

Appendix D

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR PERMIT TO CONSTRUCT

# **NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR A PERMIT TO CONSTRUCT**

## **DEVERS- MIRAGE 115 KILOVOLT (kV) SUBTRANSMISSION SYSTEM SPLIT PROJECT**

Date: January 31, 2008

**Proposed Project:** Southern California Edison Company (SCE) has filed an application with the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) for a permit to construct (PTC) the Devers – Mirage 115 kV Subtransmission System Split Project (Proposed Project). The Proposed Project is necessary to maintain electric system reliability, enhance operational flexibility, and serve projected electrical demand in the cities of Palm Springs, Rancho Mirage, Cathedral City, Palm Desert, Indian Wells, and unincorporated areas of Riverside County, including the Thousand Palms community (Electrical Needs Area).

The Proposed Project includes the following elements:

- Replace approximately 5.3 miles of existing single-circuit 115kV subtransmission lines with new higher capacity double-circuit 115kV subtransmission lines and replace support structures within existing SCE rights-of-way (ROW) and public streets between Farrell and Garnet substations in the City of Palm Springs.
- Construct a new 115 kV subtransmission line from the Mirage Substation south to Interstate 10, adjacent to the east side of Tri-Palms Estates and within SCE's existing ROW and public streets. This work would be accomplished by replacing portions of existing single-circuit 115 kV structures with double-circuit structures, installation of new single-circuit structures, installing new, higher capacity conductor, and reconfiguration of existing lines on the existing and new 115 kV structures.
- Loop the existing Devers-Coachella Valley 220 kV transmission line from an existing ROW for approximately 0.8-miles on double-circuit lattice steel towers (LSTs) to SCE's existing Mirage Substation (install eight LSTs and remove four LSTs). Install one new tubular steel pole (TSP) near Mirage Substation.
- Install one new 280 megavolt amperes (MVA) 220/115 kV transformer, five new 220 kV circuit breakers, and five new 115 kV circuit breakers at SCE's existing Mirage Substation.
- Replace six existing 115 kV subtransmission line wood poles with four new wood poles and one new tubular steel pole in the vicinity of Date Palm Drive and Varner Road in the city of Cathedral City.
- Replace an existing single-circuit 115 kV subtransmission line wood pole with a new double-circuit tubular steel pole located south of I-10, approximately 50 feet north of the existing wood pole at the intersection of Portola Avenue and Gerald Ford Drive in the city of Palm Desert.
- Replace two TSPs, one light weight steel (LWS) pole, and two wood poles at the intersection of Dinah Shore Drive and Bob Hope Drive in the City of Palm Desert with four TSPs and three LWS poles with three 115 kV pole switches to facilitate, the creation of two separate subtransmission systems in the Electrical Needs Area

- Transfer existing fiber optic cable to the new support structures and install new fiber optic and digital telecommunications equipment as needed in the Electrical Needs Area
- Install additional equipment and relays at certain substations located within the Electrical Needs Area.

Construction is scheduled to begin by the second quarter of 2009, or immediately following receipt of all project approvals. The Proposed Project is scheduled to be operational by mid-2010 to ensure that safe and reliable electric service is available to serve customer electrical demand in the Electrical Needs Area.

**EMF Compliance:** The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) requires utilities to employ “no cost” and “low cost” measures to reduce public exposure to electric and magnetic fields (EMF). In accordance with “EMF Design Guidelines” filed with the CPUC in compliance with CPUC Decisions 93-11-013 and 06-01-042, SCE would implement the following measure(s) for the Proposed Project:

- Using taller poles for the proposed new 115 kV subtransmission line segments;
- Using a “double-circuit” pole-head configuration for the double-circuit portion of the proposed 115 kV subtransmission lines;
- Using a “triangle” type pole-head configuration for the single-circuit portion of the proposed 115 kV subtransmission lines;
- Phasing the proposed 115 kV subtransmission lines with respect to the adjacent existing subtransmission lines,
- Re-phasing existing 115 kV subtransmission lines;
- Phasing the proposed 220 kV transmission lines with respect to the adjacent existing transmission lines; and
- Placing major substation electric equipment (such as transformers) away from the existing substation property lines.

**Environmental Assessment:** The CPUC is responsible, under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), for identifying the significant environmental impacts of the Proposed Project and for avoiding or mitigating them if feasible.

