



Aspen *Environmental Group*

PROJECT MEMORANDUM

SDG&E – MIGUEL-MISSION 230 kV #2 PROJECT

To: Jensen Uchida, CPUC

From: Vida Strong, Aspen Project Manager

Date: March 9, 2005

Subject: Weekly Reports #31 and #32: February 27, 2004 – March 12, 2005

CPUC Environmental Monitor (EM): Christopher Meyer

FANITA JUNCTION TO MIGUEL 138/69 kV ACTIVITIES, NTP #1 AND #2

Summary of Activity:

The CPUC EM conducted site visits on March 1, 2, 9 and 10 to review construction progress and Storm Water Pollution Prevention (SWPPP) issues. Transmission line work was observed during the site visit. Much of the 138 kV work on the segment has been completed. Work observed during the site visit in the areas covered by Notices to Proceed (NTP) #1 and #2 was hampered in some areas by the wet condition of the right-of-way and included the following:

1. The transmission line crew worked to pull cable from Pole 1210 to Pole 1140 (see Figure 1). The crews worked in approved stringing locations and worked with the Essex Environmental Inspector (EI) to avoid impacts during the operation.
2. The foundation at Pole Site 481 has been completed and a crew was working to remove the excess spoils from the site. The conditions on the access road to the site were dry and fugitive dust was observed leaving the right-of-way (see Figure 2).
3. The Low Drill was working in hard material at Pole Site C during the site visit (see Figure 3). The foundation is almost to depth with the pilot hole and the drilling was completed by the end of the week of March 7.
4. A crew worked to remove and chip vegetation from Pole Site 6510 on March 2. The vegetation had been cut prior to the March 1 deadline, but not pulled back from the habitat (see Figure 4). Silt fencing has been properly placed at Structure Site 6540 in preparation for rains predicted on the coming weekend.
5. A crew moved the rebar cage and anchor bolts to Pole Site 191 (see Figure 5). The access road to the site was not easily passable and the truck was not able to make it to the site without assistance from a bulldozer. An operator worked with a backhoe to repair sections of the road and additional rock was brought in to improve access for concrete trucks that will need access to the site.
6. A small drilling machine worked at Pole Site 182 to complete several small diameter holes in the hard rock to make drilling the foundation easier (see Figure 6).
7. The micro-pile crew at Pole Site 522 has been completed and is being prepared for testing. The drilling machine will be moved to Pole Site 493 in the week of March 14 to start work at that location.

Environmental Compliance:

1. Best Management Practices (BMPs) have been installed around the pad locations and crews have repaired the pads and the access roads that were not passable after the early season storms. However, as noted within, access to some locations is still difficult.
2. The road to Fanita Junction needed repair before work could continue. The access road was covered with mud and grading would just force the mud off the approved access road. The CPUC EM reminded SDG&E that the mud from the access road could not be pushed outside the footprint of the existing access road. Some mud has been pushed from the road during recent grading activities and will have to be addressed prior to any rains.
3. An Essex Environmental Inspector (EI) was on-site for spot-checking environmental compliance issues on the project. Biologists worked to survey gnatcatcher and Quino checkerspot butterfly areas prior to construction. Some surveys have been delayed due to weather conditions. The construction crews were reminded by Essex that surveys need to be conducted prior to work in many areas. Although brushing activities were scheduled to be completed by the March 1 deadline, some removal of previously cut vegetation did not occur until after March 1. The CPUC EM notified SDG&E that cut vegetation should be moved away from the contiguous habitat immediately and the previously cut vegetation that remained against the habitat is only removed under the supervision of an EI.
4. No property owner interference occurred at Pole Site 481.

MISSION TO MIGUEL SUBSTATION 230 kV ACTIVITIES, NTPS #3 AND #4

Summary of Activity:

The CPUC EM conducted site visits on March 1, 2, 9 and 10 to review construction progress and SWPPP issues.

PERMANENT 230 kV INSTALLATION

NTP #3 was issued to address 230 kV work on Marine Corps Air Station Miramar prior to the NTP for all 230 kV work to address the expiration of a permit with the Navy. NTP #4 addressed the permanent upgrading of the 230 kV transmission system between the Miguel and Mission Substations. The following were the main construction activities or issues that occurred during the subject week:

1. A Wilson crew continued working on rebuilding and construction of new 230 kV poles. Nine poles have been completed and three foundations have been poured and are awaiting pole structures.
2. The foundation for the new 230 kV Pole 576650 was poured during the site visit (see Figure 7). A special truck with a clamshell worked to remove saturated soils from the site. Erosion from the access road above the site directed a large amount of silt and water to the pad location and the top several feet of soil on the pad was muddy.
3. The upper section of a steel tower was set on the lower section in the Fanita Junction area using a large crane (see Figure 8). Once the upper section had been set, workers were raised in a man-lift to secure the two sections (see Figure 9).

TEMPORARY 230 kV INSTALLATION

NTP #4 also addressed the installation of the 15-mile temporary 230 kV line from Miguel to Los Coches Substations. Other than clearing of vegetation prior to March 1, the temporary 230 kV work between Miguel to Los Coches Substations is awaiting the completion of work on the 138 kV system by PAR. Once PAR has finished work on the segment, the Wilson Construction crews will start the upgrades to the existing towers. The installation of the temporary wood poles started during the week of March 7. The crew placed 5 wood poles in the area south of Los Coches during the site visit (see Figure 10).

Environmental Compliance:

1. Best Management Practices (BMPs) have been installed around the pad locations and crews have repaired the pads and the access roads that were not passable after the early season storms. However, many of the access roads are again not passable after the recent storms without damaging the road surface.

