



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Cleveland National
Forest

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File Code: 2720

Date: January 5, 2012

Alan Colton
Mgr-Sunrise Powerlink Environmental Svcs
San Diego Gas & Electric Company
8315 Century Park Court, CP21E
San Diego, CA 92123

Dear Mr. Colton:

SDG&E's January 3, 2012 request to continue work until 1:00 PM (1300hours) on level Ev Project Activity Level (PAL) days has been reviewed by Forest Service staff assigned to the project.

You may work at the sites listed below until 1:00 PM on PAL Ev days under the following conditions: 1) Compliance with the Special Use Permit Fire Plan (Exhibit 9). 2) Compliance with all previous project variance permissions. 3) Adherence to fire mitigation measures previously proposed by SDG&E as approved by the Forest Service. A copy of this variance letter and the Fire Plan shall be at each worksite.

The following operations may proceed until 1:00 PM on PAL Ev days under the cumulative restrictions of PAL from A through Ev and use of the following staffed and operational fire equipment at each active work site: One 2000 to 4000 gallon water truck; a full time fire watch with a type 6 brush patrol carrying a minimum of 300 gallons of water or water trailer with a minimum of 300 gallons of water as described in Section 3 of the Fire Plan; appropriate fire tools will be kept within 25 feet of operations at all times. All fire equipment is to remain on site during operations and at least two hours past the end of the work day. A fire marshal shall patrol the area and monitor weather conditions. For mowing, mastication, and/or welding operations, an attended charged one inch or greater fire hose able to reach 100 feet beyond the work area will be utilized with wetting of the work area before, during, and after operations.

- 1) *Gate and barrier installation at work sites:* CP99-2; EP9-1; EP11-3; EP24-1; EP35-1; EP36-1; EP74-1; EP113-5; EP116-1; West of EP116-1; EP125, EP126-1, EP127, EP129, EP 130-1; EP131, CP69-3 and EP141 (Note: USFS permit required for welding, cutting, or grinding. Permit valid only on PAL days A-D). Must be compliant with Sections 3, 4 and Attachment 1 of the Fire Plan for welding. **No variance for PAL Ev.** Materials used for gates and barriers shall be installed as agreed upon by the Forest Service. Vegetation two inches in diameter or greater shall be cleared by hand with above ground stems 6-8 inches long and an intact root system left in place. All other vegetation shall be cleared in accordance with the Forest Service issued welding permit.



- 2) *Road dust abatement, rock aggregate base and Gabion wall installation:* May occur on Ev days past 1:00 PM. Contractor will comply with Section 4 ROAD BLADING and ROAD CONSTRUCTION in the Fire Plan (Note: Does not include dozer work, rough grading, pioneering and initial construction of driveways, turnouts or cut bank grading).
- 3) *Brush clearing at vehicle accessible work sites:* Existing access roads between EP74 and 75, between EP77 and EP78, between EP78A and EP70, between EP63 and EP66; Clearing at welding locations: Gate CP99-2, Gate EP9-1, Gate EP11-3, Gate EP24-1, Gate EP35-1, Gate EP36-1, Gate EP74-1, Gate EP113-5, Gate EP116-1, Gate West of EP116-1; 112-3 access road, pad and tower site; Driveway 8E-3 (Cameron Truck Trail at Old Hwy 80); Driveway 8A-8 EP9-1; Driveway 8A-9 (EP11-3, EP12-3); Driveway 8A-7 (EP22, EP24); Cameron Truck Trail; EP9-1 pullsite, access road and pad; EP11 and EP12-3 pullsites, EP22-1 pullsite and access road; EP23-3 pullsite and access road; EP58-3 access road; EP113-4 pullsites, access road and pads; EP36 access road and pad; EP112A access road and pad; Driveway 8E-2 (EP116); and Driveway 8E-4 (EP113-5).
- 4) *Grading at vehicle accessible sites:* Existing access roads between EP74 and EP75, between EP77 and EP78, between EP78A and EP79, between EP63 and EP66; EP112-3 access road, pad; Driveway 8E-3 (Cameron Truck Trail at Old Hwy 80) including placement of aggregate base; Driveway 8A-8 (EP9-1) including placement of aggregate base; Driveway 8A-9 (EP11-3, EP12-3) including placement of aggregate base; Driveway 8A-7 (EP22-EP24) including placement of aggregate base; Cameron Truck Trail; EP9-1 pullsites, access road and pad; EP11 and EP12-3 pullsites, access road and pads; EP22-1 pullsite and access road; EP23-2 pullsite and access road; EP58-3 access road; EP113-4 access road, pads and pullsites; EP36 access road and pad; EP112A access road and pad; Driveway 8E-2 (EP116) including placement of aggregate base; and Driveway 8E-4 (EP113-5) including placement of aggregate base.
- 5) *Conventional foundation construction:* EP9-1; EP11-3; EP12-3; EP36-1; EP112A; EP112-3
- 6) *Wire Stringing: Variance allowed for Wire Stringing on Ev days past 1pm (13:00) in Eagle Buffer areas only:* EP141 Pull site to EP131 Pull site; CP109 Pull site to CP100 (USFS Sites are CP105 to CP100); CP75 Pull site to CP65 Pull site (USFS site is CP 69-3).
- 7) *Soil boring:* EP9-1; EP12-3; EP36; and EP112-3.
- 8) *Steel Tower and Insulator Assembly:* Approved: Thing Valley Construction Yard.

The following operations may proceed until 1:00 PM on PAL Ev days under the cumulative restrictions of PAL from A through Ev and use of the following staffed and operational fire equipment at each active work site: A fly box or fire box equipped with hand tools for all workers as described in Section 3 of the Fire Plan; a designated fire patrol person to patrol all active work sites for two hours after the end of work.

