



Aspen

Environmental Group

PROJECT MEMORANDUM PG&E ATLANTIC-DEL MAR REINFORCEMENT PROJECT

To: Jensen Uchida, CPUC
From: Vida Strong, Aspen Project Manager
Date: December 1, 2005
Subject: Weekly Report #32: November 20, 2005 – November 26, 2005
CPUC Environmental Monitor (EM): Anne Sweet

Aspen Environmental Monitors (EMs) Anne Sweet and Heather Stiles toured the Atlantic–Del Mar Project location on November 21. The PG&E Environmental Inspector (EI), Shannon Ceresola, was on-site to ensure compliance with the adopted Final Mitigated Negative Declaration and other permit requirements. She is conducting environmental trainings for all new crew members. The PG&E EI also serves as a project biologist conducting California tiger salamander (CTS) aestivation surveys, on-going bird surveys, as well as installation of resource flagging and managing the installation and maintenance of sediment controls.

Rain occurred on the evening of Thursday, November 24; however, construction did not occur over the Thanksgiving holiday weekend.

OVERHEAD:

Summary of Activity:

All overhead construction including pole, foundation, and line stringing work is being done by PG&E. The only remaining pole areas where work has yet to occur are Transition Poles #9 and #10. Work at the transition poles is scheduled to occur concurrent with the underground construction activities. The foundation work for all of the poles is complete. All of the poles have been placed on the foundations with the exception of Poles #1, #2, and #3. These poles will be erected when the adjacent lines at the Del Mar Substation are de-energized. The PG&E crew has completed all current work and has left the site. The PG&E EI inspected existing erosion controls including those near vernal pool areas. Per the PG&E EI, all inspected erosion controls remain in functional condition and do not require maintenance.

Environmental Compliance Activities:

Previously, the PG&E EI evaluated the construction areas at all project pole sites for potential burrows for California tiger salamander (CTS) in compliance with Mitigation Measure APM 7-11. No burrows were located in the work areas, except for near the Pole #9 area. However, the area was resurveyed by a CTS expert and the burrows turned out to be very shallow and assessed to be inadequate habitat for CTS.

The CPUC EM observed the current overhead construction activities to be complete and were in compliance with mitigation measures adopted in the MND and other permit requirements. Erosion controls are inspected weekly and remain in place around sensitive resource areas adjacent to the construction areas.

UNDERGROUND:

Summary of Activity:

The underground work has been contracted to Wilson Construction. Wilson has subcontracted the ground construction work to Zayas Construction. The horizontal bore work has been subcontracted to Cherrington.

During the subject week, crews laid conduit from the south side of the Drainage #30 area through Railroad Avenue and poured thermal concrete over the conduit installation. Backfill was conducted through the Amtrak parking lot at the corner of Rocklin Road and Railroad Avenue. Crews completed trenching and conduit installation through Midas Boulevard (see Figure 1).

During previous weeks, trenching was initiated at three different areas. However, unstable materials were encountered that were not conducive to providing a stable trench for conduit. Trenching has been halted at these locations until methods to stabilize the bank are determined. The crews moved onto other areas.

North of Midas Boulevard, crews pored slurry around Vault 4 and the conduit tie-ins.

Boring operations commenced on Friday, November 18 (see Figure 2). Topsoil from Wetland #2 was salvaged prior to the commencement of the bore. The bore crew installed visquene/plastic sheeting under all of the bore equipment to catch any potential leaks. A frac-out occurred in Wetland #2 soon after boring operations began. Per the Army Corps permit and mitigation agreements, PG&E is allowed to take Wetland #2. The frac-out area was isolated with hay bales; a vac-truck arrived at the location and the bentonite was removed from the wetland area (see Figure 3). Crews inserted a casing around the drilling rod to better enable the bentonite slurry returns (see Figure 4).

On Saturday November 19, a second frac-out occurred 100 feet off of centerline in Wetland #3. The mud was expelled into an area of standing water. The drilling mud rose to the surface and was immediately identified and removed (see Figure 5). Impacts to Wetland #3 are not covered by the Army Corps permits. Per Essex, both the Army Corp of Engineers and the California Department of Fish and Game were notified of the frac-outs occurring in the resources. A retroactive permit will be obtained from the Army Corps of Engineers. Essex Environmental filed an incident report November 30.

During the subject week, the bore crew completed the pilot hole with no additional identified frac-outs. The exit pit was dug to expose the last joint of the drilling rod. Per the PG&E EI, the contractor did not adequately remove and isolate the topsoil within this area.

Far Western has been conducting the project cultural monitoring. The underground work encounters several culturally sensitive areas. A cultural monitor must be present for work in all culturally sensitive areas as specified in Mitigation Measure C-1 and the Cultural Resources Treatment Plan. Per the PG&E EI, during the subject week, no excavation work occurred in culturally sensitive areas and Far Western was not required to be on-site.

All open excavations, including trench line, are being covered with steel plates or chain link fence and topped with construction fencing at the end of the work day. Each morning, crews walk the excavations to check for trapped wildlife.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE SUMMARY

All new equipment has been inspected for leaks as they are brought onto the site.

The PG&E EI issued a non-compliance during the subject week. After repeated reminders, sediment controls and exclusion fencing were not maintained by Zayas along the project site.

When the bore exit pit was dug to expose the last joint of the drilling rod, the contractor did not adequately remove and isolate the topsoil within this area.

On November 19, a frac-out occurred 100 feet off of centerline in Wetland #3. Impacts to Wetland #3 are not covered by the Army Corps permits. Both the Army Corp of Engineers and the California Department of Fish and Game were notified of the frac-outs occurring in the resources. A retroactive permit will be obtained from the Army Corps of Engineers and Essex Environmental has filed an incident report.

The CPUC EM observed that all other underground construction activities were in compliance with mitigation measures adopted in the MND and other permit requirements.

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

TABLE 1
ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE STATUS
(Updated 12-01-05)

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 12-01-05)

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 new variance requests were submitted during the subject week. Table 3 presents the Variance Requests reviewed to date.

TABLE 3
VARIANCE REQUEST STATUS
(Updated 12-01-05)

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
5	9-2-05	Remove either a berm or oak tree to open up space needed for boring operations south of Sunset Ave. Use of an existing disturbed staging area. String and pull conduit through a delineated wetland area.	Approved	9-8-05

UPCOMING ITEMS:

The HDD mobilized to the site and boring operations commenced. During the subject week the drill emerged on the opposite side of Sunset Avenue. A forward ream will be used to widen the tunnel.

AGENCY PERSONNEL CONTACTS:

Per Essex, the Army Corps of Engineers and the California Department of Fish and Game were appropriately notified of the frac-out in Wetland #3 on Monday, November 21. Follow-up correspondence and an incident report were submitted November 29.

Photographs



Figure 1 - Trench line across Midas Boulevard, November 21, 2005.



Figure 2 - Bore rig setup, November 21, 2005.



Figure 3 - Cleaned frac-out area in Wetland #2, November 21, 2005.



Figure 4 - Bore rig. Note casing pipe around the rod and the flow of bentonite returns, November 21.



Figure 5 – Cleaned up frac-out location in Wetland #3, November 21, 2005.