Decision 12-11-027 November 29, 2012

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Application of Southern California Edison Company (U338E) for a Permit to Construct Electrical Facilities with Voltages between 50 kV and 200 kV: Downs Substation Project.	Application 10-12-016 (Filed December 29, 2010)

DECISION GRANTING SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EDISON COMPANY PERMIT TO CONSTRUCT ELECTRICAL FACILITIES WITH VOLTAGES BETWEEN 50 KV AND 200 KV: DOWNS SUBSTATION PROJECT

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DECISION GRANTING SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EDISON COMPANY PERMIT TO CONSTRUCT ELECTRICAL FACILITIES WITH VOLTAGES BETWEEN 50 KV AND 200 KV: DOWNS SUBSTATION PROJECT

1. Summary

This decision grants Application 10-12-016 by Southern California Edison Company (SCE) for a Permit to Construct the proposed project known as the Downs Substation Project to Construct Facilities with Voltages Between 50 kilovolts (kV) and 200 kV (Proposed Project). In this application, SCE says the substation upgrade and expansion is necessary to serve increased electricity demand in the area, and to improve system reliability and operational flexibility. Approval of this application allows SCE to expand the existing 33/12 kV substation to a 115/12 kV substation containing a 115 kV switchrack, to route an existing 115 kV subtransmission line into and out of the substation, and to install a fiber optic telecommunication system including 58 miles of cable. Currently, the Downs substation occupies approximately one acre. The substation would be expanded to occupy an additional 2.5 acres.

The Proposed Project would:

1. Upgrade and expand the existing Downs 33/12 kV Substation to a 115/12 kV substation containing a 115 kV switchrack and approximately 1,055 feet of new access roads.
2. Upgrade protection relays inside the mechanical and electrical equipment room at Inyokern, McGen and Searles Substations.
3. Route an existing 115 kV subtransmission line into and out of the Downs Substation.
4. Install a fiber optic telecommunication system (including 58 miles of fiber optic telecommunication cable, generally located aboveground on existing 115 kV poles with a few

short segments ranging from a few hundred feet to a few thousand feet placed underground to allow interconnection to the Ridgecrest Service Center and the Inyokern, McGen, and Searles Substations) to provide communication circuits for the protection, monitoring, and control of subtransmission and substation equipment.

5. As part of the fiber optic telecommunication system in order to meet General Order 95 standards for loading, replacement of six 115 kV subtransmission line poles along the Inyokern-McGen-Searles No. 1 115 kV subtransmission line near the community of Trona in San Bernardino County. No new access roads are planned for installation of the fiber optic telecommunications line.

As the lead agency for environmental review, we find the Final Mitigated Negative Declaration prepared for this project meets the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act.[1]

This proceeding is closed.

2. Background

Southern California Edison Company (SCE) is an investor-owned public utility providing both electricity service in southern, central and coastal California. SCE serves approximately 14 million people through an interconnected and integrated system that generates, transmits, and distributes electric energy over a 50,000 square mile service territory.

The Proposed Project is located in Kern County and San Bernardino County. The Downs Substation is located in the city of Ridgecrest, population 25,895, in Kern County. The modification to the Inyokern-McGen-Searles No. 1 115 kilovolts (kV) subtransmission line includes replacing poles in

[1] Public Resources Code Section 21000, *et seq.*

San Bernardino County in the Searles Valley (population 2,073), near the unincorporated communities of Trona and Argus. The 58 miles of new fiber optic telecommunications cable would traverse the city of Ridgecrest and the unincorporated communities of Inyokern (population 1,891), China Lake Acres (population 1,488), Argus and Trona.[2]

The purpose of the project is to accommodate anticipated load growth and to improve system reliability and enhance operational flexibility. The existing Downs 33/12 kV Substation serves an Electric Needs Area consisting of portions of the city of Ridgecrest and surrounding areas of unincorporated Kern County and San Bernardino County.

This Electrical Needs Area is defined by the areas where customers are served from the 12 kV distribution circuits originating from the Downs Substation. The Electrical Needs Area encompasses approximately 13,000 SCE metered customers.

