



California Public Utilities Commission
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PRESS RELEASE

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**CPUC RELEASES DRAFT DOCUMENT FOR
PROPOSED SUNRISE TRANSMISSION PROJECT**

SAN FRANCISCO, July 11, 2008 - The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC), in coordination with the U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM), today released the Re-circulated Draft Environmental Impact Report (RDEIR)/Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement (SDEIS) for San Diego Gas and Electric Company's (SDG&E) proposed 150-mile Sunrise Powerlink Transmission Project.

The public has until August 25, 2008, to review the document and provide written comments to the CPUC and BLM. During that 45-day period the CPUC and BLM will conduct two workshops to answer questions about the document and the analysis contained in it. The workshops will be held on August 4, 2008, from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. and from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Highlands Senior Citizens Center, 44681 Old Highway 80, Jacumba, CA.

The CPUC and BLM published a Draft EIR/EIS in January 2008, and received approximately 2,500 pages of written comments and transcripts of oral comments. Responses to all comments, including comments on the Draft EIR/EIS and the re-circulated version, will be published in the Final EIR/EIS, which is expected to be published in October 2008.

The RDEIR/SDEIS includes three components: First, it presents a new and revised analysis of the La Rumorosa Wind Project, to incorporate analysis of a 1,250 megawatt



wind project in Mexico and associated transmission and substation components in the U.S. Second, it includes description and analysis of 13 transmission line route revisions along the proposed route and alternatives. Some of these reroutes would affect new landowners, change the potential impact on already-affected landowners, or change the environmental impact of the route described in the Draft EIR/EIS. Finally, it describes the revision of components of the Environmentally Superior Alternatives that were identified in the Draft EIR/EIS for northern and southern transmission line routes.

The re-circulated draft document confirms the same ranking of alternatives that was identified in the January 2008 Draft EIR/EIS: there are five “environmentally superior” alternatives to the proposed project. Environmentally superior alternatives create fewer significant and unmitigated impacts than the proposed project, though they do not necessarily meet all of the proposed project’s objectives. The environmentally superior alternatives include two in-basin generation scenarios and four alternative transmission line routes, including construction of an electrically similar transmission line along a southern route paralleling Interstate 8 that cuts north after collocating 36 miles with the existing Southwest Powerlink line, thus avoiding Anza–Borrego Desert State Park.

The Draft EIR/EIS, the RDEIR/SDEIS, and the final version, are intended to inform the public as well as the CPUC and BLM decision-makers, but not dictate the outcome of their decisions. Thus, the documents do not make a recommendation regarding the approval or denial of SDG&E’s proposed project. They are purely informational and, when finalized, will be used by the CPUC and BLM in considering whether to approve the proposed project or any of the alternatives analyzed in the documents.

Electronic copies of the RDEIR/SDEIS and additional information about the proposed project are available at www.cpuc.ca.gov/Environment/info/aspensunrise/sunrise.htm.

Hard copies of the draft EIR/EIS can be requested by phone or fax at (866) 711-3106 or by e-mail at sunrise@aspenerg.com.

The schedule for the remainder of the Sunrise proceeding is as follows:



RDEIR/SDEIS Workshops Conducted by Environmental Review Team	August 4, 2008
Public Comments Due on RDEIR/SDEIS	August 25, 2008
Final EIR/EIS Published	October 2008
Proposed Decision Mailed	November 2008
First CPUC Decision Opportunity	December 2008

For more information on the CPUC, please visit www.cpuc.ca.gov.

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