

**PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
505 VAN NESS AVENUE
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102-3298**



**To: State Clearinghouse, Responsible and Trustee Agencies, Property Owners
& Interested Parties**

From: Mike Rosauer, Environmental Project Manager

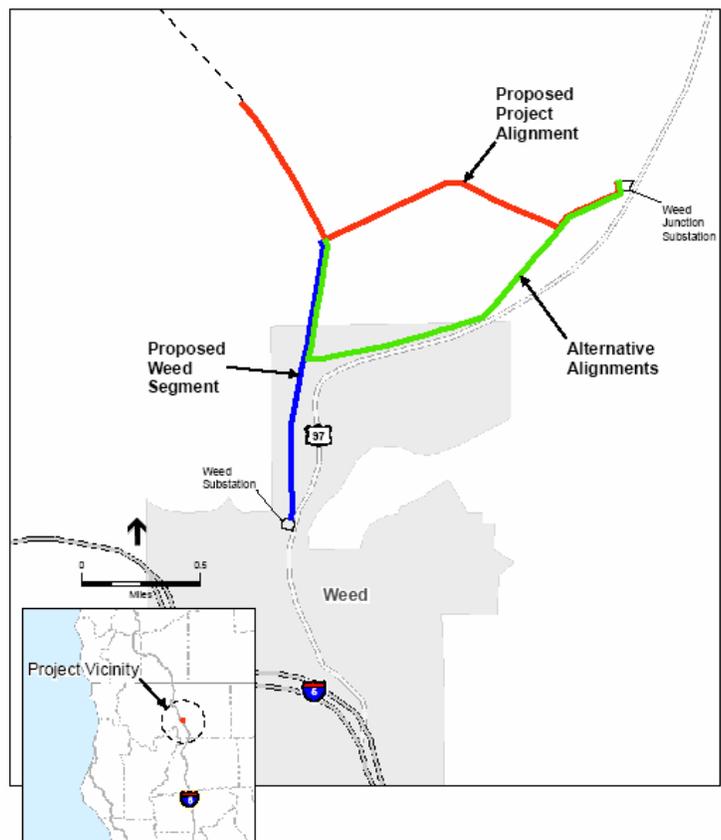
**Subject: NOTICE OF PREPARATION OF AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT (EIR) AND
SCOPING MEETING:
PacifiCorp's Yreka-Weed Transmission Line Upgrade Project,
Southern Portion (A.05-12-011)**

Date: April 13, 2007

Background. PacifiCorp, in its California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) application (A.05-12-011), filed on December 13, 2005, sought a Permit to Construct (PTC) approximately 18.6 miles of 115 kilovolt (kV) single-circuit transmission line between the Yreka and Weed Junction Substations pursuant to CPUC General Order (GO) 131-D. The October 2006 Final Mitigated Negative Declaration (FMND), included analysis of the project proposed in the application as well as a second project, the planned rebuild of the Weed Substation and upgrade of approximately 1.5 miles of single-circuit 69kV transmission line to a double-circuit 115kV transmission line (collectively called the Weed Segment), which was added to the CEQA review by order of Commissioner Brown in his "Ruling Regarding Piecemealing and Substations," filed June 5, 2006.

On October 19, 2006, in decision D.06-10-047, the CPUC adopted the FMND for the proposed project approving for construction all portions of the proposed project north of Pole 15/44 (comprising approximately 17 miles of the 18.6-mile transmission line plus rebuilding of the Lucerne Substation). The decision left open for hearings and further evidentiary submissions a short piece of the route at the southern end, termed the "First Project/Southern Portion" (Southern Portion), which had been the subject of dispute among parties to the proceeding. On March 15, 2007, the Commission ruled on the Southern Portion in D.07-03-043, finding that "[e]valuation of other routes is necessary so the Commission may consider the full range of options in this proceeding." Accordingly, the Commission ordered that an EIR be prepared to evaluate alternative routes for the Southern Portion.

The Weed Segment, which had been previously analyzed in the October 2006 FMND, was the subject of a separate application by PacifiCorp (A.07-01-046) filed on January 26, 2007. On April 4, 2007, noting that no decision has yet been made on the Weed Segment application, the CPUC ruled that the Weed Segment shall also be included in the EIR announced here, once again to avoid the perception of piecemealing.



Description of the Proposed Project.

PacifiCorp, which currently owns a single-circuit 69kV electric transmission system in the Yreka-Weed area of Siskiyou County, requests authorization to upgrade the existing 69kV transmission line (Line 1) with a new 115kV transmission line within existing right-of-way from Pole 15/44 to Pole 8/45 and to install an additional 1.6 miles of 115kV transmission line within a new right-of-way from Pole 8/45 east to the Weed Junction Substation. The objective of the Proposed Project is to improve reliability by increasing transmission capacity in the Yreka-Weed area in order to continue safe and reliable electric service to customers in the area, and to meet contractual obligations.

