

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

505 VAN NESS AVENUE
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102-3298



July 27, 2007

Mr. Kevin O'Beirne
San Diego Gas & Electric Company
8830 Century Park Court – CP32D
San Diego, CA. 92123

**Re: Data Request #15 for the SDG&E Sunrise Powerlink Transmission Project,
Application No. 06-08-010 - Modified**

Dear Mr. O'Beirne:

The California Public Utilities Commission's (CPUC) Energy Division has reviewed the documents and materials that SDG&E has provided including the Proponent's Environmental Assessment (dated August 4, 2006), the Application Supplement Materials (dated September 1, 2006), and SDG&E's Responses to Data Requests No. 1 through 16 (responses to DR 16 are pending). During the analysis of the aforementioned materials and in our preparation of EIR/EIS sections, we have identified additional items that require information from SDG&E. Additional data requests may be necessary to address alternatives and other CEQA/NEPA topics. This letter constitutes a modification to Data Request No. 15.

We would appreciate your prompt response to this request. We request that the response to this request be provided to us by August 6, 2007.

Please submit one set of responses to me and one to Susan Lee at Aspen in San Francisco, in both hard copy and electronic format. Any questions on this data request should be directed to me at (415) 703-2068.

Sincerely,

Billie C. Blanchard, AICP, PURA V
Project Manager for Sunrise Powerlink Project
Energy Division, CEQA Unit

cc: Sean Gallagher, CPUC Energy Division Director
Ken Lewis, CPUC Program Manager
Steve Weissman, ALJ
Traci Bone, Advisor to Commissioner Grueneich
Nicholas Sher/Jason Reiger, CPUC Legal Division
Lynda Kastoll, BLM
Susan Lee, Aspen Environmental Group

Sunrise Powerlink Transmission Line Project

Data Request No. 15 - Modified

Alternatives

Background. In the original Data Request No. 15 (June 27, 2007), we asked for information on SDG&E's plans for future transmission system expandability with regard to the 500 kV transmission system. SDG&E's response (July 8, 2007) stated that SDG&E could not speculate on the timing and specific routing of a 500 kV future expansion, but that there could be a connection to SCE's Valley-Serrano 500 kV system.

ALT-85 [Follow-up to DR 15] **500 kV Expandability.** The Assigned Commissioner's Ruling of July 24, 2007 shows that SDG&E considers the opportunity for expansion at the 500 kV level to be an important factor to be taken consideration in the Commission's decision on the Proposed Project and alternatives. We must further examine this issue in order to define analysis requirements for both the Proposed Project and the alternatives. In order for environmental staff to fully analyze the potential impacts of expansion at the 500 kV level, please answer the following questions regarding a future 500 kV transmission line that would connect with SCE's transmission system.

- a. Please define the anticipated purpose and need (or objectives) for expansion at the 500 kV level so we can develop route options that meet those objectives.
- b. Given that a 500 kV expansion of the Proposed Project must be defined and analyzed in this EIR/EIS, please confirm whether the route defined in Data Response 1 (ALT-35) as the "Full Loop Alternative" would be the most likely 500 kV expansion route from the Central East Substation. If a different route from that described in ALT-35 would be more appropriate for consideration at this time, please define that route and provide maps and GIS data.
- c. If the most likely 500 kV route would differ from the LEAPS Project 500 kV route, please explain why the LEAPS 500 kV route is not followed. The 500 kV Full Loop Alternative route (described in SDG&E's response to data request ALT-35) would pass through developed multi-use areas along the southwest lakeshore of Lake Elsinore, and as SDG&E notes in the July 8, 2007 response, additional constraints along the ALT-35 route may need to be avoided.