SCE has prepared a Proponent’s Environmental Assessment (PEA), which includes an analysis of potential environmental impacts created by the construction and operation of the proposed project. Impacts from the Proposed Project for all resource categories except Air Quality, Biological Resources and Cultural Resources would be less than significant with the implementation of Applicant Proposed Measures (APMs). Impacts to Biological Resources would be less than significant with the implementation of APMs and biological (species-specific) mitigation measures. In addition to APMs, Cultural Resources will implement specific measures to reduce potential impacts to a less than significant level.

The Proposed Project would result in a significant and unavoidable air quality impact due to construction activities that would exceed the local significance thresholds for PM<sub>10</sub> and PM<sub>2.5</sub> and would be above regional thresholds for NO<sub>x</sub>, PM<sub>10</sub> and PM<sub>2.5</sub>. Feasible APMs are proposed to reduce the air quality impacts to the greatest extent possible.

The CPUC will conduct an initial review of the Proposed Project's potential environmental impacts. Depending on the potential effects, the CPUC will issue a Notice of Intent to Approve a Negative Declaration or Mitigated Negative Declaration (NOI) that the proposed project will not result in any significant environmental impacts, or a Notice of Preparation (NOP) of an environmental impact report (EIR). The public may participate in the environmental review by submitting comments on the NOI or NOP and draft EIR, and by participating in any scoping meetings or public meetings that may be conducted.

**Formal Protests:** Formal protests to the application must comply with Article 1 and Rule 2.6 of the CPUC's Rules of Practice and Procedure (posted on the CPUC's website at [www.cpuc.ca.gov](http://www.cpuc.ca.gov)). Formal protests must state the facts constituting the grounds for the protest, the effect of the application on the protestant, and the reasons the protestant believes the application, or a part of it, is not justified. If the protest requests a hearing, it must state the facts you would present at a formal evidentiary hearing to support your protest. Any affected party may, within 30 days of the date on this notice, i.e. no later than **March 3, 2008**, protest and request that the CPUC hold hearings on the application.

**Letters:** If you wish to make your views known without participating formally, you may write to the CPUC at 505 Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94102. Your communication will be directed to the Commissioners and the Administrative Law Judge for review, and will be placed in the proceeding's formal Correspondence File.

**Notice and CPUC Documents:** To be added to the official service list as "Information Only" for service of all CPUC documents in this proceeding, e.g., notice of hearings, rulings, and decisions, contact the Process Office at the CPUC, 505 Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94102 or by e-mail at [process\\_office@cpuc.ca.gov](mailto:process_office@cpuc.ca.gov).

For assistance, please call the CPUC's Public Advisor in San Francisco at (415)703-2074 ([public.advisor@cpuc.ca.gov](mailto:public.advisor@cpuc.ca.gov)) or in Los Angeles at (213)576-7055 ([Public.Advisor.LA@cpuc.ca.gov](mailto:Public.Advisor.LA@cpuc.ca.gov)),

To review a copy of SCE's Application, or to request further information, please contact:

**Louis Davis**

San Jacinto Valley Service Center  
26100 Menifee Rd., Romoland, CA 92585  
Phone: (951) 928-8208  
Fax: (951) 928-8308  
[Louis.Davis@sce.com](mailto:Louis.Davis@sce.com)

**Lin Juniper**

Palm Springs Service Center  
36100 Cathedral Canyon Dr.  
Cathedral City, CA 92234  
Phone: (760) 202-4231  
Fax: (760) 202-4136  
[Lin.Juniper@sce.com](mailto:Lin.Juniper@sce.com)

**Kathleen De Rosa**

Palm Springs Service Center  
36100 Cathedral Canyon Dr.  
Cathedral City, CA 92234  
Phone: (760) 202-4211  
Fax: (760) 202-4136  
[Kathleen.DeRosa@sce.com](mailto:Kathleen.DeRosa@sce.com)

**LIST OF NEWSPAPER(S)  
PUBLISHING THE NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR  
PERMIT TO CONSTRUCT**

Palm Springs Desert Sun  
P.O. Box 2734  
Palm Springs, CA 92263

Victorville Daily Press  
P.O. Box 1389  
Victorville, CA 92393-1389

Riverside Press Enterprise  
P.O. Box 792  
Riverside, CA 92502