Finding of No Significant Impact
for the
Sacramento Municipal Utility District
230 kV Folsom Dam Transmission Line Relocation
March 30, 2007

Lead Agency:
U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Reclamation
Mid-Pacific Region
Sacramento, California

Cooperating Agency:
U. S. Department of Energy
Western Area Power Administration
Sierra Nevada Region
Folsom, California

Local Agency:
Sacramento Municipal Utility District
Sacramento, California

This Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the issuance of a temporary license and a license outgrant for the Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD) 230 kV and 12 kV Folsom Dam Transmission Lines Relocation as been prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended, and the Council on Environmental Quality's Regulations for Implementing the Procedural Provisions of NEPA (40 CFR Parts 1500-1508). The Mid-Pacific Regional Office of the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) and the Western Area Power Administration, Sierra Nevada Region (Western) have determined that the Proposed Action will not significantly affect the quality of the environment; therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is not required.

1.0 BACKGROUND

SMUD owns and operates the double circuit Orangevale-Lake/Whiterock-Orangevale 230 kV transmission line that extends from east to west along the northern boundary of the State of California's Folsom Prison property. The transmission line is a critical portion of the regional electric grid and provides electricity from SMUD's Upper American River Project (UARP) hydro-electric facilities. These lines provide critical base load and peaking power to the SMUD service area and a portion of Placer County. SMUD also operates a 12kV line that is connected to a pad mount transformer (1-kmp-4) which serves the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) building on the east side of Folsom Dam. The 12 kV line extends northwest, paralleling the

current 230 kV line and terminates at the Corps building. A portion of the 12 kV service is located outside of SMUD's existing easement.

SMUD's Proposed Action consists of the removal and relocation of a section of the existing double circuit Orangevale-Lake/Whiterock Orangevale 230 kV transmission line presently located within the project footprint for the Folsom Bridge and road project (Corps and City of Folsom 2006) and the Folsom Auxiliary Spillway Project. The proposed relocation generally is midway between the future road and Folsom Dam, and adjacent to the existing Western Area Power Administration (Western) 230 kV Folsom-Roseville transmission line. SMUD also plans to relocate a portion of the 12 kV line. The project is located in the City of Folsom within Sacramento County in northern California. The project area encompasses approximately 106 acres located just below and parallel to Folsom Dam. The project area extends from Folsom Dam Road, west past Folsom-Auburn Road to near Lakeside Way. The City of Folsom and the Corps will be starting excavation of the Folsom Dam Road and bridge in April, 2007. Reclamation will be excavating Phase 1 of the Folsom Dam Auxiliary Spillway in fall 2007 and Phase 2 in approximately fall 2009.

SMUD, Reclamation, the Corps, Western, and the City of Folsom had originally planned a proposed alignment that started at SMUD existing Tower No. 279 (see Figure 2.3A) and proceeded on a northwest route across the proposed Folsom Dam Road and Folsom Dam Auxiliary Spillway, over the Western Folsom Dam Substation, and across Folsom-Auburn Road to the SMUD existing Tower No. 292. Relocating the transmission line over the Western Folsom Dam Substation will allow for the possible future connection of the SMUD transmission line to the substation. This possible future connection will be addressed by a separate environmental document. An Environmental Assessment for the proposed SMUD transmission line relocation was completed by Reclamation in March 2007. Section 7 Consultation has also been completed with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service. The Biological Opinion was received on March 29, 2007.

Recent developments related to the future Folsom Dam Auxiliary Spillway Project have resulted in Reclamation requiring SMUD to realign the proposed transmission line replacement section on the east side of the American River. SMUD will not be able to complete a new permanent transmission line alignment in time to avoid the Folsom Dam Road and bridge construction or replace the regional transmission line prior to SMUD's peak energy use period. Peak energy use generally begins around May 1 of each year. Therefore, SMUD has proposed a temporary transmission line alignment (see Figure 2.3A of the environmental assessment) that follows the original east alignment from existing SMUD Tower 279 through the proposed SMUD Structures K and 12B. The temporary line will then cross the proposed Folsom Dam road and auxiliary spillway to SMUD's existing Tower 281. SMUD will utilize its existing Towers 281, 285, and 286 and the existing overhead conductor proceeding west to the American River. SMUD will install a new conductor span from existing Tower 286 to the proposed Structure S located on west side of the river. The location of Structure S and the remaining SMUD Structures proceeding west will continue as originally proposed. SMUD will use existing access roads as originally planned to access both the proposed and existing SMUD structures and facilities.