The Downs 33/12 kV Substation reduces voltage from 33 kV to a distribution voltage of 12 kV with two 22.4 megavolt ampere (MVA) subtransformers. The amount of load that can be served is limited to a total thermal maximum operating limit of 50.8 MVA. The substation currently receives its power from a 33 kV source at the Inyokern Substation. Power is transmitted from the Inyokern Substation to the Downs Substation directly, and

[2] Population estimates are from U.S. Census, 2009 data referenced at page B.3-180 of the Final Mitigated Negative Declaration and Supporting Initial Study (Final MND) dated July 2012. The Final MND is based on the Draft Mitigated Negative Declaration and Supporting Initial Study issued in January 2012 (Draft IS/MND). The Final MND includes the Errata Sheet issued in October 2012. Project background and specifics of the Proposed Project are from SCE's application as well as the Final MND and the Draft IS/MND.

also feeds the Ridgecrest 33/4.8 kV Substation and a substation at the China Lake Naval Air Weapons Station. Based upon historical peak demand, SCE has determined that the Electrical Needs Area has seen load growth averaging two percent per year. This load growth is anticipated to continue and drives the need for the Proposed Project.[3]

The Proposed Project would also help address reliability and operational flexibility issues within the Electrical Needs Area. For example, (1) currently if there was an event of loss of a single transformer at the Inyokern 115/33 kV Substation, remaining system capacity would be insufficient to serve the entire Electrical Needs Area; (2) the current network arrangement limits operational flexibility; and (3) the current network arrangement requires protective relays to assure that transformer and bus faults are cleared. There is a risk that these protective relays could falsely trip the entire substation for a non-fault event. The Proposed Project would effectively address these capacity, reliability and operational flexibility issues.[4]

SCE plans to start construction in August 2013 and continue through May 2014. The projected in-service date is June 2014.[5]

3. The Proposed Project

The existing Downs Substation is a 33/12 kV substation, using 33 kV from Inyo to serve the area. The Proposed Project would upgrade and expand the existing Downs Substation to 115/12 kV substation.

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[3] *See* Final MND at B.1-8 – B.1.9.

[4] *See* Final MND at B.1.8 – B.1.9.

[5] *See* Final MND at A-1.

3.1. Substation Upgrades/Expansion

The Proposed Project includes the following changes to the Downs Substation. A new 115 kV switchrack would be added to the substation. The switchrack would be up to 35 feet high, 106 feet wide and 250 feet long and would consist of eight positions. Three 28 MVA 115/12 kV transformers would be installed and the existing 33/12 kV transformers would be removed. The existing 12 kV switchrack would remain but the operating and transfer buses would be extended one position. 3,500 ampere rated circuit breakers and disconnect switches would be installed. The volt direct current control power would be upgraded and other equipment would be replaced. A mechanical and electrical engineering room (MEER) would be equipped and connected to the switchracks and the new fiber optic telecommunications system. The new fiber optic telecommunications system would be housed in the MEER. A permanent restroom would be installed.

Currently, the substation is accessed from Downs Street. An additional access driveway would be constructed from Ridgecrest Boulevard and extend approximately 55 feet. Another approximately 1000 feet of access road would be constructed to loop into and out of the substation. The entrance would include an automated entry gate and personnel gate. SCE will obtain all permits required by the city of Ridgecrest for this driveway.

The Proposed Project will also entail a design to accommodate drainage of stormwater during construction and after completion of construction in accordance with law. The substation will be surrounded by an eight-foot high chain-link fence topped with barbed-wire.

New protective relays and related telecommunications equipment will be installed at the MEERs of Inyokern Substation, McGen Substation, and Searles Substation.

3.2. Subtransmission Line Routing Description

The existing Inyokern-McGen-Searles No. 2 115 kV Subtransmission Line would be modified to form two separate subtransmission lines terminating at the Downs Substation: the Downs-McGen-Searles 115 kV subtransmission line and the Downs-Inyokern 115 kV subtransmission line. The Downs Substation is located at the southwest corner of Downs Street and Ridgecrest Boulevard. Currently, the Inyokern-McGen-Searles No. 2 115 kV line runs near the border of the Downs Substation, first traveling north along Downs Street and then turning west on Ridgecrest Boulevard. Once modified, the Downs-McGen-Searles line would be routed into the Downs Substation prior to reaching Ridgecrest Boulevard and the Downs-Inyokern line would exit the Downs Substation on Ridgecrest Boulevard.

