



Aspen *Environmental Group*

PROJECT MEMORANDUM PG&E ATLANTIC-DEL MAR REINFORCEMENT PROJECT

To: Jensen Uchida, CPUC
From: Vida Strong, Aspen Project Manager
Date: January 20, 2006
Subject: Weekly Report #39: January 8, 2006 – January 14, 2006
CPUC Environmental Monitor (EM): Heather Stiles

The Aspen Environmental Monitor (EM) toured the Atlantic-Del Mar Project location on January 11 and 13. The PG&E Environmental Inspector (EI), Shannon Ceresola, is back from vacation and was temporarily on-site 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.

A storm event occurred prior to and at the beginning of the subject week.

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. Although the crew has completed the first wire pull from the Atlantic Substation to Tower 18, the next wire pull cannot ensue until Transition Pole #10 is installed at the Kinder Morgan Tank Farm. The concrete foundation for Transition Pole #10 is scheduled for completion in January.

All of the towers have been placed on the foundations with the exception of Poles #1, #2 and #3. These towers will be erected when the adjacent lines at the Del Mar Substation are de-energized.

The overhead crew worked to maintain erosion control measures and cleared mud which had accumulated along installed sediment fence down slope of the access road area near Pole #19 which was rutted by project-related vehicles. 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.

Environmental Compliance Activities:

The CPUC EM observed the current overhead construction activities to be 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. Additional silt fence was installed in order to reinforce existing silt fence next to the rutted access road on the west bank of Antelope Creek.

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 previous subject week, the crews had dewatered the following sites onto adjacent land using filter bags: Vaults 1 and 3, the HDPE pipe extending beneath Sunset Boulevard, and the entry and exit sites of the bore. During the site tour on January 5, the CPUC EMs found that the contractor was pumping water from the HDPE pipe and was dewatering into Wetland #2, which is under the jurisdiction of the Army Corps, without proper testing. This violation was noted in a Project Memorandum issued to PG&E by the CPUC EM on January 6. In response, Baker tanks were brought on-site (see Figure 1). Dewatering is now occurring into the tanks. Some water from the tanks has been collected and sent to an analytical laboratory for testing. Results should be available soon. If the water is shown to be free of contaminants it will be discharged through a filter bag on-site.

The crew completed the excavation of Vault 3 at the intersection of Railroad Avenue and Rocklin Road. The area had been previously blasted, but large granite boulders remained. The crew used a rock hammer to demolish the granite. The vault was set and backfilled with FTB slurry during the subject week. At the Amtrak parking lot, the trench line had been temporarily back filled because it had become undermined by voids left by the large boulders which were removed during excavation. During the subject week, the temporary backfill was removed and FTB was poured to stabilize the trench line and surrounding areas. Crews used a rock hammer to breakup the underground granite along the trench line running north along Railroad Avenue. Only about 100 feet of trench remains to be completed to connect to the installed conduit at Station 45+00.

The existing erosion control measures that have been installed at Seasonal Drainage #37, Seasonal Drainage #5, Seasonal Drainage #6, Ephemeral Drainage #07, Seasonal Drainage #12, Seasonal Drainage #30 from Station 55+60 to the end of the drainage and parallel to Seasonal Drainage #36 which were noted in the previous week as needing repair due to recent excessive and persistent wind and rain were repaired and are in satisfactory condition. However, the PG&E EI has repeatedly requested that crews continuously maintain erosion control measures throughout the project. The PG&E EI issued a non-compliance to Wilson Construction due to the continued improper/minimal performance and maintenance of BMPs throughout the project.