The temporary route will resolve the conflicts with the alignment of SMUD's existing transmission line and the proposed Folsom Dam Road and Bridge project for Phase 1 of the Folsom Dam Auxiliary Spillway project, while replacing a critically important transmission line

to SMUD's regional electric grid. The route is temporary because Phase 2 of the auxiliary spillway project will require the relocation of the temporary alignment to a permanent alignment to be determined within the next two years. It is anticipated the temporary transmission line will remain in place for approximately one to two years. Reclamation will issue a temporary license agreement to SMUD for the temporary transmission line alignment on the east side of the American River with the understanding that SMUD will vacate the temporary alignment and remove the existing structures and overhead conductor between proposed SMUD Structures 12B and S.

This Proposed Action would provide continued reliable power service to SMUD customers during the activities associated with the Folsom Bridge and Folsom Dam Safety and Flood Damage Reduction projects. The Dam Safety efforts planned at Folsom, are under the authority of Reclamation, and the Flood Damage Reduction efforts, are under the authorities of the Corps. The temporary 230kV and 12kV transmission corridor will be constructed on Reclamation managed lands, therefore, Reclamation is the project proponent. Western is designated as a cooperating agency under NEPA for this action. Western's Federal action under this project involves Western issuing a License Outgrant to SMUD for that portion of SMUD's 230 kV line crossing over Western's Folsom Substation . Western also will issue a License Agreement to SMUD for the right to occupy the currently unused southern 125-feet of Western's existing 250-foot Folsom-Roseville (FOL-RSC) 230 kV transmission line easement for the relocation of the portion of SMUD's double-circuit Orangevale-Lake/Whiterock-Orangevale 230 kV overhead transmission line that will be located adjacent to the existing Western FOL-RSC transmission line. The issuance of a Lisence Outgrant on Western's part constitutes a Federal action requiring Western to comply with regulations set forth in NEPA. This document satisfies the regulatory requirements stipulated under NEPA.

2.0 FINDINGS

An EA has been prepared to disclose the potential environmental impacts of the proposed action in compliance with NEPA. The analysis presented in the EA evaluates the potential for the Proposed Action to impact the following resource categories:

Air Quality	Hazardous/Public Health and Worker Safety
Biological Resources	Noise
Cultural Resources	Transportation/Traffic
Geology and Soils	

During preparation of the EA, it became evident that the project would not impact several resources (i.e., agriculture; mineral resources; and population and housing) because they are not located in the project study area. Other environmental resources are present in the project study area, but no potential impacts were identified as a result of the Proposed Action and the Action Alternatives. These resources include: aesthetics/visual; hydrology and water quality; land use; and public services.

In accordance with NEPA, the CEQ implementation guidelines, and the EA for the SMUD 230 kV and 12 kV Folsom Dam Transmission Line Relocation, Reclamation and Western find that the Proposed Action will not result in significant impacts to the environment. The finding is supported by the following:

Air Quality

- Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District thresholds of significance and Environmental Protection Agency conformity thresholds for nitrogen oxides (NOx) would not be exceeded under the Proposed Action. Therefore, potential impacts associated with increases in NOx due to implementation of the Proposed Action would be less than significant, relative to the No Action Alternative.

Biological Resources

- Based on the minimal presence of vegetation within the staging areas and construction site, potential impacts of the Proposed Action on terrestrial vegetation and associated terrestrial resources would be less than significant, relative to the No Action Alternative.

