



Aspen *Environmental Group*

PROJECT MEMORANDUM SCE – VIEJO SYSTEM PROJECT

To: Jensen Uchida, CPUC
From: Vida Strong, Aspen Project Manager
Date: January 27, 2005
Subject: Weekly Report #25: January 16, 2005 – January 22, 2005
CPUC Environmental Monitor (EM): Christopher Meyer

The CPUC EM conducted a site visit on January 11 and reviewed the substation and 220 kV construction activities, Best Management Practices (BMPs), and the upcoming 66 kV construction with SCE.

SUBSTATION CONSTRUCTION

Summary of Activity:

The two A transformers have been delivered to the substation site and set onto the pads west of the Mechanical Electrical Engineer Structure #1 (see Figure 1). A crew worked to prepare the set transformers. Another crew worked on the 66 kV support system within the substation site (see Figure 2). An operator worked on a Bobcat with an auger attachment to clean out the holes for the 12 kV foundations to prepare for a concrete pour next week (see Figure 3).

Environmental Compliance:

For all operations, the CPUC EM observed that construction was in compliance with mitigation measures adopted in the MND and other permitting requirements.

The site vegetation has been removed from the substation site and a LSA Environmental Inspector (EI) has not been on-site full-time. The LSA EI is periodically checking the excavations and foundation holes for sensitive and common animals. Several fossils have been discovered and collected for examination by the paleontologist during the course of the project. The majority of the excavation has been completed on the substation site and no fossil discoveries were reported during the subject week.

The Best Management Practices (BMPs) installed on the substation site have been installed and maintained. The reliance on straw wattles instead of silt fencing for sediment control will require additional maintenance and can be overwhelmed by flows during heavy rainfall. No off-site impacts were noted during the site visit and the maintenance of the BMPs appeared to be effective. The public road outside of the substation site was clean of sediment, but rock tracked from the substation road needs to be removed.

220 kV TRANSMISSION LINE SEGMENT

Summary of Activity:

Only one crew was working on the 220 kV transmission line right-of-way during the CPUC EM site visit. The crew worked in a man-lift to attach insulators on the center lattice tower (see Figure 4). No other work occurred on the transmission line segment during the site visit. The upper sections of the old lattice towers were removed during the outage and set onto trucks for removal from the substation site.

Environmental Compliance:

Many of the straw wattles had been moved to the side on the access roads to allow access during construction. The materials were on-site and the contractor was putting them back in place when no work was occurring to prepare for predicted rains. Several areas on the transmission line corridor show signs of significant erosion or sediment issues (see Figure 5). The BMPs along the edge of the right-of-way require maintenance and should be improved in places to address the type of erosion or sediment concerns. The CPUC EM reviewed the possibility of replacing the straw wattles with silt fencing where appropriate with SCE.

The LSA EI was on-site on the transmission line right-of-way during the CPUC EM site visit, monitoring construction near sensitive areas. A paleontologist was available to monitor if ground disturbance occurred. The majority of excavation has been completed and no fossils were noted on the transmission line corridor during the subject week.

NOTICES TO PROCEED (NTP):

NTP #1 was approved for substation construction by the CPUC on July 15, 2004, and NTP #2 was approved for the 220 kV upgrade on September 29, 2004. SCE submitted the pre-construction compliance materials for the 66 kV transmission line portion on January 24.

VARIANCE REQUESTS:

No variance requests were submitted for review during the subject week.

UPCOMING ITEMS:

Review of pre-construction compliance documents submitted for the 66 kV towers. Prepare draft NTP #3 for CPUC consideration.

AGENCY PERSONNEL CONTACTS: None

Photographs



Figure 1 – Crews prepared A transformers once they were set onto the pads.



Figure 2 – A crew worked with small lifts to prepare the 66 kV support structures.



Figure 3 – An operator worked with a Bobcat and small auger attachment to clean out the foundations for the 12 kV structures.



Figure 4 – The transmission line crew worked in a man-lift with the help of the crane to attach insulators to the new lattice towers.



Figure 5 – Several areas on the 220 kV transmission line corridor need BMP maintenance and/or improvement.