



Aspen *Environmental Group*

PROJECT MEMORANDUM PG&E ATLANTIC-DEL MAR REINFORCEMENT PROJECT

To: Jensen Uchida, CPUC
From: Vida Strong, Aspen Project Manager
Date: August 17, 2005
Subject: Weekly Report #17: August 7, 2005 – August 13, 2005
CPUC Environmental Monitor (EM): Jody Fessler

Aspen EM Jody Fessler was on site August 9, at the Atlantic-Del Mar Project location to monitor construction activities. The weather was clear and hot. The PG&E Environmental Inspector (EI), Kevin Kilpatrick, was on-site to ensure compliance with the adopted Final Mitigated Negative Declaration and other permit requirements. The PG&E EI also served as the project biologist conducting California tiger salamander (CTS) aestivation surveys, ongoing bird surveys, as well as installation of resource flagging and managing the installation and maintenance of sediment controls.

OVERHEAD:

Summary of Activity:

All overhead construction including pole, foundation, and line stringing work will be done by PG&E. The PG&E crews work Mondays through Thursdays.

Crews used hydraulic equipment at previously installed pole sites to further pound the pole segments together.

During the subject week, crews conducted excavation and auguring work for Poles 1, 2, and 3 (see Figure 1). Crews installed foundation cages and poured concrete for Poles 2, 3, and 5 (see Figure 2). All activity occurred within the 100-foot by 100-foot approved workspace. During work at Pole 2, groundwater was encountered. In compliance with dewatering practices established after previous consultations with the Regional Water Quality Control Board, crews pumped the groundwater into overland bermed areas away from any sensitive resources. Per the PG&E EI, the water evaporated and soaked into the ground over the course of several days. Work at Pole 5 occurred adjacent to and within 25-feet of the Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR). All work occurring along the UPRR right-of-way was coordinated with an on-site UPRR representative for safety reasons. In order to access the Pole 5 site, a cultural resource site, YH-2 was crossed. Previously, after evaluation, Variance #4 was approved on July 7, which allows a 15-foot travel corridor across the site. The PG&E EI conducted a tailboard with the crews to reiterate unanticipated cultural discoveries procedures. The corridor area was roped off in the field and only rubber tired equipment was allowed to cross the site, thus negligible ground disturbance occurred across the area.

Previously, crews encountered very hard rock during auguring at Poles 6 and 7 located along the railroad right-of-way and were unable to drill to depth. Foundation work has stopped at these locations and PG&E is currently re-engineering the pole work. Note that work in these areas is confined to a tight corridor given the proximity to the UPRR tracks. In addition the Pole 6 site lies close to cultural resource site, YH-2. So far, all ground disturbing activities at Pole 6 have occurred outside of the resource boundary and buffer.

Environmental Compliance Activities:

Previously, the PG&E EI evaluated the construction areas at all project pole sites for potential burrows for California tiger salamander in compliance with Mitigation Measure APM 7-11. No burrows were located in the work areas except at the Pole 9 construction area (the transition tower located at Midas Road). Several potential CTS burrows are observed underneath the canopy of some adjacent oak trees. An exclusion fence has been established to protect both the potential burrows and the oak trees.

The CPUC EM observed that the overhead construction activities were in compliance with mitigation measures adopted in the MND and other permit requirements. Erosion controls were in place around the construction areas.

UNDERGROUND:

Summary of Activity:

The underground work including trenching and conduit installation has been contracted to Wilson Construction. The horizontal bore work will be subcontracted. Construction will most likely start with the boring operation at Sunset Avenue, which was scheduled to start on August 15th. Underground trenching was also scheduled to start on August 15th. However, crews have not begun mobilizing to the site and no start of work notice has been provided.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE SUMMARY

As presented in Table 1, one NCR has been issued for the project to date.

**TABLE 1
ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE STATUS
(Updated 8-17-05)**

Project Memo or NCR	Date Issued	Description	Follow-Up Activities
NCR (Level 2)	6-23-05	PG&E contractors removed 22 large trees without notifying the project EI and without conducting avian nest surveys prior to removal, which is a violation of Mitigation Measure B-3 and APM 7-6. Additionally, the trees were removed outside of the allowable window of November 1 through February 15 as established in Mitigation Measure B-3 and overland travel was used instead of existing access roads.	PG&E has conducted post removal surveys at the tree removal sites and surrounding area, and supplied the CPUC with results on July 17, 2005. PG&E also notified CDFG.

NOTICES TO PROCEED (NTP):

Table 2 presents the NTPs issued by the CPUC for the Atlantic–Del Mar Project to date. No additional NTPs are anticipated.

**TABLE 2
NOTICES TO PROCEED
(Updated 8-17-05)**

NTP #	Date Issued	Description
1	11-03-03	Mobilization within the Atlantic and Del Mar Substations, and overhead installation from the Del Mar Substation to the railroad right-of-way (northern 0.25 miles), City of Rocklin.
2	3-08-05	Construction of the remaining overhead portion (approximately 4 miles) and the underground portion (approximately 1.3 miles) of the Atlantic–Del Mar Reinforcement Project, within the Cities of Roseville and Rocklin in Placer County.

VARIANCE REQUESTS:

No Variance Requests were submitted during the subject week. Table 3 presents the Variance Requests reviewed to date.

TABLE 3
VARIANCE REQUEST STATUS
 (Updated 8-17-05)

Variance Request #	Date Submitted	Description	Status	CPUC Approval Date
1	4-19-05	Modify the implementation of Applicant Proposed Measure 7.2 at Wetlands #2 and #30 to allow the use of non-rubber tired vehicles and to allow discretionary re-fueling on the project right-of-way.	Approved	5-2-05
2	5-19-05	Allow overland travel from an existing access road to the Pole 3/19 site.	Approved	5-25-05
3	6-28-05	Allow specific tree removals outside of the allowable window of November 1 to February 15 as outlined in Mitigation Measure B-3.	Approved	7-7-05
4	6-28-05	Allow movement of track and rubber tired equipment through approximately 15 feet by 100 feet of Cultural Resource site Y2.	Approved	7-7-05

UPCOMING ITEMS:

Underground construction was scheduled to start August 15; however, crews have not begun to mobilize to the site.

AGENCY PERSONNEL CONTACTS:

None.

Photographs



Figure 1 – Crews auguring the foundation hole at the Pole 1 site, August 9, 2005.



Figure 2 – Crews installing the foundation cage at the Pole 2 site, August 9, 2005. Note the bermed area in the foreground into which groundwater was pumped.