

NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION AND NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

TO: All Interested Parties

Pursuant to the California Public Utilities Commission's (CPUC) General Order 131-D, Southern California Edison (SCE) has filed an application (Application No. A.10-12-016) with the CPUC for a Permit to Construct Electrical Facilities with Voltages between 50 kilovolt (kV) and 200 kV for the Downs Substation Expansion Project.

Project Background: SCE proposes to upgrade and expand the existing Downs 33/12-kV Substation to a 115/12-kV substation containing a 115-kV switchrack; route an existing 115-kV subtransmission line into and out of the proposed substation; and install a fiber optic telecommunication system (including 58 miles of fiber optic telecommunication cable). SCE would need to replace approximately six existing Inyokern-McGen-Searles No. 1 115-kV subtransmission line wood poles to support the new fiber optic telecommunications facilities where the existing wood poles do not meet CPUC General Order 95 wind loading requirements and/or SCE design standards. The proposed expansion of Downs Substation would be located on 2.5 acres of a 4.6-acre parcel of SCE-owned land adjacent to the existing Downs Substation in the city of Ridgecrest, Kern County, CA. The replacement poles along the Inyokern-McGen-Searles No. 1 115-kV subtransmission line are located near the community of Trona in San Bernardino County. Additionally, the stringing of fiber optic telecommunication cable would be located in the city of Ridgecrest, the unincorporated communities of Inyokern, Argus, and Trona in the Counties of Kern and San Bernardino. Construction would start in August 2013 and would last through May 2014 to meet an in-service date of June 2014, depending on CPUC approval.

Information Available: The CPUC Energy Division has prepared a Mitigated Negative Declaration and supporting Initial Study (IS/MND) describing the project and its potential environmental effects. Based on this document, it has been determined that the Proposed Project, as mitigated, will not have any significant effects on the environment. The CPUC's environmental document may be reviewed at the following locations:

CPUC Energy Division
505 Van Ness Ave, 4th Floor
San Francisco, CA 94102

Ridgecrest Branch Public Library
131 East Las Flores Avenue
Ridgecrest, CA 93555

For electronic access to the IS/MND and other project information/reports, check the CPUC's website at:

http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/environment/info/aspen/downs_sub/index.htm

Public Meeting: The CPUC will hold a public meeting on **Monday January 30, 2012 from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the Carriage Inn, located at 901 North China Lake Boulevard, Ridgecrest, CA.** The public meeting is an opportunity to learn about the Proposed Project, ask questions about the content of the Draft IS/MND, and provide comments. Written comments will be accepted during the meeting; there will be no facilities to record oral comments.

Time for Review: This IS/MND will undergo a public review period from January 23 through February 21, 2012. Comments must be received in writing by 5:00 p.m. on February 21, 2012. Comments may be submitted by email (downsexpansion@aspeneg.com) or U.S. Mail, at the following address:

Eric Chiang
California Public Utilities Commission
c/o Aspen Environmental Group
5020 Chesebro Road, Suite 200
Agoura Hills, CA 91301

To request additional information, please contact the CPUC Project Manager, Eric Chiang, at (415) 703-1956.