



Aspen *Environmental Group*

PROJECT MEMORANDUM SCE – VIEJO SYSTEM PROJECT

To: Jensen Uchida, CPUC
From: Vida Strong, Aspen Project Manager
Date: March 8, 2005
Subject: Weekly Report #31: February 27 – March 5, 2005.
CPUC Environmental Monitor (EM): Christopher Meyer

The CPUC EM conducted a site visit on March 3 and reviewed the substation, 220 kV, and 66 kV construction activities, and Best Management Practices (BMPs).

SUBSTATION CONSTRUCTION

Summary of Activity:

1. SCE continued working on the A-bank transformers during the site visit. The crew used a special vacuum truck to pull the moisture from the A-bank transformers during the site visit (see Figure 1). The oil tanks for the A-bank transformers have been installed.
2. SCE engineers worked to test the panels inside the Mechanical Electrical Engineering Room (MEER) #1 (see Figure 2).
3. A small crew with Kindness worked to install conduit for the 12 kV housekeeping power for the substation site (see Figure 3).
4. A crew from Union has excavated and poured the southern portion of the foundation for the block wall that will eventually surround the substation site (see Figure 4).
5. SCE crews worked to test the panels throughout the substation site after installation (see Figure 5). The technicians tested each connection on the panels to verify the panels were correctly fabricated at the factory prior to energizing.

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. SCE has placed additional rock on the substation site, reducing the turbidity and sediment travel in rain events.

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. Crews were observed replacing BMPs that were impacted by daily construction activities. The reliance on straw waddles 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 as SCE prepared for any future rains.

220 kV TRANSMISSION LINE SEGMENT

Summary of Activity:

No construction occurred on the 220 kV transmission line segment during the site visit.

Environmental Compliance:

Although additional BMPs have been installed and extensive maintenance occurred on the 220 kV transmission line right-of-way, additional maintenance needs to be completed at the upper steel pole pads (see Figure 6). The straw waddle still has excess sediment and has failed to keep sediment from entering the habitat. SCE was notified of the remaining concerns with the BMPs and the CPUC EM will review the repairs during the next site visit. SCE has stated that they will use additional outside resources to inspect and make recommendation for improvements to the BMPs on the project to address the current concerns.

66 kV TRANSMISSION LINE SEGMENT

Summary of Activity:

The NTP for the 66 kV work within the City of Lake Forest was issued on February 1, 2005. Drilling and concrete pouring occurred on the 66 kV transmission line segment during the site visit. Work on the 66kV system included the following:

1. Inland Valley Construction prepared the anchor bolts and forms to pour the second to last foundation for the 66 kV steel poles (see Figure 7). The crew worked to move spoils back from the v-ditch and away from the habitat.
2. The drilling machine worked on the final foundation for the 66 kV poles adjacent to the substation site (see Figure 8). The spoils from drilling have overwhelmed the silt fencing and were also entering the v-ditch while the operator works on the drilling head.

Environmental Compliance:

Many of the BMPs stopped sediment from leaving the construction area; however, some continue to need maintenance. The v-ditch will need to be cleaned of sediment prior to any predicted rain events.

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. NTP #3 for 66 kV within the City of Lake Forest was issued by CPUC on February 1, 2005.

VARIANCE REQUESTS:

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

UPCOMING ITEMS:

None.

AGENCY PERSONNEL CONTACTS: None

Photographs



Figure 1 – A SCE crew used a special vacuum to pull the moisture from the A-bank transformers.



Figure 2 – The control panels in the MEER #1 were tested during the site visit.



Figure 3 – A crew worked to place conduit for the 12 kV housekeeping power in the prepared trench and into the vault.



Figure 4 – A Union Construction crew excavated and poured the foundation for the southern portion of the block wall that will surround the substation site.



Figure 5 – Crews tested all the panels throughout the substation prior to energizing.



Figure 6 – The BMPs on the pads for the steel poles on the 220 kV section of the project have been overwhelmed and silt has entered the habitat.



Figure 7 – The Inland crew worked to prepare the second to last foundation for pouring on the 66 kV right-of-way.



Figure 8 – A Low-Drill was used to work on the final foundation for the 66 kV poles adjacent to the substation site. Drilling spoils will have to be cleaned from the v-ditch.