Downs-McGen-Searles 115 kV subtransmission line will add a segment 800 circuit feet in length. The initial design calls for the following:

a. Along Downs Street, two wood poles, one Light Weight Steel (LWS) pole, and one Tubular Steel Pole (TSP) would be installed.
b. On the expanded Downs Substation property, two TSPs and one LWS pole would be installed.
c. Along Downs Street, two existing wood poles would be topped, and the 115 kV conductor and related line hardware would be removed.
d. One existing wood pole would be removed along Downs Street.
e. A Fault Return Conductor (FRC) would be installed at the getaway TSP (first structure to which a line or cable is

routed after the line or cable leaves a substation) located at the Downs Substation.

The Downs-Inyokern 115 kV subtransmission line will add a segment of approximately 200 circuit feet. The initial design calls for:

a. Along Ridgecrest Boulevard, one TSP would be installed.
b. On the expanded Downs Substation property, one TSP would be installed.
c. Along Ridgecrest Boulevard, two existing wood poles would be topped, and the 115-kV conductor and related line hardware would be removed.
d. One existing wood pole would be reframed.
e. An FRC would be installed at the getaway TSP located at Downs Substation.

Installing the FRCs will require trenching. The poles will be consistent with the Suggested Practices for Raptor Protection on Power Lines: the State of the Art in 2006 (APLIC, 2006). The TSPs will be two to four feet in diameter and extend 75 to 80 feet above grade. The TSPs would be attached to concrete foundations that extend underground approximately 20 to 30 feet, with zero to three feet of visible concrete above grade.

The LWS poles would be buried to a depth of approximately eight to ten feet below grade and extend approximately 65 to 70 feet above grade. The diameter of the LWS poles would be approximately two to three feet.

3.3. Fiber Optic Telecommunication System

A new fiber optic telecommunications system would be installed to provide communications circuits for the protection, monitoring, and control of subtransmission and substation equipment.

The new fiber optic system would include 58 miles of new fiber optic communication cable and 10 miles of existing fiber optic telecommunication cable.

The new fiber optic telecommunication system would also include installing new equipment at the following locations: the Ridgecrest Service Center, and the Inyokern, Downs, Searles, and McGen Substations.

Preliminary engineering has determined that the fiber optic communications cable installation would require replacement of at least six existing poles on the Inyokern-McGen-Searles No. 1 115 kV subtransmission line. These are wood poles that would not meet General Order (GO) 95 wind loading requirements and/or SCE design standards. The new wood poles would have various heading configurations and range between 65 to 70 feet above grade. They would be located on the existing Inyokern-McGen-Searles No. 1 115 kV subtransmission line. The diameter of the wood poles would be approximately two to three feet and they would be buried to a depth of approximately 8 to 10 feet.

4. Notice and Procedural Issues

Due process requires that affected parties be provided adequate notice and opportunity to be heard, such that they can timely protest and participate in the Commission's environmental review and analysis of the Proposed Project. For permits to construct (PTCs), the utility must comply with notice requirements

described in GO 131-D, Section XI.A. In pertinent part, Section XI.A requires the following forms of notice:

1. By direct mail to:
2. The planning commission and the legislative body for each county or city in which the proposed facility would be located, the CEC [California Energy Commission], the State Department of Transportation and its Division of Aeronautics, the Secretary of the Resources Agency, the Department of Fish and Game, the Department of Health Services, the State Water Resources Control Board, the Air Resources Board, and other interested parties having requested such notification. The utility shall also give notice to the following agencies and subdivisions in whose jurisdiction the proposed facility would be located: the Air Pollution Control District, the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, the State Department of Transportation's District Office, and any other State or Federal agency which would have jurisdiction over the proposed construction; and
    a. All owners of land on which the proposed facility would be located and owners of property within 300 feet of the right-of-way as determined by the most recent local assessor's parcel roll available to the utility at the time notice is sent.
2. By advertisement not less than once a week, two weeks successively, in a newspaper or newspapers of general circulation in the county or counties in which the proposed facilities will be located, the first publication to be not later than ten days after filing of the application; and
3. By posting a notice on-site and off-site where the project would be located.

