



Aspen *Environmental Group*

PROJECT MEMORANDUM SCE – VIEJO SYSTEM PROJECT

To: Jensen Uchida, CPUC
From: Vida Strong, Aspen Project Manager
Date: July 5, 2005
Subject: Weekly Report #48, June 26 – July 2, 2005.
CPUC Environmental Monitor (EM): Christopher Meyer

The CPUC EM conducted a site visit on June 29th 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. Construction activities within the substation site are close to completion.

SUBSTATION CONSTRUCTION

Summary of Activity:

1. A small NRG crew continued working within the 12 kV section of the substation site. Work occurred within MEER #2 during the site visit (see Figure 1). The B-bank transformers are not energized and the 66 kV and 12 kV portions of the substation site have not been connected. These smaller transformers run between the 66 kV and 12 kV sections of the substation. The 66 kV section of the substation has been energized and is marked by safety tape.
2. The underground cables that will connect the substation site to the SCE distribution system have been stubbed out at the 12 kV racks and will be connected to send electricity out from the substation (see Figure 2).
3. The generators set outside MEER #1 are only temporary until the 12 kV portion of the site is energized and can be used to restart the system.
4. A paving crew worked to finish the paving over the trench-lines leading out from the substation site on Definition Road. The crew worked on the final slurry coat over the trench.
5. The 220 kV section of the substation site has been marked off with caution tape now that it is energized. The several sections of the 66 kV portion of the site, which are energized, have been surrounded with cyclone fencing and caution tape 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:

SCE removed the invasive plant species in the recontoured area of the 220 kV right-of-way, adjacent to the native plant communities. The area adjacent to the project is dominated by native species and is part of a habitat conservation area. Some additional plants have emerged and will need to be addressed.

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 if any work resumes in the area.

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. Only one crew was working on the 66 kV segment during the site visit. Construction has started on the 66 kV line within Mission Viejo, immediately south of the 241 toll-road (NTP #4). The structures are numbered 1 through 13, with Structure 13 immediately adjacent to the Viejo Substation.

1. Crews at H-Structure 9 worked on setting the three cross members with a large mobile crane during the site visit (see Figure 3). The construction activities were within the disturbed area and no issues were noted. The superintendent noted that the areas disturbed in the slope for setting the crane will be restored and stabilized. Once lifted into place, workers on the two steel poles aligned and attached the cross members (see Figure 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. New exclusion fencing has been placed between the work areas and sensitive avian habitat along the 66 kV right-of-way.

The LSA EI was on-site for the construction activities and no issues of environmental concerns were noted by the CPUC EM.

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 worked within MEER #2 during the site visit.



Figure 2 – The underground cables have been stubbed out at the 12 kV racks for later connection.



Figure 3 – Crews worked with a mobile crane at H-Structure 9 to attach the cross members.



Figure 4 – Workers align and attach the cross members on H-Structure 9.