The Weed Segment would include a rebuild of the Weed Substation from 69kV to 115kV and upgrade of approximately 1.5 miles of single-circuit 69kV transmission line to a double-circuit 115kV transmission line from the Weed Substation north to Pole 8/45. The objective of the Weed Segment is to handle increased load provide transmission capacity, and improve service reliability.

Location of the Proposed Project.

The Proposed Project is located in Siskiyou County, north of the City of Weed, California, and generally traverses open space within the valley floor of Mount Shasta. A portion of the Proposed Project route (approximately 0.7 miles) is within an existing PacifiCorp transmission line right-of-way. Approximately 1.6 miles of the Proposed Project route would require acquisition of new right-of-way, and crosses at least one stream channel. The Weed Segment, located in Siskiyou County and the City of Weed, starts at the Weed Substation and generally traverses through Eastside Pine habitat on the northern and southern ends, and crosses though the Lincoln Heights neighborhood.

Issues To Be Addressed In The EIR.

The EIR will address project level (or site-specific) impacts of the construction, operation and maintenance of the Proposed Project and Weed Segment. The EIR will also discuss and analyze alternatives to the Proposed Project and Weed Segment.

Alternatives to be considered include alignment variations that would traverse the same route as the existing right-of-way from Pole 19/45 running roughly parallel to Highway 97 in an east-northeasterly direction to Pole 15/48, where it would traverse an area of dense conifer trees for just over 0.5 mile before crossing Rainbow Way and terminating at the Weed Junction Substation. Variations of this alternative alignment may include (a) installation of taller poles 15 feet north of each pole on the existing 69kV line, then removal of the existing poles, to create a double circuit for the existing 69kV and proposed 115kV lines; and (b) installation of a new 115kV line on taller poles parallel to and 50 feet north of the existing 69kV line. This later alternative would require expansion of the existing 50-foot right-of-way to 100 feet. Other alternatives may be added based on input received during this NOP review period or by the EIR team in response to potentially significant environmental impacts identified during the EIR process.

The EIR will address the potential environmental impacts associated with the Proposed Project and Weed Segment. Specific areas of analysis will include: Aesthetics, Agriculture Resources, Air Quality, Biological Resources, Cultural Resources, Hazards and Hazardous Materials, Hydrology and Water Quality, Land Use and Planning, Noise, Public Services, Transportation and Traffic, and Utilities and Service Systems. Areas of analysis may be changed based on input received during the NOP review period or information developed during the EIR process. Where feasible, mitigation measures will be proposed to avoid or reduce significant impacts. Additionally, potential cumulative impacts of the Proposed Project and Weed Segment, when considered in context with other past, present, or future projects in the area, will be addressed in the EIR.

Information to be included in the EIR will also be based on input and comments received during the NOP review period. Decision-makers, responsible and trustee agencies under CEQA, property owners, and interested persons and parties will also have an opportunity to comment on the Draft EIR after it is published and circulated for public review.

Public Comment Period For This Notice Of Preparation.

Due to the time limits mandated by State law, your response must be sent at the earliest possible date, but not later than 30 days after receipt of this notice. The public comment period will close at 5:00 p.m. on **May 15, 2007**. Please include a name, address, and telephone number of a contact person for all future correspondence on this subject.

Please send your comments to:

Mr. Mike Rosauer
Yreka-Weed Transmission Line Upgrade Project, Southern Portion
c/o Environmental Science Associates
225 Bush Street, Suite 1700
San Francisco, CA 94104-4207
Fax: (415) 896-0332
E-mail: yreka-weed@esassoc.com

Scoping Meeting.

In order for the public and regulatory agencies to have an opportunity to ask questions and submit comments on the scope of the EIR, a scoping meeting will be held during the NOP review period. The scoping meeting will start with a brief presentation providing an overview of the Proposed Project, the Weed Segment, and alternatives identified to date. Subsequent to the presentation, interested parties will be provided an opportunity to ask questions and provide comments about the project. Written comment forms will be supplied for those who wish to submit written comments at the scoping meeting; written comments may also be submitted anytime during the NOP review period to the address, fax, or e-mail listed above. The scoping meeting will be held:

Wednesday May 2, 2007
6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
College of the Siskiyous, Theater Building
800 College Avenue
Weed, CA 96094
(see map on following page)

REMINDER: Scoping comments will be accepted by fax, e-mail, or postmark through May 15, 2007. Please be sure to include your name, address, and telephone number.

College of the Siskiyous

800 College Avenue, Weed, CA 96094
(530) 938-5555 or toll free: (888) 397-4339
<http://www.siskiyous.edu/>