During the previous subject week, erosion control in the vicinity of Seasonal Drainage #30 was in serious disrepair and silt from the nearby spoil piles was entering the resource, a CDFG jurisdictional drainage. Erosion had occurred underneath the sediment fence which was installed at the bank line. Erosion extended from that point and all the way down the bank of the drainage. A Project Memorandum was issued to PG&E to document the occurrence and the close proximity of the spoil piles to Seasonal Drainage #30, which at some points are placed 10 to 12 feet from the top of the bank. It was noted on Friday, January 6, that crews had made an effort to remedy the situation. Sediment fence was installed around some of the spoils piles closest to the drainage and sediment build-up at the existing sediment fence located at the bank line was removed. In addition, sand bags were placed within and around eroded areas inside the bank of Drainage #30 to prevent further erosion and hinder further sediment flow into the drainage. During the subject week, crews further reinforced the area by adding additional fencing and sandbags (see Figures 2 and 3). Note that no equipment entered the drainage area and no earth moving occurred which is seasonally prohibited by the Project Streambed Alteration Agreement. On January 12, Essex notified the CPUC EM that the spoils pile which had partially eroded into the drainage had been sampled and a soil testing was conducted. Analysis showed elevated levels for metals. Essex additionally notified the Army Corp of Engineers and CDFG.

Spoils piles adjacent to Drainage #30 continue to grow. Erosion controls have been installed around the piles; however, per the project mitigation measures, long term spoils storage is prohibited. The CPUC EM reminded the PG&E EM of this condition during the subject week.

Horizontal directional drilling (HDD) operations, which commenced on November 18, were completed in early-December. The HDD contractor completed clean up at the entrance and exit sites of the bore pits and demobilized on December 14. The area will be reclaimed and reseeded at the end of the project upon completion of the wire pull and energization of the line. During the subject week, the conduit at the exit pit was set in FTC slurry.

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, excavation work did occur in previously identified culturally sensitive areas; however, the specific areas are highly disturbed utility corridors and areas composed of granite rock. After consultation with Far Western, it was asserted that cultural monitoring should not be necessary there. The PG&E EI contacted the CPUC EM with this information. The CPUC EM asked for an e-mail outlining the proposed lessening of monitoring; however, this was not supplied during the subject week.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE SUMMARY

The PG&E EI has repeatedly requested that crews continuously maintain erosion control measures throughout the project. The PG&E EI issued a non-compliance to Wilson Construction due to the continued improper/minimal performance and maintenance of BMPs throughout the project.

Previously, erosion control in the vicinity of Seasonal Drainage #30 was in serious disrepair and silt from the nearby spoil piles had entered the resource, a CDFG jurisdictional drainage resulting in a Project Memorandum. It was noted on Friday, January 6, that crews had made an effort to remedy the situation. Further repair was conducted during the subject week. On January 12, Essex notified the CPUC EM that the spoils pile which had partially eroded into the drainage had been sampled and a soil testing was conducted. Analysis showed elevated levels for metals. Essex additionally notified the Army Corp of Engineers and CDFG.

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As presented in Table 1, one NCR and two Project Memorandum have been issued for the project to date.

TABLE 1
ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE STATUS
(Updated 01-20-06)

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.
Project Memo	1-6-06	PG&E contractors mechanically pumped the water from the casing of the underground conduit into Wetland #1 through a filter bag without adequate testing. Wetland #1 is under the Army Corps of Engineers jurisdiction.	Dewatering from the pipe is being conducted into Baker tanks. Test results and subsequent action are pending. The ACOE has been notified.
Project Memo	1-6-06	Large spoil piles are being stored in close proximity to Seasonal Drainage #30 without adequate erosion control measures, which is a violation of APM 7-2. The erosion control along the drainage was in disrepair, which led to silt from the spoil piles being emptied into the CDFG drainage. Siltation entering the drainage is a violation of Condition #2 of the CDFG Streambed Alteration Agreement.	Crews reinforced the erosion control along Seasonal Drainage #30. The CDFG has been notified. A decision to move the spoil piles is being considered by PG&E.

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 01-20-06)**

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 01-20-06)**

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:

On January 12, Essex notified the CPUC EM that the spoils pile which had partially eroded into the drainage had been sampled and a soil testing was conducted. Analysis showed elevated levels for metals. Essex additionally notified the Army Corp of Engineers and CDFG.

Photographs



Figure 1 – Baker tank at the bore entrance pit, January, 2006.



Figure 2 – Crews have placed additional sand bags at Seasonal Drainage #30, January, 2006.



Figure 3 – Crews have placed additional sand bags at Seasonal Drainage #30, January, 2006.