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## Department of Toxic Substances Control

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October 27, 2010

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U. S. Department of Energy  
Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability, OE-20  
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### NOTICE OF PREPARATION (NOP) FOR A DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT FOR THE ENERGIA SIERRA JUAREZ U.S. TRANSMISSION LINE PROJECT (SCH# 20100940074), SAN DIEGO COUNTY

Dear Dr. Pell:

The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) has received your submitted Notice of Preparation for a draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the above-mentioned project. The following project description is stated in your document: "The Department of Energy (DOE) proposed Federal action in the Draft EIS is the granting of a Presidential permit to Energia Sierra Juarez U.S. Transmission, LLC (ESJ), for the construction, operation, maintenance, and connection of either a 230-kilovolt (kV) or a 500-kV electric transmission line that would cross the U.S. -Mexico border in the vicinity of Jacumba, California, in eastern San Diego County. The ESJ-U.S. would construct either a double-circuit 230-kV transmission line or a single-circuit 500-kV electric transmission line to connect the Imperial Valley-Miguel segment of the Southwest Powerlink (SWPL) 500-kV transmission line and provide up to 1250 megawatt (MW) of energy from renewable generators to be located in the general vicinity of La Rumorosa, Northern Baja California, Mexico. Both the double-circuit 230-kV and single-circuit 500-kV facilities would require connection to a new substation that would be built in the U.S. by San Diego Gas and Electric Company (SDG &E) as parts of its East County (ECO) Substation Project. The proposed transmission line would have a total length of approximately 1.65 miles (2.65 kilometer [km], including both the U.S. and Mexico portions of the line. The proposed line would be constructed on lattice towers or steel monopoles, extending south from the point of interconnection with SWPL for about 0.65 mile (1.05 km) to the U.S. -Mexico international border. The ESJ Wind project in Mexico

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would be constructed in phases, with up to 52 wind turbines constructed in Phase I, resulting in up to 130 MW of power (assuming 2.5 MW per turbine)".

Based on the review of the submitted document DTSC has the following comments:

- 1) The EIS should evaluate whether conditions within the Project area may pose a threat to human health or the environment. Following are the databases of some of the regulatory agencies:
  - National Priorities List (NPL): A list maintained by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S.EPA).
  - Envirostor (formerly CalSites): A Database primarily used by the California Department of Toxic Substances Control, accessible through DTSC's website (see below).
  - Resource Conservation and Recovery Information System (RCRIS): A database of RCRA facilities that is maintained by U.S. EPA.
  - Comprehensive Environmental Response Compensation and Liability Information System (CERCLIS): A database of CERCLA sites that is maintained by U.S. EPA.
  - Solid Waste Information System (SWIS): A database provided by the California Integrated Waste Management Board which consists of both open as well as closed and inactive solid waste disposal facilities and transfer stations.
  - GeoTracker: A List that is maintained by Regional Water Quality Control Boards.
  - Local Counties and Cities maintain lists for hazardous substances cleanup sites and leaking underground storage tanks.
  - The United States Army Corps of Engineers, 911 Wilshire Boulevard, Los Angeles, California, 90017, (213) 452-3908, maintains a list of Formerly Used Defense Sites (FUDS).
- 2) The EIS should identify the mechanism to initiate any required investigation and/or remediation for any site within the proposed Project area that may be contaminated, and the government agency to provide appropriate regulatory oversight. If necessary, DTSC would require an oversight agreement in order to review such documents.
- 3) Any environmental investigations, sampling and/or remediation for a site should be conducted under a Workplan approved and overseen by a regulatory agency that has jurisdiction to oversee hazardous substance cleanup. The findings of any investigations, including any Phase I or II Environmental Site Assessment

Investigations should be summarized in the document. All sampling results in which hazardous substances were found above regulatory standards should be clearly summarized in a table. All closure, certification or remediation approval reports by regulatory agencies should be included in the EIS.

- 4) If buildings, other structures, asphalt or concrete-paved surface areas are being planned to be demolished, an investigation should also be conducted for the presence of other hazardous chemicals, mercury, and asbestos containing materials (ACMs). If other hazardous chemicals, lead-based paints (LPB) or products, mercury or ACMs are identified, proper precautions should be taken during demolition activities. Additionally, the contaminants should be remediated in compliance with California environmental regulations and policies.
- 5) Future project construction may require soil excavation or filling in certain areas. Sampling may be required. If soil is contaminated, it must be properly disposed and not simply placed in another location onsite. Land Disposal Restrictions (LDRs) may be applicable to such soils. Also, if the project proposes to import soil to backfill the areas excavated, sampling should be conducted to ensure that the imported soil is free of contamination.
- 6) Human health and the environment of sensitive receptors should be protected during any construction or demolition activities. If necessary, a health risk assessment overseen and approved by the appropriate government agency should be conducted by a qualified health risk assessor to determine if there are, have been, or will be, any releases of hazardous materials that may pose a risk to human health or the environment.
- 7) If the site was used for agricultural, livestock or related activities, onsite soils and groundwater might contain pesticides, agricultural chemical, organic waste or other related residue. Proper investigation, and remedial actions, if necessary, should be conducted under the oversight of and approved by a government agency at the site prior to construction of the project.
- 8) If it is determined that hazardous wastes are, or will be, generated by the proposed operations, the wastes must be managed in accordance with the California Hazardous Waste Control Law (California Health and Safety Code, Division 20, Chapter 6.5) and the Hazardous Waste Control Regulations (California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Division 4.5). If it is determined that hazardous wastes will be generated, the facility should also obtain a United States Environmental Protection Agency Identification Number by contacting (800) 618-6942. Certain hazardous waste treatment processes or hazardous


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materials, handling, storage or uses may require authorization from the local Certified Unified Program Agency (CUPA). Information about the requirement for authorization can be obtained by contacting your local CUPA.

- 9) DTSC can provide cleanup oversight through an Environmental Oversight Agreement (EOA) for government agencies that are not responsible parties, or a Voluntary Cleanup Agreement (VCA) for private parties. For additional information on the EOA or VCA, please see [www.dtsc.ca.gov/SiteCleanup/Brownfields](http://www.dtsc.ca.gov/SiteCleanup/Brownfields), or contact Ms. Maryam Tasnif-Abbasi, DTSC's Voluntary Cleanup Coordinator, at (714) 484-5489.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact me at [rahmed@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:rahmed@dtsc.ca.gov), or by phone at (714) 484-5491.

Sincerely,



Greg Holmes  
Unit Chief  
Brownfields and Environmental Restoration Program

cc: Governor's Office of Planning and Research  
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