



Aspen *Environmental Group*

PROJECT MEMORANDUM SCE – VIEJO SYSTEM PROJECT

To: Jensen Uchida, CPUC
From: Vida Strong, Aspen Project Manager
Date: May 4, 2005
Subject: Weekly Report #39, April 24 – April 30, 2005.
CPUC Environmental Monitor (EM): Christopher Meyer

The CPUC EM conducted a site visit on April 26th and reviewed the substation, 220 kV, and 66 kV construction activities, and Best Management Practices (BMPs). Construction activities were only occurring in the substation during the site visit.

SUBSTATION CONSTRUCTION

Summary of Activity:

1. Work continued on the main trench running east-west, dividing the 220 kV and 66 kV sections of the substation site. The concrete has been poured and the forms removed from the trench. Crews drilled holes in the concrete trench and placed anchor bolts to attach the steel ledge that will support the trench cover (see Figure 1).
2. NRG continued making connections within the 66 kV section of the substation site. The crew worked on many of the short connections between various pieces of equipment and insulators. One worker connected the framework at the 12 kV section of the substation site to the grounding grid.
3. Reycon continued working on the block wall around the substation during the site visit. The gateposts and block columns for the gate at the public right-of-way have been placed, but no additional work was observed during the site visit. The braces for the barbed-wire have been placed on the inside of the wall and the crew has grounded the wire at intervals along the wall (see Figure 2). Foam blocks have been placed in spaces in the wall to be replaced with glass block details.
4. A small crew worked to test the 66 kV transformers and associated equipment in preparation for energizing that section of the substation site.
5. The 12 kV area of the substation site has been rocked and forms have been placed around the A-bank transformers in preparation for pouring the concrete pads that will connect the various foundations (see Figure 3). The pouring of the pads was delayed by the rainfall over the previous weekend and the crews will need to perform minor clean-up of the forms before pouring can resume. An asphalt berm will be placed around the perimeter of the pad to contain the oil from the transformers in case of an accident.
6. A crew with Arizona Pipeline worked on Definition Road outside the substation site on the 12 kV buried cables connecting the substation to the distribution network (see Figure 4). The crews have been trenching, placing conduit and backfilling with a slurry mix. The CPUC EM noted traffic control issues resulting in wrong-way traffic within the work area and notified both SCE and the Arizona Pipeline superintendent. The superintendent addressed the problem immediately and stated that all workers will be reminded to follow approved traffic control practices.
7. The 220 kV circuits from the risers to the 220 kV section of the substation site have been removed as a safety measure when the 220 kV portion of the substation site is energized. The 220 kV section of the substation site has been marked off with caution tape now that it is energized and the discon-

nection of the circuit will allow crews to work safely in the 66 kV and 12 kV sections of the substation site. With the completion of the majority of the civil work, the remaining crews at the substation site have experience working in energized stations. SCE previously provided the CPUC EM was provided with an orientation on visiting an energized station.

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 from the rainfall over the previous weekend.

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 paleontological monitor was observed on the site during the site visit. 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. No off-site impacts were noted during the site visit and the maintenance of the BMPs appeared to be effective with the recent rainfall. Some areas of the site were muddy from the rainfall, but no sediment transport or turbidity issues were noted. The recent clean-up work at the site and the v-ditches greatly minimized the possibility of sediment transport off the substation site.

220 kV TRANSMISSION LINE SEGMENT

Summary of Activity:

No work was observed on the 220 kV transmission line segment during the site visit.

Environmental Compliance:

The CPUC EM informed the SCE biologist that the invasive plant species in the recontoured area of the 220 kV right-of-way need to be removed due to the proximity of the native plant communities (see Figure 5). The area adjacent to the project is dominated by native species and is part of a habitat conservation area.

The BMP issues at the steel pole pad on the 220 kV transmission right-of-way have been addressed and no other storm water related issues were noted during the site visit. All of the BMPs on the 220 kV right-of-way appeared to function properly in the recent storm.

Several sensitive bird species were noted in the habitat adjacent to the 220 kV right-of-way. The SCE biologist will work with the crews to avoid any impact to the habitat or disturbance of the nesting birds.

66 kV TRANSMISSION LINE SEGMENT

Summary of Activity:

NTP #3, for the 66 kV work within the City of Lake Forest was issued on February 1, 2005 and NTP #4 was issued on April 19, 2005 for the remaining 66 kV H-structures. The transmission line crew worked on stringing conductor between the 66 kV section of the substation site and the 66 kV structures immediately above the substation site (see Figure 6). The conductor temporarily bypassing the substation is still in place and will be removed after the 66 kV section is ready for energization.

No construction was observed on the 66 kV line within Mission Viejo (NTP #4).

Environmental Compliance:

All work observed on the 66 kV right-of-way above the substation site during the site visit was in compliance with the mitigation measures adopted in the MND and other permitting requirements.

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. NTP #4 for the remaining 66 kV H-structures (Mission Viejo and City of Lake Forest) was issued by CPUC on April 19, 2005.

VARIANCE REQUESTS:

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

UPCOMING ITEMS: Construction is scheduled to start on the 66 kV H-structures on May 4, 2005.

AGENCY PERSONNEL CONTACTS: None.

Photographs



Figure 1 – Crews worked to attach the steel rail that will support the trench covers.



Figure 2 – Reycon worked to ground the barbed wire that runs along the inside of the block wall.



Figure 3 – The forms were set for the concrete pads that will be poured between the various foundations.



Figure 4 – Arizona Pipeline worked on trenching, laying conduit for the 12 kV distribution conductor, and backfilling with slurry.



Figure 5 – The CPUC EM reminded SCE to remove invasive non-native plants from the 220 kV right-of-way, adjacent to the native habitat.



Figure 6 – Crews worked on stringing conductor between the 66 kV line and the substation during the site visit.