

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

According to CEQA Guidelines, Appendix G, 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 during the 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. SCE's current policy is to perform a Phase I ESA of all project land at the time of property acquisition. Phase I ESA results are used to identify areas of potential contamination. Construction-related ground disturbance of potentially contaminated areas would be avoided, if possible. If the area could not be avoided during construction, a Phase II ESA would be performed and appropriate remedial action would be taken. This ESA process would occur for all land acquired by SCE for the Antelope Transmission Project that is not currently held in fee or easement. If potential contamination sites were encountered during construction of the Antelope Transmission Project, SCE would conduct the appropriate ESA and would take all action to either avoid or remediate these sites if determined necessary.

If a Phase II ESA were required, the method (monitoring well, test excavation, boring, etc.) of the Phase II ESA would be identified and implemented depending on the type of contaminant. Partial or complete excavation and removal of the contaminated material are possible mitigation actions depending on the type and extent of the contaminant.

SCE does have some limited information regarding soil environmental site characterizations conducted at the Antelope and Vincent substations. SCE has previously provided reports to the CPUC (associated with the SCE Responses to CPUC Data Request HAZ-4 for the Segment 1 CPCN/PEA) documenting the results of soil environmental site characterizations conducted at the Antelope Substation. These soil environmental site characterizations included testing for the possible presence of total petroleum hydrocarbons (TPH), polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), California Assessment Method (CAM) Metals, and Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs). The testing was conducted for work taking place

within the existing substation boundary and concluded that the soils tested do not appear to have been adversely impacted by substation operations.

Information regarding previous oil spill history is also included in the existing Spill Prevention, Countermeasure, and Control (SPCC) Plan for the Antelope Substation. The SPCC Plan states that there are no documented oil spills known to have occurred at the Antelope Substation. A SPCC Plan, prepared in 2000, also exists for the Vincent Substation. The SPCC Plan for the Vincent Substation is currently being updated (5-year cycle).

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. A Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) would be prepared and implemented prior to the start of construction of transmission line and substation facilities once final engineering had been completed. The SWPPP would utilize Best Management Practices to address the storage and handling of hazardous materials during construction activities. Upon completion of construction no hazardous materials would be stored on the transmission line right-of-way. 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 modification and construction 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 standard fire prevention and response procedures that would be followed for construction of this project. These established standards and practices would minimize the risk of fire danger, and in the case of fire, provide for immediate suppression and notification. The standards address 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 to construction personnel. 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.

### **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 potential of incidents involving release of mineral oil from transformers or lubricants from other substation equipment. However, implementation of SCE’s operation-phase storm water management plans and SPCC plans would be expected to minimize these hazards.

SPCC plans may need to be modified for the Antelope and Vincent substations. The plans would include engineered and operational methods for preventing, containing, and controlling potential releases (for example, by constructing retention pond, motes, or berms), and provisions for a quick and safe cleanup. The plans would be submitted to Kern County and Los Angeles County for review. Current SPCC plans for the existing substations (Antelope and Vincent) would be revised to include new equipment. Any spilled oil would be properly characterized, collected, and transported to an approved disposal site in accordance with applicable regulations. Incorporation of SPCC measures into the project design would reduce impacts to a less than significant level.

SCE does not anticipate the need to prepare SPCC plans for the initially constructed Substations One and Two (Segment 3) because they would be initially built without transformers (i.e., no transformer oil). Therefore, initially these substations would not contain sufficient quantities of oil to trigger preparation of an SPCC plan. An SPCC plan would be prepared and implemented when SPCC thresholds for oil volume are reached.

The substations would be operated in compliance with all applicable federal, state and local regulations. Compliance with these regulations would reduce the potential impacts from hazardous materials to a less than significant level.

#### **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. SCE would clear potential proximate objects

and maintain clearance during the life of the T/L to reduce the fire hazard potential. Potential impacts from fire hazards would be less than significant.

SCE's standard fire prevention and response procedures would minimize the risk of fire danger during the operation of facilities, and in the case of fire, provide for immediate suppression and notification. The standard procedures address 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.

#### **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, SPCC plans for substations, and standard fire prevention and response plans).

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.** A Phase I ESA would be performed at each new substation location and along newly acquired T/L R-O-Ws. Depending on the results of the Phase I ESA, soil sampling would be conducted and remedial activities would be implemented, if applicable. If hazardous materials were encountered during any construction activities, work would be stopped until the material was properly characterized and appropriate measures were taken to protect human health and the environment. If excavation of hazardous materials is required, they would be handled, transported, and disposed of in accordance with federal, state, and local regulations.