



# **Aspen** *Environmental Group*

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

**To:** Jensen Uchida, CPUC  
**From:** Vida Strong, Aspen Project Manager  
**Date:** December 14, 2005  
**Subject:** Weekly Report #34: December 4, 2005 – December 10, 2005  
**CPUC Environmental Monitor (EM):** Heather Stiles

Aspen Environmental Monitor (EM) Heather Stiles toured the Atlantic-Del Mar Project location on December 7 and December 9. 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. 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, ongoing bird surveys, as well as installation of resource flagging and managing the installation and maintenance of sediment controls.

The project site received approximately 0.21 inches of rain throughout the week. Rain was occurring at the times of the site visits.

### **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 have set a staging area and construction trailer within the fenced perimeter of the Atlantic Substation. The crews installed guard structures at various street and highway crossings between the Atlantic Substation and Structure 18. The crews are scheduled to conduct the stringing process next week. An environmental briefing occurred for the stringing crew.

#### **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 trenching and laying 160 feet of conduit south of Midas Avenue. Flowable thermal concrete was poured over the installation. The area will be backfilled next week. A vac-truck was used to pothole for utilities at the intersection of Pine and Railroad. The crew uncovered an unanticipated discovery (UAD) at the location on December 7. An old granite drain was found (see Figure 1). The crew halted work in and around the area. The PG&E EI contacted the CPUC EM and called a cultural expert from Far Western to the site. After investigation, it was found that the drain feature had been modified; both ends had been tied into PVC pipe. Far Western submitted a report on December 9 with the determination that the find was insignificant and that the drain was determined not to be eligible for inclusion in the California Register of Historic Resources and thus no further resource management actions were recommended. Per the PG&E EI, the City of Rocklin Inspector was additionally contacted and notified of the discovery. The Rocklin Inspector gave information that similar drains have been encountered throughout the City and have been removed and replaced with plastic pipe.

Evergreen was on site and removed the contaminated water from the baker tank located at the Amtrak parking lot.

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.

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 which commenced on Friday, November 18, were completed during the subject week. Cherrington completed the pull back of the HTDP pipe. Conduit was bundled and pulled back through the pipe. The tailings and receiving pits were cleaned and two truck loads of bentonite were removed from the site. Topsoil from Wetland #2 was salvaged prior to the commencement of the bore and backfill of the material has occurred. The crew will continue to demobilize the bore equipment during the next week. Previously, a small frac-out occurred on December 2 at approximate 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. During the CPUC EM site tour on December 7, the area was investigated (see Figure 2). No issues were noted.

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 previously identified culturally sensitive areas and Far Western was not required to be on-site, but was called to investigate the UAD on December 7.

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.

On December 7, a UAD was encountered by construction crews. Work was halted until notifications were made, the feature could be assessed, and proper report submitted stating the find was insignificant.

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 12-14-05)

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 12-14-05)

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 12-14-05)

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 City of Rocklin Inspector was contacted concerning the UAD.

## Photographs



**Figure 1** – UAD site at the intersection of Pine and Railroad Avenue, December 9.



**Figure 2** – Site of the cleaned up frac-out #4 along Seasonal Drainage #5, December 7.