- No direct impacts on the valley elderberry longhorn beetle (VELB) or its habitat (i.e., elderberry shrubs) would be expected to occur as a result of construction activities; however, disturbance of VELB and elderberry shrubs could result from dust accumulation and noise vibration. Impact avoidance measures incorporated into the Proposed Action would eliminate potential impacts on VELB and VELB habitat to less than significant. The Service concurs with Reclamation's determination that the project may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect the beetle.

- Although bald eagles could be present in the local project setting during the construction period, this species is rare, does not nest in the area, and is highly mobile. Under the Proposed Action, disturbances associated with excavation and fill activities are not anticipated to affect roosting areas or foraging habitat of the bald eagle. Therefore, potential impacts to bald eagles from the Proposed Action would less than significant, relative to the No Action Alternative. The Service concurred in Biological Opinion with Reclamation's determination that the proposed project would not effect on the bald eagle.

Cultural Resources

- Reclamation and SMUD have consulted with the State of California's Historic Preservation Officer and the U.S. Advisory Council on Historic Preservation to ensure compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. Reclamation has determined that the proposed alteration in the powerline alignment has no potential to affect historic properties.

Geology and Soils

- Potential impacts to geology and soils within the project study area as a result of the Proposed Action are considered less than significant, relative to the No Action Alternative.

Hazardous/Public Health and Worker Safety

- Project operation and maintenance activities, with regard to use of hazardous substances, would not differ from those performed under existing conditions. Consequently, no increased risk associated with substances used and stored on site would occur from

operation and maintenance activities. Therefore, the increased risk to public health from the Proposed Action would be less than significant..

- As part of construction management, a right-to-know reporting program would be implemented and project contractors would be responsible for enforcing worker standards procedures for the correct handling and storage of various commercially available substances. SMUD and Reclamation would also ensure that the construction contractor complies with appropriate hazardous materials regulations. SMUD will have Hazmat cleanup equipment and materials (i.e., absorbent pads) on site to ensure proper management of hazardous materials used during construction or encountered unexpectedly during construction. Best construction practices for hazardous materials have been incorporated into the design and construction of the project. With these measures in place, the risk to workers from accidental fires and explosions related to commercially available hazardous materials will be less than significant, relative to the No Action Alternative.

Noise

- County of Sacramento and City of Folsom noise ordinances would not be exceeded under the Proposed Action. Therefore, potential impacts associated with increases in noise due to implementation of the Proposed Action would be less than significant, relative to the No Action Alternative.

Transportation and Traffic

- Construction activities under the Proposed Action would generate 20 or fewer daily trips on local area roadways. This small number of daily trips generated by the Proposed Action would result in a less-than-significant impact on local traffic, relative to the No Action Alternative.

3.0 CONCLUSION

Reclamation and Western have fully evaluated the information and analysis contained in the EA for the relocation of the SMUD 230 kV and 12 kV Folsom Dam Transmission Line. On the basis of these considerations, Reclamation and Western have determined that the EA adequately addresses the environmental issues and impacts of the Proposed Action and finds that the Proposed Action will not significantly impact the quality of the natural or human environment. Therefore, an EIS is not required and will not be prepared for this project, based on the fact that there will be no long-term adverse impacts resulting from the issuance of a temporary license and a license outgrant for the relocation of the SMUD Folsom Dam Transmission Line.

Comments or questions regarding this FONSI for the relocation of the SMUD 230 kV Folsom Dam Transmission Line may be directed to:

Mr. Shawn Oliver
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
Central California Area Office
7794 Folsom Dam Road
Folsom, CA 95630-1799

This Finding of No Significant Impact has been prepared and is submitted to document the environmental review and evaluation of the Proposed Action in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended.

Recommended:

Central California Area Office NEPA Coordinator — March 30, 2007
Date

Approved:

Area Manager, Central California Area Office — 3/30/07
Date

for Regional Manager, Western Area Power Administration — 4/4/07
Date

FONSI No. _____

RECLAMATION

Managing Water in the West

SACRAMENTO MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT
230 kV FOLSOM DAM TRANSMISSION LINE RELOCATION
FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT/
FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

Prepared by:

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U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Reclamation

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