- 9) *Hand clearing of vegetation (Non- Mechanized/ No Chainsaw) at TSAP's & Remote Tower Sites.* Approved project wide.

- 10) *Hand clearing of vegetation (Non- Mechanized/ No Chain Saw) for egress routes at micro-pile sites.* Approved project wide.
- 11) *Midspace (Blowout) Tree Trimming (Non-Mechanized/ Hand tools only)* Approved: Between EP129 and EP130; CP104 and CP105; Between EP142 and EP143; Between EP129 and EP130; Between EP107 and EP108.
- 12) *Installation, maintenance and inspection of BMP's:* Approved: throughout the project area wherever BMP installation and maintenance is required.
- 13) *Mobilization/Removal of Equipment from Micro pile Sites:* Approved project wide.
- 14) *Hydro mulching:* Approved project wide at vehicle accessible project areas where slope stabilization is necessary.
- 15) *Rehabilitation and Transplanting work at all sites:* Approved project wide.

The following operations may proceed until 1:00 PM on PAL Ev days under the cumulative restrictions of PAL from A through Ev, compliance with the Fire Plan, this variance notice, and use of the following staffed and operational fire equipment at each active work site.

For all sites the following applies: A fly box or fire box that includes tools as described in Section 3 of the Fire Plan for the number of personnel present; an onsite water tank, water truck, or trailer with a minimum of 300 gallons of water in reserve at all times for fire protection; a pump having a minimum rating of 23 gallons per minute at 175 psi pump pressure at sea level with a minimum one inch hose filled/ primed with water capable of reaching 100 feet past the work area. All activities shall comply with proper brush clearances as specified in the Fire Plan. For boulder breaking activities the work area will be cleared of flammable vegetation for a 10 foot radius and wet down for a 25 foot radius before, during, and after operations. A designated fire patrol person will be on site during work activities and two hours after the end of work. Notification will be made to the Forest Service 24 hours prior to start of work to allow opportunity for pre-inspection of equipment going to remote sites.

16) *Micro-pile foundation construction:* Egress routes shall be established on the ground and clearly identifiable at all times. A map of the egress routes shall be provided to the Forest Service. Construction may occur on a site by site basis as follows:

- a) **HIGH FIRE DANGER AREAS;** La Posta Road Area limited to two (2) simultaneous sites per operational period or work day, this includes all sites between EP 107 and EP 143; the area between Lyon Valley Road and Japatul Road are limited to two (2) simultaneous sites per operational period or work day, this includes all sites between EP 11-3 and EP 24-1.

AND

- b) **LOW TO MODERATE FIRE HAZARD AREAS;** All areas along the powerlink corridor located outside of the High Fire Danger Areas. These areas are limited to six (6) or less sites per operational period or work day.

OR

c) Micro-pile foundation construction may occur at all sites along North La Posta Road on Ev variance days. No other micro-pile work will be allowed on the Forest Service portions of the alignment on Ev days. Turnouts will be accessible and un-encumbered by parked vehicles along La Posta Rd. to ensure free flowing traffic and emergency access and egress.

17) *Steel Tower Erection and Pile Cap Installation*: EP57-2; EP58-2; EP108-2; EP109-1; EP110-2; EP111-4; EP112-3; EP112-A; EP113-5; EP114-2; EP115-1; EP116-1; EP117-2; EP118-2; EP2-3; EP3-3; EP4-3; EP5-2; EP6-1; EP7-1; EP8-2; EP9-1; EP10-2; EP11-3; EP12-3; EP13-3; EP14-1; EP15; EP16-1; EP17; EP18; EP19-1; EP20-2; EP21-1; EP23-2; EP24-1; EP25-2; EP28-3; EP29-2; EP33-1; EP34-1; EP35-1; EP36-1; EP37-2; CP69-2; CP99-2; CP100-1; CP101-1; CP103-2; CP104-1; CP105-1; EP131; EP132; EP132-2; EP134-1; EP135; EP136; EP137; EP138-2; EP139-1; EP140; EP141. (Note: USFS permit required for welding, cutting, or grinding. Permit valid only on PAL days A-D). Must be compliant with Sections 3, 4 and Attachment 1 of the Fire Plan for welding. **No variance for PAL Ev**. The use of a low speed hand held power band saw has been reviewed and is considered outside of the welding plan and may be used on Ev days without a welding permit.

18) *Guard Structure Installation*: GS-USFS-2{EP9-EP10}; GS-USFS-3{EP23-EP24}; GS-USFS-4{EP24-EP25}; GS-USFS-5{EP58-2-EP62A-1}; GS-USFS-6{EP115-EP116}.

19) *Grading at TSAP's*: **No Ev variance**.

Also renewed are relevant work activities included in the Forest Service August 17th & 25th, September 1st, 8th, 15th, and 29th, October 6th, 13th, 20th, 27th, 3rd, November 17th, December 1st, December 15th 2011 responses to SDG&E requests to continue work until 1:00 PM on PAL Ev days.

All SDG&E activities are subject to the PAL for Forest Service Area 685, the terms and conditions of the special use permit, project plans, and exhibits. Variances may be issued to SDG&E before the close of business every Thursday and are good for the next fourteen day period (January 6th thru January 12th 2012). This variance may be rescinded at anytime by the Forest Service. If you have questions contact Brian Paul, Sunrise Project Manager at (619) 445-6235.

Sincerely,



Donn Christiansen

District Ranger

Cc: SO Lands & Engineering