

Project title: Tracy Double Breaker Double Bus Project		
Requested By: Dan Pinsonneau	Mail Code : N5706	Phone: 916-353-4773
Date Submitted: 03/29/2010	Date Required: 6/16/2010	

Description of the Project:

Purpose and Need

The Western Area Power Administration (Western), Sierra Nevada Region (SNR), is responsible for the operation and maintenance (O&M) of federally owned and operated transmission lines, switchyards, and facilities throughout California. The Department of Interior, Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) is responsible for water storage, water delivery, and hydropower production. Both Western and Reclamation must comply with the National Electric Safety Code, Western States Coordinating Council (WECC), and internal directives for protecting human safety and maintaining the reliable operation of the transmission system.

The proposed Tracy Double Breaker Double Bus project and modification activities (Project) will include converting a main and transfer bus configuration to a double bus configuration at Western's Tracy Substation (Substation), removal and replacement of existing towers, realignment of the existing transmission line, as well as upgrading the associated protection and communication equipment to improve the safety and reliability of the existing system.

Project Overview

The Project will include converting a main and transfer bus configuration to a double bus configuration as well as upgrading the associated protection and communication equipment and the changing of the switchgear bays within the Substation boundaries. The existing Substation configuration and immediate vicinity of the Project is depicted in **Figure 1**, and **Figure 2** illustrates the general location of the Project. The Project also includes the rerouting and removal of existing transmission lines, towers and the construction of a new 230-kV monopole approach structure to replace the towers proposed for removal. **Figure 3** illustrates the existing installation layout at the substation and **Figure 4** illustrates the proposed general locations of the new monopole and new double circuit alignment into switchgear bay Y2. The new monopole will be utilized as a double-circuit with the new alignment originating at Tower 5/29 and terminating and spliced into the switchgear bay. The new monopole structure will be a galvanized steel Western type 266D-70, with a base-plated foundation and will be located just outside the substation perimeter fence to the west as illustrated in **Figure 4**. It will be located within the grass area adjacent to the San Luis and Delta-Mendota Water Authority (SLDMWA) control building. The final location of the new monopole structure could shift, approximately 10 feet north or south, but still within the Right-of-Way (ROW) and previously disturbed areas. There are two 13.8-kV buried cable trenches under the grass running roughly east to west connecting the SLDMWA control building and the Reclamation administration building. As a result, there is a 20-foot band of unutilized space between the southern extent of these trenches and the existing asphalt, into which the pole will be located. The Project would use standard dead-end insulator assemblies between Tower 5/29 and the new 230-kV approach structure monopole.

A combination of new and existing gas (Sulfur hexafluoride) breakers will remain installed at the Project's completion. Western will purchase and install 16 new 3000-A breakers to replace the existing oil circuit breakers. New motor operated disconnects will also be supplied. Two existing 230-kV transformer feeds are "shared" to supply three transformers. With the proposed upgrade/modification, a new feed will be added so that each transformer will have a dedicated feed.

In addition to removing and replacing the existing oil circuit breakers, the Project includes the removal of the existing oil piping (between bays Y-3 through Y-14), 2 oil tanks, an oil building, and 2 existing Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) latticed steel towers within the Substation boundaries (PG&E Tower 1/0 and PG&E No.2 Tesla). Communication and protection upgrades will include the placement of 12 new coupling capacitor voltage transformers (CCVT), metering current transformers (CT) for both Westley lines and both Tesla lines, and a new line inductor for the Tesla #1 line power line carrier system.

Location of the Project:

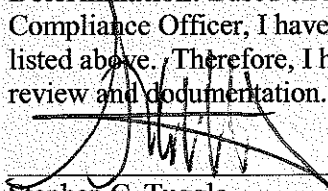
Tracy Substation (see Figure 2)
Alameda County, California

Map(s)
See attached Maps

Figures(s)
See attached Figures

Work Order Number
100152036

To be completed by Natural Resources Only

Action taken	
Note: All Documentation is Attached	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Categorical Exclusion (CX) <input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Assessment (EA) <input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) <input type="checkbox"/> Other Determinations:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Integral Elements <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NEPA Attachment Sheet <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Environmental Requirements/attached <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Maps/Figures
<p>Determination: Based on my review of information provided to me concerning the proposed action as NEPA Compliance Officer, I have determined that the proposed action meets the requirements for the categorical exclusion listed above. Therefore, I have determined that the proposed action may be categorically excluded from further NEPA review and documentation.</p>	
 Stephen C. Tuggle NEPA Compliance Officer	<p style="text-align: center;">6/11/10</p> Date <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Approved

bcc: Pinsonneau Amaro	File Code:	Assigned to: David Young	Project #: 100501	Environmental Specialist- Date: David Young - 5/11/2010
------------------------------------	-------------------	------------------------------------	-----------------------------	---

Western Area Power Administration Sierra Nevada Region	CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION (CX) DETERMINATION	Project Number 100501
---	---	--------------------------

Integral Elements

Project Title: Tracy Substation Double Breaker Double Bus Project

Category of Action:

- **B1.23** -Demolition/disposal of buildings;
- **B4.6** - Additions/modifications to electric power transmission facilities within a previously developed area;
- **B4.11** - Construction or modification of electric power substations;
- **B4.13** - Reconstruction and minor relocation of existing electric power lines approximately 20 miles in length or less;
- **B5.2** - Modifications to oil/gas/geothermal pumps and piping (i.e., removal of the existing oil piping and pumps); and
- **B6.1** – Small-scale, short-term cleanup actions, under RCRA, less than approximately 5 million dollars in cost and 5 years duration.
- **B6.1 (a)** – Excavation or consolidation of contaminated soils or materials from spill areas not receiving contaminated surface water or wastewater.
- **B6.1 (b)** – Removal of bulk containers (for example drums) that may contain contaminants.

Regulatory Requirements for a Categorical Exclusion Determination: The Department of Energy (DOE), National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Implementing Procedures, 10 CFR 1021.410(b) require the following determinations be made in order for a proposed action to be categorically excluded (see full text in regulation).

1. The proposed action fits within a class of action listed in Appendixes A and B to Subpart D. For classes of actions listed in Appendix B, the following conditions are integral elements; i.e., to fit within a class, the proposal must not:

- a. Threaten a violation of applicable statutory, regulatory, or permit requirements for environment, safety, and health, including requirements of DOE and/or Executive Orders.
- b. Require siting and construction or major expansion of waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment facilities, but may include categorically excluded facilities.
- c. Disturb hazardous substances, pollutants, contaminants, or CERCLA-excluded petroleum and natural gas products preexisting in the environment such that there would be uncontrolled or un-permitted releases; or
- d. Adversely affect environmentally sensitive resources (including but not limited to those listed in paragraph B (4)).

2. There are no extraordinary circumstances related to the proposal which may affect the significance of the environmental effects of the proposal;

3. The proposal is not connected to other actions with potentially significant impacts (40 CFR 1508.25(a)(I)), is not related to other actions with cumulatively significant impacts (40 CFR 1508.25(a)(2)), and is not precluded by 40 CFR 1506.1 or 10 CFR 1021.211.

Results of Review: In accordance with DOE environmental regulations (10 CFR 1021), The Western Area Power Administration (Western) has reviewed the proposed action in terms of the level of NEPA review needed. Based on this review, Western has determined the proposal is encompassed within a class of action listed in Appendix B to Subpart D (10 CFR 1021.410) which do not require preparation of either an environmental impact statement (EIS) or an environmental assessment (EA).

The proposed action meets the above regulatory criteria and there are no adverse environmental effects associated with this action.