

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

DISTRICT 8

PLANNING AND LOCAL ASSISTANCE (MS 725)

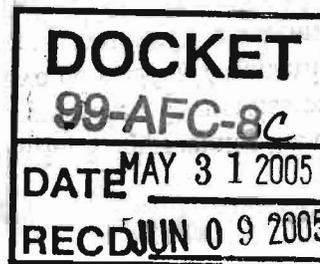
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May 31, 2005

Mr. Jack Caswell
California Energy Commission
1516 Ninth Street, MS 40
Sacramento, CA 95814-5512

Dear Mr. Caswell:

Blythe Energy Project Transmission Line Modification Amendment Petition (99-AFC-8C)
Preliminary Staff Assessment
08 RIV I 10 PM 90.119 (Hayfield Rd.) & 146.898 (Keim Rd.)

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), District 8, appreciates the opportunity to review the Preliminary Staff Assessment for the Blythe Energy Project Transmission Line Modification Amendment. The project proposes to install two new 230-kV transmission lines of approximately 67.4 miles and 6.7 miles. There are three locations where the transmission lines would transversely cross Interstate 10 (I-10), and one location where the lines would run longitudinally to I-10. Single pole concrete supports for the overhead lines would also be placed near the freeway and buried to a depth of 20 feet.

This project as proposed will require a Caltrans Encroachment Permit. Chapter 6, Utilities, of the Encroachment Permit is most applicable to this project. The following noted sections of Chapter 6 are several applicable standards, which should be reviewed and incorporated into the project in the design and construction process. The highlighted sections may not represent all of the applicable requirements for the proposed utility work.

- 1) 602—where it says the design should be in compliance of Section 309 of the Highway Design Manual, which deals with clearances of the power line and power pole. The power line shall be at minimum 5.1 meters, vertical clearance over the roadbed for the travel way and shoulder at both crossing locations.
- 2) 606—ENCROACHMENTS ON FREEWAYS AND EXPRESSWAYS
- 3) 606.3—Transverse Encroachments & Table 6.1
- 3) 608—ENCROACHMENTS ON STRUCTURES
- 4) 614—EXCEPTIONS TO POLICY AND STANDARDS

5) 619—FREEWAY AERIAL (Permit Code UF)

TABLE 6.1 # 13. Supports for overhead lines crossing freeways:

- Should be placed near the right of way line with a minimum lateral clearance of 30' (9.14 m) from the edge of an ultimate through lane.
- Shall be located outside the controlled access right-of-way. Any other placement must be approved by the Program Manager, DLP.
- Should not be permitted in median areas except for temporary guard poles to support netting for overhead line installation.
- Should not be permitted on cut or fill slopes.
- Shall not impair sight distances.
- Consideration should be given to underground facilities when spanning roadways is not feasible.

TABLE 6.7 Requirements for Line Supports for Overhead Lines Crossing Freeways

Encroachment Permits:

- Any proposed alterations to existing improvements within State right-of-way shall only be performed upon issuance of a valid Encroachment Permit and must conform to current Caltrans design standards and construction practices.
- Review and approval of street, grading and drainage construction plans and related studies will be necessary prior to Caltrans' permit issuance, if applicable to the project.

Information regarding permit application and submittal requirements may be obtained by contacting:

Office of Permits
Department of Transportation
464 West 4th Street, 6th Floor, MS-619
San Bernardino, CA 92401-1400
(909) 383-4526

Or you may visit our web page at <http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/traffops/developserv/permits/> then click Permit Applications/Forms.

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These comments are based upon a review of the materials provided for our evaluation. If this proposal is revised in any way, please forward appropriate project information to this Office so that updated recommendations for impact mitigation may be provided.

We appreciate the opportunity to offer comments concerning this project. If you have any questions regarding this letter and the email sent on May 3, 2005, please contact Mark Roberts, IGR/CEQA Liaison at (909) 383-2515 for assistance.

Please contact Mr. Derrick Hawkins at (909) 383-7451 for any assistance regarding the Encroachment Permit process and application.

Sincerely,



DANIEL KOPULSKY
Office Chief
Special Studies, IGR/CEQA Review

c: Mark Roberts
Derrick Hawkins