

505 VAN NESS AVENUE
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 94102-3298



To: Responsible and Trustee Agencies, Property Owners, and Interested Parties
From: Jensen Uchida, CPUC Project Manager
Subject: NOTICE OF AMENDED PROPONENT'S ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND
PREPARATION OF AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT
Southern California Edison's Alberhill System Project (Application A.09-09-022)
Date: July 28, 2011

Southern California Edison (SCE) filed an application and Proponent's Environmental Assessment (PEA) on September 30, 2009 (Application A.09-09-022) with the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) to construct the Alberhill System Project. SCE filed amended sections of the PEA on April 11, 2011, and the CPUC deemed the amended PEA complete on May 26, 2011. The amended sections of the PEA propose modifications to the two 500-kV transmission line alignments included in the original PEA. The modified alignments would avoid the Lake Mathews-Estelle Mountain Stephens' Kangaroo Rat core reserve.

As the lead agency, the CPUC will prepare Draft and Final Environmental Impact Reports (EIRs) to evaluate the proposed project in accordance with the criteria, standards, and procedures of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (Public Resources Code Sections 2100 et. seq. and California Administrative Code Sections 15000 et. seq.). A Notice of Preparation of an EIR was circulated on April 13, 2010, and a public meeting was held on April 29, 2010. The purpose of this follow-up Notice of Preparation is to open a 30-day public comment period for comments on the scope of the EIR with respect to the modified 500-kV transmission line routes proposed in the amended PEA. The comment period will extend from July 28 to August 26, 2011.

A. Location, Description, and Purpose of the Alberhill System Project

The Alberhill System Project would serve the cities of Lake Elsinore, Canyon Lake, Perris, Menifee, Murrieta, Hot Springs, Temecula, and Wildomar as well as surrounding unincorporated areas of Riverside County. The proposed project would include the following:

- One 1,120 megavolt ampere (MVA) 500/115-kilovolt (kV) substation (Alberhill Substation), expandable to a maximum of 1,680 MVA.
- Two 500-kV transmission lines to connect the proposed substation to the existing Serrano-Valley 500-kV transmission line.
- One new and four modified 115-kV subtransmission lines to transfer five substations that are currently served by the Valley South 500/115-kV Substation to the new Alberhill 500/115-kV Substation.
- Telecommunications lines on the new and replaced transmission and subtransmission lines.
- A 120-foot microwave antenna tower at the proposed Alberhill Substation site; microwave telecommunications antennas at the existing Santiago Peak communications site and Serrano Substation; and other telecommunications equipment installations at existing and proposed substations.

The Alberhill Substation is proposed to be built on approximately 34-acres of a 124-acre property located on the northwest corner of the intersection of Temescal Canyon Road and Concordia Ranch Road in unincorporated western Riverside County. The two 500-kV transmission lines would each extend approximately 1 mile northeast to connect to the existing Serrano–Valley 500-kV transmission line. The 115-kV subtransmission line modifications and construction would occur southeast from the Alberhill Substation to Skylark Substation (approximately 11.5 miles) and from Skylark Substation to Newcomb Substation (approximately 9 miles).

Telecommunications lines would be installed primarily on the overhead structures modified or constructed as part of the proposed project. In addition, a 120-foot microwave antenna tower would be installed at the proposed Alberhill Substation site that would direct signals to a new dish antenna located approximately 7 miles to the southwest at the existing Santiago Peak Communications site. From there, another new dish antenna would direct signals to a new dish antenna installed at the Serrano Substation.

SCE designed the proposed project to meet long-term forecasted electrical demand in the proposed project area and increase electrical system reliability. SCE estimates that construction would take approximately 23 months and has proposed that the Alberhill System Project be operational by summer 2014.

B. Scope of EIR and Discussion of Potential Impacts

CEQA requires agencies to consider environmental impacts that may result from a proposed project, inform the public of potential impacts and alternatives, and facilitate public involvement in the assessment process. The EIR for the proposed project will describe in detail the nature and extent of the environmental impacts of the proposed project and each alternative and will discuss mitigation measures for adverse impacts. The EIR will include, among other sections, discussion of the purpose and need for the proposed project, a description of alternatives, a description of the affected environment, and an evaluation of the environmental impacts of the proposed project and alternatives.

Environmental Impacts

The PEA identified that the proposed project may have a significant environmental impact on air quality. The CPUC's analysis in the EIR may identify other significant impacts from the proposed project. The EIR will evaluate the following resource areas for significant environmental impacts: visual resources; agricultural and forest resources; air quality and greenhouse gases; biological resources; cultural resources; geology, soils, and mineral resources; hazards and public safety; hydrology and water quality; land use; noise and vibration; population and housing; public services and utilities; recreation; and transportation and traffic. The EIR will also evaluate cumulative and growth inducing impacts. The CPUC will base the information and extent of the analysis to be presented in the EIR on input and comments received during the public comment period.

C. Public Review

This Notice of Preparation has been sent to the State Clearinghouse, responsible and trustee agencies, and other interested parties. Comments should identify the issues to be considered in the EIR with respect to the modified 500-kV transmission line routes proposed in the amended PEA. The public comment period on the scope of the EIR will extend from July 28 to August 26, 2011.

The CPUC will host a meeting on the Alberhill System Project as follows:

Date: Thursday, August 18, 2011
Time: 6:00 p.m.
Location: Lake Elsinore Cultural Arts Center
183 North Main Street
Lake Elsinore, CA

The meeting will begin as an open house, followed by a brief presentation about the proposed project and scope of the EIR with respect to the modified 500-kV transmission line routes proposed in the amended PEA. You are invited to submit written comments, which must be postmarked or received by fax or email no later than Friday, August 26, 2011. Please be sure to include your name, address, and telephone number in correspondence.

Following the public comment period on the Notice of Preparation, the CPUC will prepare a Draft EIR that will address comments received. A public meeting will also be held following release of the Draft EIR.

Please send comments to:

Alberhill System Project
c/o Ecology and Environment, Inc.
Attn: Karen Ladd, Project Manager
130 Battery Street, 4th Floor
San Francisco, CA 94111
Fax: (415) 981-0801
Email: alberhill@ene.com
Project voicemail (toll-free): (877) 313-5385

Information about the project is available at the Alberhill System Project public website:

<http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/Environment/info/ene/alberhill/Alberhill.html>

Copies of the application and PEA, meeting dates, and other information about the Alberhill System Project are available on the website. As completed, the Draft and Final EIR and other documentation will be posted to the website. The Draft and Final EIRs will also be available for review at the following public libraries:

Lake Elsinore Library
600 West Graham Avenue
Lake Elsinore, CA 92530
(951) 674-4517

Paloma Valley Library
31375 Bradley Road
Menifee, CA 92584
(951) 301-3682

Canyon Lake Library
31516 Railroad Canyon Road
Canyon Lake, CA 92587
(951) 244-9181

The CPUC hereby issues this Notice of Preparation of an Environmental Impact Report.

Jensen Uchida
CPUC Project Manager

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 Attn: Karen Ladd, Project Manager
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