SCE represents that it has complied with the above applicable notice requirements.

Notice of the application itself also appeared in the Commission's January 5, 2011 Daily Calendar. No protests were filed.

We therefore find that the application was properly noticed, and affirm the preliminary determinations made in Resolution ALJ 176-3267 (January 13, 2011) that this proceeding is categorized as ratesetting and that an evidentiary hearing is not necessary.

5. Requirements for a PTC

GO 131-D, Section I, defines an electric "power line" as one designed to operate between 50 and 200 kV. Section III.B of GO 131-D requires utilities to first obtain Commission authorization, in the form of a PTC, before beginning construction of a power line.

Under GO 131-D, Section IX.B.1.f, PTC applications for power lines need not include a detailed analysis of purpose and necessity, a detailed estimate of cost and economic analysis, a detailed schedule, or a detailed description of construction methods beyond that required for compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). PTC applications must, however:

1) include a description of the proposed facilities and related costs, a map, reasons the route was selected, positions of the government agencies having undertaken review of the project, and a Proponent's Environmental Assessment (PEA). (Section IX.B.1);
2) show compliance with the provisions of CEQA (Public Resources Code Section 21000, *et seq*.) related to the proposed project, including the requirement to meet various public notice provisions (Section IX.B.2-5); and
3) describe the measures to be taken or proposed by the utility to reduce the potential for exposure to electric and magnetic fields (EMF) generated by the proposed project (Section X).

These requirements are discussed separately below.

6. Proposed Facilities Description

The subject application describes the facilities proposed and includes a map of the project in an attached PEA.

The Proposed Project is located in Kern County and San Bernardino County. The Downs Substation located in the city of Ridgecrest will be upgraded to a 115/12 kV substation and the existing 115 kV subtransmission line which is located adjacent to the substation will be rerouted into the substation. Protective relays will be installed at Inyokern, McGen and Searles Substations. A fiber optic telecommunications system will be installed, including 58 miles of new cable which will be hung on existing subtransmission line poles near the communities of Inyokern, China Lakes Acres, Argus and Trona. Six existing poles will be replaced near Trona in San Bernardino County. The Proposed Project will serve expected load growth and improve system reliability and operations flexibility. Although most facilities will be installed within existing easements and franchises, an easement is likely required for one new 115 kV wood stub pole located along Downs Avenue. New access roads of approximately 1,055 feet in length will be installed at the Downs Substation, including 55 feet of driveway connected to Ridgecrest Boulevard. No new access roads are planned for the installation of the fiber optic cable.

The list of governmental agencies that were contacted regarding the project include: the city of Ridgecrest, the County of Kern, the County of San Bernardino, the United States Bureau of Land Management, the United States Department of Navy and the Native American Heritage Commission, United States Army Corps of Engineers, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, the California Department of Fish and Game, and the California Department of Transportation.

7. Environmental Review and EMF Compliance

CEQA requires that the Commission consider the environmental consequences before acting upon or approving the Project.[6] Under CEQA, the Commission must act as either the lead agency or a responsible agency for project approval. The lead agency is the public agency with the greatest responsibility for supervising or approving the project as a whole.[7] Here, the Commission is the lead agency. The actions and steps taken for environmental review of the Project, in accordance with GO 131-D and CEQA, are discussed below.

7.1. Proponent's Environmental Assessment

Pursuant to GO 131-D, Section IX.B.1.e, the application must include a PEA. SCE filed its PEA in this proceeding on December 29, 2010. This PEA describes the environmental setting, regulations, and Applicant Proposed Measures (APMs) for minimizing potential effects and evaluates potential environmental impacts that could result from construction and operation of the Project. With implementation of the APMs, the PEA finds that potential impacts would occur with minimal environmental impacts in a manner consistent with applicable rules and regulations. The PEA filed by SCE contains a project description and maps and diagrams.