NOTICES TO PROCEED (NTP):

NTPs #1 and #2 have been issued by CPUC for access road upgrade/construction and 138/69 kV tower installation along the Fanita Junction to Los Coches and Los Coches to Miguel segments. NTP #3 to address the 230 kV construction work on Miramar Naval Air Station was issued by CPUC November 16. NTP #4 for upgrading of the 230 kV transmission system between the Miguel and Mission Substations, and installation of the 15-mile temporary 230 kV line from Miguel to Los Coches Substations was issued by CPUC on December 20.

VARIANCE REQUESTS:

SDG&E submitted Variance Request #10 on March 10, 2005 to allow for clearing of vegetation in sensitive habitat after March 1. This variance request is currently under review. On March 14, SDG&E submitted Variance Requests #11 and #12 to allow work after 7 p.m. for specific activities. Variance Request #11 was approved by CPUC on March 16 and Variance Request #12 is under review by CPUC.

TABLE 1
VARIANCE REQUEST STATUS
(Updated 03/17/05)

Variance Request #	Date Submitted	Description	Status	CPUC Approval Date
1	07/07/04	Use of five storage and staging areas on the Los Coches to Fanita Junction Section for the duration of the project.	Completed	07/23/04
2	08/10/04	Clearing of coastal sage scrub habitat before September 1 on the Miguel to Fanita Junction section during the 2003/2004 nesting season.	Completed	08/13/04
3	09/01/04	Grading and clearing in quino checkerspot butterfly habitat after October 15.	Completed	09/14/04
4	09/06/04	Allow work on Saturdays near recreational facilities.	Completed	09/14/04
5	09/27/04	Use of six storage and staging areas on the Los Coches to Fanita Junction Section for the duration of the project.	Completed	10/06/04
6	10/20/04	Work on Sunday, October 31 at Tower Site 925 to comply with a Cal ISO outage schedule.	Completed	10/26/04
7	01/13/05	Reconfiguration of approved stringing/snubbing sites at Pole Sites 10 and 961.	Completed	01/17/05
8	02/03/05	Work after 7pm, February 8 at Pole 1210 to complete the concrete pour at the wet-hole.	Completed	02/04/05
9	Pending	Pending.	Pending Submittal	Pending
10	03/10/05	Clearing of coastal sage scrub habitat after March 1 on the project during the 2004/2005 nesting season.	Under Review	Pending
11	03/14/05	Work after 7pm at Pole 411 to complete the concrete pour at the wet-hole.	Completed	3/16/05
12	03/14/05	Work on Sunday, March 20 to string cable at eight towers to comply with a Cal ISO outage schedule.	Under Review	Pending

UPCOMING ITEMS: None

AGENCY PERSONNEL CONTACTS: None

TABLE 2
TEWS TRACKING
(Updated 03/17/05)

Number	Segment	Date Received	Description	Status	Approval Date ¹
*	Los Coches to Miguel	07/06/04	14000 Block of Willow Road, San Diego County	Approved from 7/08 to 9/08	See Variance Request #1
*	Los Coches to Miguel	07/06/04	Vista de Montemar ½ mile north of La Cresta Road, San Diego County	Approved from 7/08 to 9/08	See Variance Request #1
*	Los Coches to Miguel	07/06/04	Vista de Montemar ½ mile north of La Cresta Road, San Diego County	Approved from 7/08 to 9/08	See Variance Request #1
1	Los Coches to Miguel	07/24/04	Vista de Montemar ½ mile north of La Cresta Road, San Diego County	Approved from 7/26 to 9/26	See Variance Request #2
2	Los Coches to Miguel	08/14/04	1600 Block Sweeney Court, San Diego County	Approved from 08/16 to 10/16	See Variance Request #2
3	Los Coches to Miguel	08/14/04	2300 Willow Glen Drive, San Diego County	Approved from 08/16 to 10/16	See Variance Request #2
4	Los Coches to Miguel	08/14/04	South of terminus of Camino Monte Sombra, San Diego County	Approved from 08/16 to 10/16	See Variance Request #2
5	Los Coches to Miguel	08/14/04	Southeast of 2600 block Pence Drive, San Diego County	Approved from 08/16 to 10/16	See Variance Request #2
6	Los Coches to Miguel	08/26/04	North side of Singing Vista Way, San Diego County	Approved from 08/27 to 10/27	See Variance Request #2
7	Los Coches to Miguel	02/11/05	Southwest of Pence Road, San Diego County	Approved from 02/16 to 04/16	02/16/05
8	Los Coches to Miguel	03/11/05	Helicopter fly pad for 138 kV installation, Padre Water District	Approved from 03/16 to 05/16	03/16/05

¹For TEWS requests, Approval Date reflects EM approval date. TEWS approvals valid for 60 days only. TEWS submitted as a contingency while Variance Request #1 was under review.

Photographs



Figure 1 – The stringing operation set up across from Pole Site 1210 and pulled cable to Pole Site 1140.



Figure 2 – The spoil removal operation at Pole Site 481 caused excessive fugitive dust that left the right-of-way.



Figure 3 – The drilling at Pole Site C continued during the site visit.



Figure 4 – The clearing crew pulled back previously cut vegetation from the habitat for mulching.



Figure 5 – The concrete crew moved into Pole Site 191 after initial problems getting the truck up the access road.



Figure 6 – A small drilling machine worked to prepare Pole Site 182 for the main drilling.



Figure 7 – The permanent 230 kV foundation for Pole 576650 was poured during the site visit.



Figure 8 – The upper section of the permanent 230 kV Pole 871862 was set during the site visit.



Figure 9 – Crews secured the upper section of the permanent 230 kV Pole 871862 once it was set in place.



Figure 10 – Five temporary 230 kV wood poles were set during the site visit.