

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

505 VAN NESS AVENUE
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102-3298



September 9, 2009

Linda Wrazen
Regulatory Case Administrator
San Diego Gas & Electric
Southern California Gas Company

RE: Determination of Completeness, San Diego Gas and Electric East County Substation Project (A 09.08.003)

Dear Ms Wrazen

San Diego Gas & Electric (SDG&E) submitted Application 09-08-003, for a Permit To Construct the East County Substation project.

The Energy Division has completed its review of SDG&E's application to construct the ECO Substation project. The Commission finds that the Application and Proponent's Environmental Assessment contain insufficient information to satisfy the requirements of the Commission's Information and Criteria List and can not now be deemed complete. The additional information requirements in order to deem this application complete are found in addendum 1 to this letter.

Please note that this determination has been made with the understanding that the Energy Division will request additional data, as necessary, to review and analyze the environmental effects of the proposed project in accordance with requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act.

Please do not hesitate to call me at (415) 355-5580 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Iain Fisher".

Iain Fisher
California Public Utilities Commission

CC: Ken Lewis, CPUC
Chloe Lukins, CPUC
Melanie Darling ALJ, CPUC
Nicholas Sher, CPUC

Addendum 1 – Additional information requirements for completion of the PEA.

CHAPTER 2 – PROJECT PURPOSE AND NEED

- a. **Pages 2-7 and 2-8.** Please provide locations of five active generator applications submitted to California Independent System Operator (CAISO) for connection to Southwest Powerlink (SWPL), and one for connection to the Boulevard Substation. Page 2-8 states that the proposed project is located near already planned wind-generation projects. Figure 3-2 provides general location information of these wind projects. Please show overlay of locations on Figures 2-1 and 2-2, wind resources maps, or other aerial/land use base map with scale. If exact location is not known, then please show approximate locations used to generate Figure 3-2 and determine the location for the proposed project.
- b. **Pages 2-7 and 2-8.** Given that the noted wind projects are in CAISO's Generator Interconnection Queue to be studied, it is reasonable to assume that CAISO has information regarding these projects. The current status of the CAISO studies is not provided, especially as to how the overall development of wind in this region will be addressed. This goes back to the location issue and whether the proposed site is one that will/can serve the full development of regional wind or will other sites be required? Please provide the status of studies being done and the contact at CAISO with who San Diego Gas and Electric (SDG&E) is discussing interconnection of wind projects to the East County (ECO) Substation Project.
- d. **Sections 2.0 and 2.1.** List and show location of region's planned generation (other than the six wind projects referred to above) to be accommodated by the project. Please provide status of these projects.
- e. **Pages 2-8 and 2-9.** The referenced text indicates an ultimate 500/230 kilovolt (kV) capacity in excess of 4300 megavolt-ampere (MVA) (2600 divided by 0.6). The project description indicates only ONE 500/230 kV transformer. The 4300 MVA sizing for one transformer not only seems to be on the large side, it exceeds the capability of the SWPL. This should either be clarified or corrected.
- f. The CPUC requests a dollar estimate of the different components of the project cost in order to assess the feasibility of project alternatives and the practicality of any mitigation measures that we may require.

CPUC therefore request a dollar estimate for:

- a) the ECO Substation and 500kV loop in,
- b) the 138kV transmission line,
- c) The Boulevard substation,
- d) The White Star Communication Center,
- e) Any components of the Eco project not explicitly listed above.