SCE's APMs were incorporated into the Proposed Project's design, construction and operation plans to minimize potential environmental impacts.

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[6] California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Chapter 3 (CEQA Guidelines), Section 15050(b).

[7] CEQA Guidelines, Section 15050(b).

7.2. Draft IS/MND

As the next step in the environmental review, the Commission's Energy Division reviewed the PEA and prepared an Initial Study (IS) to address the environmental issues related to the project. On May 2, 2011, the Energy Division informed SCE by letter that the application was deemed complete for purposes of reviewing environmental impacts, and began preparing an IS. Where potentially significant impacts were identified by the IS, additional mitigation measures were added by Energy Division, superseding or supplementing existing APMs to further reduce impacts to a less than significant level.[8]

In October 2011, the Energy Division released for public review a Draft IS/Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) for the Proposed Project. The Draft IS/MND found that approval of the Proposed Project will have no, or a less than significant, environmental impact in the following areas: aesthetics; greenhouse gases; land use; mineral resources; population and housing; public services; recreation; and utilities and service systems.

The Draft IS/MND also found that, with mitigation incorporated, approval of the project would result in no, or less than significant, impacts in the areas of: agricultural resources; air quality; biological resources; cultural resources; geology and soils; hazards and hazardous materials; hydrology and water quality; noise; and transportation and traffic.

7.3. Mitigation Monitoring Plan (MMP)

As required by CEQA, the Draft IS/MND included a MMP. The MMP describes the mitigation measures, specifically details how each mitigation

[8] *See* discussion in Final MND at A3-A26.

measure will be implemented, and includes information on the timing of implementation and monitoring requirements. The Commission also uses the MMP as a guide and record of monitoring the utility's compliance with its provisions. The final MMP is contained in the Final MND. An errata sheet revising Mitigation Measure V-2 (Surface Treatment Plan) was issued in October 2012. SCE has agreed to and shall comply with each measure and provision of the MMP. The Commission adopts the MMP as part of its approval of the Proposed Project.[9]

7.4. Electric and Magnetic Fields (EMFs)

The Commission has examined EMF impacts in several previous proceedings.[10] We found the scientific evidence presented in those proceedings was uncertain as to the possible health effects of EMFs and we did not find it appropriate to adopt any related numerical standards. Because there is no agreement among scientists that exposure to EMF creates any potential health risk, and because CEQA does not define or adopt any standards to address the potential health risk impacts of possible exposure to EMFs, the Commission does not consider magnetic fields in the context of CEQA and determination of environmental impacts.

However, recognizing that public concern remains, we do require, pursuant to GO 131-D, Section X.A, that all requests for a PTC include a description of the measures taken or proposed by the utility to reduce the potential for exposure to EMFs generated by the Proposed Project. We developed an interim policy that requires utilities, among other things, to

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[9] CEQA Guideline Section 15074(d).

[10] *See* Decision (D.) 06-01-042 and D.93-11-013.

identify the no-cost measures undertaken, and the low-cost measures implemented, to reduce the potential EMF impacts. The benchmark established for low-cost measures is four percent of the total budgeted project cost that results in an EMF reduction of at least 15 percent (as measured at the edge of the utility right-of-way).

There are currently no applicable regulations related to EMF levels from power lines or substations. SCE's proposed Field Management Plan states that the Proposed Project is consistent with the Commission's EMF policy and with SCE's EMF Design Guidelines (2006). It evaluates "no-cost and low-cost" magnetic field reduction design options for the Downs Substation project and incorporates several design options into the design of the Proposed Project. These design options include using subtransmission structure heights that meet or exceed SCE's preferred EMF design criteria; using subtransmission line construction that reduces the space between conductors compared to other designs, placing major substation electrical equipment away from substation property lines, and configuring the transfer and operating busses with the transfer bus closest to the property line. We adopt the proposed Field Management Plan and require SCE to comply with it.

7.5. Public Notice and Review

On January 23, 2012, the Energy Division published a Notice of Intent to Adopt an MND, and released the Draft IS/MND for a 30-day public review and comment period.

