



Aspen *Environmental Group*

PROJECT MEMORANDUM SCE – VIEJO SYSTEM PROJECT

To: Jensen Uchida, CPUC
From: Vida Strong, Aspen Project Manager
Date: June 1, 2005
Subject: Weekly Report #43, May 22 – May 28, 2005.
CPUC Environmental Monitor (EM): Christopher Meyer

The CPUC EM conducted a site visit on May 24th and reviewed the substation, 220 kV, and 66 kV construction activities, and Best Management Practices (BMPs). Construction activities were occurring in the substation and on the 66 kV right-of-way during the site visit. The weather was clear during the subject week and rainfall is forecast for the next week.

SUBSTATION CONSTRUCTION

Summary of Activity:

1. Several small NRG crews 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. Although work was focused in the 66 kV section, crews worked on the 12 kV equipment as well.
2. KGC crews continued working to excavate foundation for additional light standards within the substation site (see Figure 1). Most of these foundations have been formed and poured, or are ready for concrete pours that will occur the following week.
3. A small crew worked to spread rock around the completed sections of the substation site (see Figure 2). The sections of the 66 kV portion of the substation site that will be energized have been fenced and the rock placed up to the fenceline.
4. A crew with Arizona Pipeline worked on Definition Road finishing the insides of the vaults for the 12 kV buried cables connecting the substation to the distribution network. The crew cleaned the interior of the vaults and painted areas that could not easily be cleaned. A crew also worked to install the vents and vent pipes for the underground vaults (see Figure 3).
5. 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 was energized. The 220 kV section of the substation site has been marked off with caution tape now that it is energized and the disconnection of the circuit will allow crews to work safely in the 66 kV and 12 kV sections of the substation site. Several sections of the 66 kV portion of the site that will be energized have been surrounded with a cyclone fencing as well. 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 turbidity and sediment travel in the case of rainfall.

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. No off-site impacts were noted during the site visit and the maintenance of the BMPs appeared to be effective.

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 previously 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. The area adjacent to the project is dominated by native species and is part of a habitat conservation area. The invasive plant species were removed and SCE will be watching the area for any emerging non-native plants.

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. Three crews were working on the 66 kV segment during the site visit. No construction was observed on the 66 kV line within Mission Viejo (NTP #4).

1. A crew worked with a concrete pumper to pour the second foundation for H-Structure 12 (see Figure 4). The structures are numbered 1 through 13, with Structure 13 immediately adjacent to the Viejo Substation. The first of the two foundations for Structure 13 has been poured and a curing agent added to the surface. Each batch of concrete was inspected and a sample collected for testing (see Figure 5).
2. The excavations for the H-structure nearest the substation site, Structure 13, was completed but then determined to have been incorrectly placed. The two excavations were backfilled with a two-sack slurry the previous week and the foundations will be re-excavated with the correct angle.

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. New exclusion fencing has been placed between the work areas and sensitive avian habitat along the 66 kV right-of-way.

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: None.

AGENCY PERSONNEL CONTACTS: None.

Photographs



Figure 1 – NRG crews worked on excavating for light standards during the site visit.



Figure 2 – Rock was placed around completed structures within the substation site.



Figure 3 – Arizona Pipeline installed the vents and vent piping for the 12 kV vaults.



Figure 4 – Arizona Pipeline poured the second foundation for H-Structure 12 during the site visit.



Figure 5 – Each batch of concrete is inspected and samples collected for testing.