RUSSELL CITY ENERGY CENTER (01-AFC-7C)
AMENDMENT NO. 1
DATA REQUESTS

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Technical Area: Reconductoring Project Impact Analysis
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BACKGROUND

The Petition to Amend (Section 2.3.3.2, pg. 2-15) for the Russell City Energy Center (RCEC) states that PG&E plans to reconductor seven miles of 115kV line from the Eastshore Substation to the Dumbarton Substation. The System Impacts Study of potential effects on the transmission system caused by operation of the RCEC shows that reconductoring of the "Eastshore to Dumbarton" 115kV transmission line is a reasonably foreseeable event. Due to this and the California Environmental Quality Act's requirement to examine foreseeable subsequent projects that result from a project, staff will need to analyze the potential environmental impacts of this reconductoring.

A similar reconductoring project impact analysis was completed for the Eastshore to San Mateo 230kV transmission line and is included as Appendix A to the Final Staff Assessment for RCEC (May 2001). Since similar information was provided by the project owner at an earlier date for a different reconductoring project impact analysis, staff strongly recommends that the project owner refer to this study in completing data responses to these data requests.

Staff needs the following information to complete the Reconductoring Project Impact Analysis for RCEC.

DATA REQUEST

1. The ownership, location, rating, and age of the line or substation/s;
2. A basic, layperson's discussion of the reconductoring process for the line, identifying the techniques used, equipment required, vehicles (land and air), personnel required, parking and staging areas needed, and time needed to complete the reconductoring. This shall include:
   - Candidate locations (if available) and average acreage needed for tension and pulling stations, or, alternatively, the approximate number of pulling and tension sites and the average acreage per site,
   - Stringing method (slack or tension),
   - Need for reel or other storage near the lines,
   - Method and access (cherry picker, climbing tower, etc) to unclip the old conductor, install sheaves, and clip in the new conductor and "tension" lines, and
   - General methodology for any needed tree trimming and brush clearing.

3. How access to the line and towers would be accomplished, including identifying any existing or needed access road to pull sites and staging areas;
4. If known, the location of any tower that would need to be modified or replaced, a basic description of the work that would be done to the tower, and a description of the potential impacts of that work;
5. Identity of any substations that will be added or expanded as a result of the reconductoring;
6. Recent aerial photographs (less than 5 years old) and topographic maps of the applicable line segments (i.e., the segments that would be replaced) with the transmission towers plotted on the photographs;
7. Identification of any sensitive habitats along the route by examining aerial photographs, conducting site visits, searching available databases (such as the Natural Diversity Database) and literature searches, etc;
8. Legible map(s) depicting biological resources (habitat, nesting areas, etc.) within 500 feet of the outside edges of the right of way for the transmission line corridor;
9. Identification of known cultural resource sites within ½ mile of the route based on a California Historic Resource Information System literature search and contact with the Native American Heritage Commission. This information should be provided as a legible map depicting the cultural sites, and must be submitted under confidential cover;
10. If any portion of the line is more than 45 years old, describe modifications/upgrades, if any, that have been made previously and provide any information indicative of the historic significance of the existing transmission line segment to be reconductored;
11. If an existing substation needs to be modified as a result of the proposed project, and it is more than 45 years old, describe modifications/upgrades, if any, that have been made previously, and provide any information indicative of the historic significance of the existing substation;
12. Legible map(s) showing existing land uses within 500 feet of the outside edges of the right of way, including identification of any school, hospital, daycare center, other sensitive receptors, and residential and commercial areas;
13. Identification of any potentially significant impact to the environment that may occur as the result of the reconductoring, construction technologies that are available to mitigate an impact, and mitigation measures that would reduce the impact to a less than significant level, including the standard environmental mitigation measures developed generically by the transmission owner and/or the California Public Utilities Commission for reconductoring projects;
14. Identity of any agency or other interested party with jurisdiction or permit approval authority over any part of the reconductoring project; and

15. In general, provide facts to support conclusions about the potential for impacts and feasible mitigation, including impact avoidance measures.