The Draft IS/MND was distributed to federal, state and local agencies; property owners within 300 feet of the Proposed Project; and other interested parties (identified in the Draft IS/MND). A Public Notice of the Proposed Project also was published in the local newspaper, announcing the availability of the

Draft IS/MND. A public meeting was held on January 30, 2012 in the city of Ridgecrest. The 30-day public review and comment period ended on February 21, 2012.

Comment letters on the Draft IS/MND were received from: the Native American Heritage Commission; the Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District; the California Department of Transportation, District 9; the California Department of Fish and Game, Central Region; the County of San Bernardino, Land Use Services Department, Planning Division; and Southern California Edison. The city of Ridgecrest, Public Works submitted a comment letter after the comment period. Those comments and the Commission's responses to those comments are contained in the Final MND.

7.6. Final MND

A Final MND was prepared pursuant to CEQA guidelines, and released by the Energy Division on July 24, 2012. The Final MND addresses all aspects of the Draft IS/MND, includes the comments received on the Draft IS/MND and the responses to those comments by the lead agency, and includes a final version of the MMP.

Although a few revisions were made to clarify and revise certain mitigation measures described in the Draft IS/MND, the Final MND does not identify any new significant environmental impacts, and does not omit any existing mitigation measures, from those identified in the Draft IS/MND.

Before granting the application, we must consider the Final MND.[11] We have done so and find that the Final MND (which incorporates the Draft IS/MND) was prepared in compliance with and meets the requirements of

[11] CEQA Guideline Section 15004(a).

CEQA. We further find that on the basis of the whole record, there is no substantial evidence that the Proposed Project will have a significant effect on the environment and that the Final MND reflects the Commission's independent judgments and analysis.[12] We adopt the Final MND it in its entirety, and incorporate it by reference in this decision approving the Proposed Project.

The Final MND concludes that the Proposed Project will not have a significant adverse impact on the environment, because the mitigation measures described therein, and agreed to and incorporated by SCE into the Proposed Project, will ensure that any potentially significant impacts that have been identified with the Proposed Project will remain at less than significant levels.

The IS/Draft MND and the Final MND are identified as reference exhibits A and B, respectively, and will be received into the record of this proceeding. The Final MND is available for inspection on the Commission's website at: http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/PUC/energy/Environment/.

8. Conclusion

Based on the analysis of the Draft IS/MND and the Final MND and the mitigation measures identified therein and incorporated into the Proposed Project, the Commission finds that the Proposed Project will not have a significant impact on the environment. We have reviewed the application and, after considering all of the above requirements, find it complete and in compliance with GO 131-D.

We conclude that granting this PTC is in the public interest and the application should be approved. Our order today adopts the Final MND (which

[12] CEQA Guideline Section 15074(b).

incorporates the Draft IS/MND) subject to the conditions therein, and authorizes work on the Proposed Project to begin. Before commencing construction of the Proposed Project, SCE must have in place all required permits, easements or other legal authority for the project site.

9. Waiver of Comment Period

No protests were filed to the application and no evidentiary hearing was held. Today's decision grants the relief requested in an uncontested matter. Accordingly, pursuant to Rule 14.6(c)(2), the otherwise applicable 30-day period for public review and comment is waived.

10. Assignment of Proceeding

Michael Peter Florio is the assigned Commissioner and Jeanne M. McKinney is the assigned ALJ in this proceeding.

Findings of Fact

1. SCE's application for a PTC conforms to GO 131-D.

2. The Proposed Project would (1) expand and install new equipment at the Downs Substation, (2) reroute the existing 115 kV lines, (3) install new fiberoptic telecommunications system including 58 miles of cable, (4) replace poles as necessary to comply with GO 95 standards, and (5) install additional equipment at other substations, and (6) install approximately 1,055 feet of access roads at Downs Substation, subject to SCE's compliance with the mitigation measures set forth in the Final MND and MMP.

3. The Proposed Project will primarily use existing easements and access, but may require one new easement and approximately 1,055 feet of new access roads.

