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## Department of Toxic Substances Control

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October 26, 2010

Ms. Billie Blanchard  
California Public Utilities Commission  
c/o Aspen Environmental Group  
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**NOTICE OF PREPARATION (NOP) FOR A DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT  
REPORT FOR THE DEVERS-PALO VERDE NO. 2 (DPV2) TRANSMISSION LINE  
PROJECT - COLORADO RIVER SUBSTATION EXPANSION  
(SCH# 2005101104), RIVERSIDE COUNTY**

Dear Ms. Blanchard:

The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) has received your submitted Notice of Preparation for a draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the above-mentioned project. The following project description is stated in your document: "Expansion of the Colorado River Substation (CSR) would serve to interconnect solar generation proposed for development in the Blythe area of the Mojave Desert to the DPV2 transmission line. The expansion of the CRS would require the following new components: expanding the proposed and already permitted CRS from 44 acres to 90 acres; looping the two 500 Kilovolt (kV) circuits and terminating the new Devers-Colorado River (DCR) transmission line into the CRS; modifying existing 220 kV structures to allow the DCR to cross the Buck-Julian Hinds 220 KV transmission line, and constructing a distribution line to serve the CSR (substation lighting and system power). The Proposed project would be located on approximately 90 acres of land located 1.5 miles south of interstate 10 and 4.75 miles east of Wiley Well Road, in the County of Riverside, California. The proposed Project would be partially within the right-of-way on public land managed by Bureau of Land Management (BLM)".

Based on the review of the submitted document DTSC has the following comments:

1. The EIR should evaluate whether conditions within the Project area may pose a threat to human health or the environment. Following are the databases of some of the regulatory agencies:

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- National Priorities List (NPL): A list maintained by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S.EPA).
  - Envirostor (formerly CalSites): A Database primarily used by the California Department of Toxic Substances Control, accessible through DTSC's website (see below).
  - Resource Conservation and Recovery Information System (RCRIS): A database of RCRA facilities that is maintained by U.S. EPA.
  - Comprehensive Environmental Response Compensation and Liability Information System (CERCLIS): A database of CERCLA sites that is maintained by U.S.EPA.
  - Solid Waste Information System (SWIS): A database provided by the California Integrated Waste Management Board which consists of both open as well as closed and inactive solid waste disposal facilities and transfer stations.
  - GeoTracker: A List that is maintained by Regional Water Quality Control Boards.
  - Local Counties and Cities maintain lists for hazardous substances cleanup sites and leaking underground storage tanks.
  - The United States Army Corps of Engineers, 911 Wilshire Boulevard, Los Angeles, California, 90017, (213) 452-3908, maintains a list of Formerly Used Defense Sites (FUDS).
- 2) The EIR should identify the mechanism to initiate any required investigation and/or remediation for any site within the proposed Project area that may be contaminated, and the government agency to provide appropriate regulatory oversight. If necessary, DTSC would require an oversight agreement in order to review such documents.
- 3) Any environmental investigations, sampling and/or remediation for a site should be conducted under a Workplan approved and overseen by a regulatory agency that has jurisdiction to oversee hazardous substance cleanup. The findings of any investigations, including any Phase I or II Environmental Site Assessment Investigations should be summarized in the document. All sampling results in which hazardous substances were found above regulatory standards should be clearly summarized in a table. All closure, certification or remediation approval reports by regulatory agencies should be included in the EIR.
- 4) If buildings, other structures, asphalt or concrete-paved surface areas are being planned to be demolished, an investigation should also be conducted for the presence of other hazardous chemicals, mercury, and asbestos containing materials (ACMs). If other hazardous chemicals, lead-based paints (LPB) or products, mercury or ACMs are identified, proper precautions should be taken

during demolition activities. Additionally, the contaminants should be remediated in compliance with California environmental regulations and policies.

- 5) Future project construction may require soil excavation or filling in certain areas. Sampling may be required. If soil is contaminated, it must be properly disposed and not simply placed in another location onsite. Land Disposal Restrictions (LDRs) may be applicable to such soils. Also, if the project proposes to import soil to backfill the areas excavated, sampling should be conducted to ensure that the imported soil is free of contamination.
- 6) Human health and the environment of sensitive receptors should be protected during any construction or demolition activities. If necessary, a health risk assessment overseen and approved by the appropriate government agency should be conducted by a qualified health risk assessor to determine if there are, have been, or will be, any releases of hazardous materials that may pose a risk to human health or the environment.
- 7) If the site was used for agricultural, livestock or related activities, onsite soils and groundwater might contain pesticides, agricultural chemical, organic waste or other related residue. Proper investigation, and remedial actions, if necessary, should be conducted under the oversight of and approved by a government agency at the site prior to construction of the project.
- 8) If it is determined that hazardous wastes are, or will be, generated by the proposed operations, the wastes must be managed in accordance with the California Hazardous Waste Control Law (California Health and Safety Code, Division 20, Chapter 6.5) and the Hazardous Waste Control Regulations (California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Division 4.5). If it is determined that hazardous wastes will be generated, the facility should also obtain a United States Environmental Protection Agency Identification Number by contacting (800) 618-6942. Certain hazardous waste treatment processes or hazardous materials, handling, storage or uses may require authorization from the local Certified Unified Program Agency (CUPA). Information about the requirement for authorization can be obtained by contacting your local CUPA.
- 9) DTSC can provide cleanup oversight through an Environmental Oversight Agreement (EOA) for government agencies that are not responsible parties, or a Voluntary Cleanup Agreement (VCA) for private parties. For additional information on the EOA or VCA, please see [www.dtsc.ca.gov/SiteCleanup/Brownfields](http://www.dtsc.ca.gov/SiteCleanup/Brownfields), or contact Ms. Maryam Tasnif-Abbasi, DTSC's Voluntary Cleanup Coordinator, at (714) 484-5489.