

July 16, 2009

**Public Notice for Water Quality Certification and/or Waste
Discharge Requirements (Dredge/Fill Projects)**

Pacific Gas and Electric Company
Line 21E Dig Sites Project
WDID No. 1B09071WNSO

Sonoma County

On June 3, 2009, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received an application from Ms. Michele Barlow of Insignia Environmental, on behalf of Pacific Gas and Electric Company (Applicant), requesting Federal Clean Water Act, section 401, Water Quality Certification (certification) for the Line 21E Dig Sites Project (Project), located in Sonoma County. The Project is located at 108 and 388 Lytton Station Road, southeast of the Town of Geyserville, and involves three separate locations at latitude 38.663961° N and longitude 122.873119° W; latitude 38.666139° N and longitude 122.873739° W; and 38.667739° N and longitude 122.874169° W. The Project involves assessing and repairing anomalies in underground pipeline at three sites. The proposed Project will cause temporary impacts to approximately 0.56 acres of waters of the State associated with seasonal wetlands in the Geyserville Hydrologic Sub Area No. 114.25, Russian River Hydrologic Unit No. 114.00.

The purpose of the Project is to meet Department of Transportation standards by investigating and repairing possible weak points in existing underground pipeline.

The Applicant proposes to expose the pipeline at each of the three sites by excavating an area of no more than 20 feet by 50 feet with a depth of approximately 12 feet. This will allow for the installation of shoring and possible repairs, which may include the placement of sleeves or mechanical bands on weak points. The proposed excavations will be surrounded by approximately 100 foot by 100 foot square work areas which will be temporarily disturbed by equipment movement and sidecast soils. The Applicant proposes to backfill all three excavations with the original native soil. The upper 12 inches of topsoil will be removed first, stored separately and replaced after the subsoil has been returned to the excavated areas. An approximately ten foot wide strip of land will be disturbed along the access paths to the three sites, totaling approximately 0.03 acres. A small temporary bridge will be placed over a drainage ditch to allow access to one of the three sites.

Work activities will be conducted during the dry season. Ground disturbance will be limited to the minimum necessary and all disturbed ground will be allowed to revegetate naturally by stockpiling the top 12 inches of soil from the excavation and replacing it at each finished excavation site. Silt fences or other erosion control measures will be used as necessary to avoid delivery of sediment into sensitive areas during construction. Additionally, all required Best Management Practices (BMPs) shall be on-site and ready for timely deployment before the start of construction activities.

Compensatory mitigation will consist of returning all three sites to preconstruction conditions. The Applicant will monitor the areas to ensure no permanent impacts result from the construction activities and reseed or revegetate with native vegetation as necessary.

The Regional Water Board will file a Notice of Exemption pursuant to California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) guidelines, 15301. Existing Facilities, in accordance with the California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15062.

Applicant has applied to US Army Corps of Engineers for a Clean Water Act Section 404 Nationwide Permit, Number 12, Utility Line Activities.

Staff is proposing to regulate this Project pursuant to Section 401 of the Clean Water Act (33 USC 1341) and/or Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act Authority. In addition, staff will consider all comments submitted in writing and received at this office by mail during a 21-day comment period that begins on the first date of issuance of this letter and ends at 5:00 p.m. on the last day of the comment period. If you have any questions or comments, please contact staff member Stephen Bargsten at (707) 576-2653, or at sbargsten@waterboards.ca.gov, within 21 days of posting of this notice.

This is a brief summary of this Project; all related documents and comments received are on file and may be inspected or copied at the Regional Water Board office, 5550 Skylane Boulevard, Suite A, Santa Rosa, California. Appointments are recommended for document review. Appointments can be made by calling (707) 576-2220.