



# **Aspen** *Environmental Group*

## **PROJECT MEMORANDUM PG&E ATLANTIC-DEL MAR REINFORCEMENT PROJECT**

**To:** Jensen Uchida, CPUC  
**From:** Vida Strong, Aspen Project Manager  
**Date:** December 7, 2005  
**Subject:** Weekly Report #33: November 27, 2005 – December 3, 2005  
**CPUC Environmental Monitor (EM):** Heather Stiles

Aspen Environmental Monitor (EM) Heather Stiles toured the Atlantic-Del Mar Project location on December 1. The PG&E Environmental Inspector (EI), Shannon Ceresola, was not on-site at the time of the visit, but she was temporarily replaced by Kevin Kilpatrick to ensure compliance with the adopted Final Mitigated Negative Declaration and other permit requirements. The PG&E EI is conducting environmental trainings for all new crewmembers. 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.

The project site received approximately 0.55 inches of rain throughout the week. Rain was moderately heavy at the time of the site visit.

### **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.

The PG&E crews are setting a staging area and construction trailer within the fenced perimeter of the Atlantic Substation. In addition, the crews are installing guard structures at various street and highway crossings between the Atlantic Substation and Structure 18. The crews are scheduled to begin the stringing process December 10, 2005. An environmental briefing is scheduled for the stringing crew the week prior to the commencement of stringing.

#### **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, the Zayas crew completed the cold patch within the Amtrak parking lot. Evergreen will be on site next week to remove the contaminated water from the baker tank located at the Amtrak parking lot.

Crews blasted rock throughout the trench line at approximately Station 42+50 on the south side of Railroad Avenue.

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 and a meeting is scheduled for December 7 to deal with the issues in this area.

Crews laid rock at the construction entrances on the north and south sides of Farron Street. In addition, gravel was laid within the fenced perimeter of the Kinder Morgan Tank Farm and from the paved driveway into the yard down to the entrance pit of the bore site. A wash station was erected to rinse the tires of the 10-wheelers prior to entering the roadway onto Pacific Street. Since runoff from the tire wash is not permitted to enter the City of Rocklin's storm water system, straw bales and sandbags were distributed to contain the runoff from the driveway.

The crew stockpiled, covered and contained with either silt fence or straw wattles all spoil piles along the right-of-way.

Horizontal directional boring operations commenced on Friday, November 18. 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. Cherrington completed the splicing of the 6" pipe and the forward ream process was completed on December 2. Throughout the reaming process, the excess drilling mud was hauled off and disposed of at a proper disposal site. Upon completion of the reaming process, the crew prepared for the pull-back to commence Monday, December 5.

A small frac-out occurred on December 2 at approximately Station 7+50 to 8+00 within Seasonal Drainage #5. The mud was contained and vacuumed out. Neither Seasonal Drainage #5 nor any other resources were damaged. The proper agencies, including CPUC and Army Corps, were informed of the frac-out. The crew dug out the receiving pit from approximately Station 8+60 to 7+50 to eliminate the pressure at Seasonal Drainage #5, which is parallel to the right-of-way, to prevent any further frac-outs during the pull-back process.

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 previous week week. After repeated reminders, Zayas did not maintain sediment controls and exclusion fencing along the project site. Subsequent to the issuance of a non-compliance, an erosion control crew from Wilson Construction has been assigned to monitor erosion control along the right-of-way and to make repairs as needed. The CPUC EM observed that all erosion control measures were in place and being adequately maintained.

On December 2, a small frac-out occurred at approximately station 7+50 to 8+00 within Seasonal Drainage #5. The mud was contained and vacuumed out. Neither Seasonal Drainage #5 nor any other resources were damaged. The proper agencies, including CPUC and Army Corps, were informed of the frac-out. Essex filed for an after-the-fact permit with the Corps.

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 12-08-05)**

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 12-08-05)**

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 12-08-05)

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:**

None of note.

**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. In addition, the resource agencies were notified of the frac-out within Seasonal Drainage #5 which occurred during the subject week.