR-1 regarding potential effects on property values.
- C.141-2 Please see General Response GR-6 regarding underground technologies for 500-kV transmission line.
- C.141-3 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 and alternatives at the USDA Forest Service and the CPUC.
- C.141-4 Please see General Response GR-3 regarding potential EMF impacts.
- C.141-5 As discussed in Draft EIR/EIS Section C.8.10, the construction and operation of Alternative 5 would result in less than significant impacts to water quality and available groundwater.
- C.141-6 As discussed in Draft EIR/EIS Section C.3.10.2, the construction and operation of Alternative 5 would result in less-than-significant impacts with mitigation incorporated to both wildlife habitat and species along the Alternative 5 route.
- C.141-7 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 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. Alternative 5 would not result in the displacement of a significant portion of the families in the Leona Valley or Agua Dulce communities.