Question CI-2:

The descriptions of the reconductoring improvements planned in the region do not fully discuss the intended purpose of the improvements nor do they fully disclose the relationship they have to the Fogarty/Valley-Ivyglen project. The PEA should fully describe the purpose/effects/environmental impacts of the reconductoring improvements being planned in the area. The PEA should also look at whether improvements to existing lines and other equipment can serve as an alternative to the project. The PEA should state whether reconductoring would be necessary without the Ivyglen project and vice versa.

Response to Question CI-2:

The reconductoring projects listed in the Cumulative Impacts section of Chapter 6 for the consolidated project are separate and not directly interconnected to either the proposed Valley-Ivyglen 115kV Subtransmission Line or Fogarty Substation. The need for the reconductoring projects listed is separate and independent from the need identified for either the proposed Valley-Ivyglen 115kV Subtransmission Line or Fogarty Substation. As such, the reconductoring projects cannot serve as alternatives to the proposed Valley-Ivyglen 115kV Subtransmission Line or Fogarty Substation. Furthermore, the reconductoring projects would be necessary with or without the Ivyglen project.

Modifications to the existing Valley System that could serve as alternatives to the proposed Valley-Ivyglen 115kV Subtransmission Line or Fogarty Substation were identified and discussed in Chapter 2, Alternatives. These system alternatives were evaluated and compared to the proposed Valley-Ivyglen 115kV Subtransmission Line or Fogarty Substation before the proposed project was selected.