

**5.8 HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS****5.8.1 Significance Criteria**

According to CEQA standards, a project is considered to have a potentially significant adverse impact on the environment if it would create a potential public health hazard or involve the use, production, or disposal of materials which pose a hazard to people or animal or plant populations in the affected area.

Managed and disposed of properly, hazardous materials used and stored and hazardous wastes generated associated with the proposed project would not cause significant environmental or health and safety impacts.

**5.8.2 Construction Impacts****5.8.2.1 Hazardous Materials and Hazardous Wastes**

As stated previously in Section 4.8, SCE would conduct a Phase I ESA for all project areas subject to grading or excavation activities prior to construction to confirm that no soil contamination is present.

There is potential for impacts from hazardous materials and hazardous wastes during construction of the proposed project (and alternatives). Small volumes of hazardous materials would be used during construction activities. There is the potential for incidents involving release of gasoline, diesel fuel, oil, hydraulic fluid, and lubricants from vehicles or other equipment or the release of paints, solvents, adhesives, or cleaning chemicals from construction activities. To minimize, avoid, and/or clean up such material should an unforeseen spill occur, construction would be performed in accordance with SCE's Construction SWPPP. No impacts from exposure to hazardous materials are anticipated associated with T/L construction or substation modifications/expansion activities.

**5.8.2.2 Fire Hazards**

The risk of fire danger from the project is related to smoking, refueling, and operating vehicles and other equipment off roadways. Welding during construction of towers or support structures could also potentially result in the combustion of native materials in close proximity to the welding site.

SCE has developed a Fire Prevention and Response Plan (FPRP) that addresses construction activities for the project, and establishes standards and practices that would minimize the risk

of fire danger, and in the case of fire, provide for immediate suppression and notification. The Fire Plan addresses spark arresters, smoking and fire rules, storage and parking areas, use of gasoline-powered tools, road closures, use of a fire guard, fire suppression tools, fire suppression equipment, and training requirements. Trained fire suppression personnel and fire suppression equipment would be established at key locations, and the personnel and equipment would be capable of responding to a fire within 15 minutes of notification. Portable communication devices (i.e., radio or mobile telephones) would be available. SCE would clear potential proximate objects during construction, so as not to come in proximity of a line.

All vehicle parking, storage areas, stationary engine sites, and welding areas would be cleared of all vegetation and flammable materials. Additionally all areas used for dispensing or storage of gasoline, diesel fuel, or other oil products would be cleared of vegetation and other flammable materials. These areas would be posted with a sign identifying the area as a “No Smoking” area.

Refer to Appendix I for more information regarding SCE’s FPRP. Compliance with SCE’s FPRP would be expected to minimize the fire hazard during the construction phase to a less than significant level.

### **5.8.3 Operation Impacts**

#### **5.8.3.1 Hazardous Materials**

There is the potential for release of hazardous materials from operation of substations. There is the potential for incidents involving release of mineral oil from transformers or lubricants from other substation equipment. Additionally, potential releases of SF<sub>6</sub> gas or releases from substation batteries could also cause adverse impacts.

An updated Spill Prevention, Countermeasure, and Control (SPCC) plan will be developed in accordance with Title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Part 112 for the expanded Antelope and modified Pardee substations. The plan includes engineered and operational methods for preventing, containing, and controlling potential releases, and provisions for a quick and safe cleanup. Compliance with the SPCC plan requirements would be expected to limit potential accidental spill impacts at the Antelope and Pardee substations to levels that are less than significant.

**5.8.3.2 Fire Hazard**

T/Ls may pose a fire hazard when a conducting object comes in close proximity of a line or when a live-phase conductor falls to the ground. As applicable, SCE would clear potential proximate vegetation and maintain clearance during the life of the T/L to reduce the fire hazard potential. Compliance with SCE's FPRP (see Appendix I) would help ensure that potential impacts associated with fire hazards during the operational phase would be less than significant.

**5.8.4 Mitigation Measures**

Measures to avoid and/or minimize impacts from hazards or hazardous materials have been included as part of the proposed project design (e.g., Construction SWPPP, updated SPCC plans for substations, and FPRP).

The following mitigation measure is proposed by SCE to further limit the potential for adverse project impacts related to hazards and hazardous materials:

**APM HazMat-1.** SCE would perform Phase I ESAs to assess all project-related areas of planned ground disturbance prior to the initiation of construction and avoid any identified hazards accordingly.