4. The Proposed Project will serve expected load growth and improve reliability and flexibility of operations.

5. No protests were filed.

6. The Final MND (which incorporates the Draft IS/MND) related to the Proposed Project conforms to the requirements of CEQA.

7. The Final MND identified no significant environmental impacts of the Proposed Project that could not be avoided or reduced to non-significant levels with the mitigation measures described therein.

8. SCE represents that it has complied with the notice requirements for PTCs described in GO 131-D, Section XI.

9. The MMP, included as part of the Final MND, specifically describes the mitigation measures to be taken.

10. SCE agrees to comply with the mitigation measures described in the Final MND.

11. The Commission considered the Final MND in deciding to approve the Proposed Project.

12. The Final MND reflects the Commission's independent judgment.

13. Based on the mitigation measures included in the Final MND, the Proposed Project will not have a significant impact upon the environment.

14. The Proposed Project includes no-cost and low-cost measures (within the meaning of D.93-11-013, and D.06-01-042) to reduce possible exposure to EMF.

Conclusions of Law

1. This decision affirms the preliminary categorization of this proceeding in Resolution 176-3267 (January 13, 2011) as ratemaking and that no evidentiary hearings are necessary.

2. The Commission is the lead agency for compliance with the provisions of CEQA.

3. On the basis of the whole record, there is no substantial evidence that the Proposed Project built in compliance with the final MND will have a significant effect on the environment.

4. A Draft IS/MND analyzing the environmental impacts of the Proposed Project was processed in compliance with CEQA.

5. A Final MND on the Proposed Project was processed and completed in compliance with the requirements of CEQA.

6. The Final MND (which incorporates the Draft IS/MND and includes the MMP and Field Management Plan) should be adopted in their entirety.

7. Possible exposure to EMF has been reduced by the low-cost measures SCE will undertake to raise the height of certain structures, to reduce space between conductors, and to place major substation electrical equipment away from substation property line.

8. The Draft IS/MND should be identified, marked, and received into the record as Reference Exhibit A and the Final MND should be identified, marked, and received into the record as Reference Exhibit B.

9. SCE should obtain all necessary permits, easement rights or other legal authority for the project site prior to commencing construction.

10. SCE's application for a PTC should be approved, subject to the mitigation measures set forth in the Final MND.

11. The requirement for a 30-day period for public review and comment should be waived, pursuant to Rule 14.6(c)(2).

12. A.10-12-016 should be closed.

13. This order should be effective immediately so that construction of the Proposed Project can begin.

O R D E R

IT IS ORDERED that:

1. Southern California Edison Company (SCE) is granted a Permit to Construct the Downs Substation Project to Construct Facilities with Voltages Between 50 kilovolts (kV) and 200 kV, including (1) expanding and installing new equipment at the Downs Substation, (2) rerouting the existing 115 kV line, (3) installing new fiberoptic telecommunications system including 58 miles of cable, (4) replacing poles as necessary to comply with General Order 95, and (5) installing additional equipment at other substations, and (6) approximately 1,055 feet of access road at Downs Substation, subject to SCE's compliance with the mitigation measures set forth in the Final Mitigated Negative Declaration and Mitigation Monitoring Plan.

2. The Final Mitigated Negative Declaration (which incorporates the Draft Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration) is adopted pursuant to the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act, Public Resources Code §§ 21000 *et seq*.

3. The Mitigation Monitoring Plan, included as part of the Final Mitigated Negative Declaration, is adopted.

4. The Permit to Construct is subject to Southern California Edison Company's compliance with the mitigation measures set forth in the Final Mitigated Negative Declaration and Mitigation Monitoring Plan.

5. Southern California Edison Company shall have in place, prior to commencing construction, all of the necessary easements rights, or other legal authority, for the Proposed Project site.

6. The Draft Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration and the Final Mitigated Negative Declaration are identified, marked, and received into the record as Reference Exhibits A and B respectively.

7. Application 10-12-016 is closed.

This order is effective today.

Dated November 29, 2012, at San Francisco, California.

MICHAEL R. PEEVEY
President
TIMOTHY ALAN SIMON
MICHEL PETER FLORIO
CATHERINE J.K. SANDOVAL
MARK J. FERRON
Commissioners