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 RECIP. NAME: REGAN, W. H. RECIPIENT AFFILIATION: ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECT BRANCH 2

SUBJECT: INVITES REPRESENTATIVE TO 790507 MEETING W/UTIL IN WASHINGTON, DC TO DISCUSS PROPOSED TRANSMISSION LINE TO INTERCONNECT FACILITIES IN AZ W/SAN DIEGO GAS & ELECTRIC SYS.

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United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

In Reply Refer To:
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Mr. William H. Regan, Jr.
Chief, Environmental Projects
Branch 2
Division of Site Safety and
Environmental Analysis
Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

Dear Mr. Regan:

The San Diego Gas and Electric Company (SDGE) is proposing to construct and operate a 500 kV transmission line that would interconnect facilities in Arizona at Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station with the SDGE system. As proposed, the line will cross the Colorado River near Yuma, Arizona. In addition, this proposed intertie could also integrate electrical energy generated from geothermal resources in the Imperial Valley into the SDGE system. Indian lands and park lands may also be affected by this proposal.

A fact sheet and a map provided by the applicant are enclosed for your consideration.

You are invited to send representatives to meet with the Applicant and discuss this proposal on Monday, May 7, 1979, at 2:30 p.m. in Room 7000A, Main Interior Building.

Your cooperation in this matter is appreciated.

Sincerely,

Bruce Blanchard
Bruce Blanchard, Director
Environmental Project Review

Attachment

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FACT SHEET #1

EASTERN INTERCONNECTION PROJECT

The Proposal:

- San Diego Gas & Electric proposes to build a major electric transmission line between San Diego and Yuma, with a substation to be located in Imperial County.
- The line from San Diego to the Imperial County substation would be completed early in 1983.
- The remainder of the transmission line, from the substation to Yuma, would be completed by May 1984.

Why?

- The California Public Utilities Commission directed SDG&E to pursue the concept of a major transmission interconnection with Arizona, because it is one way to provide reliable and economic energy in the Southwest.

...The interconnection will increase and maintain Southern California's supply of reliable and economic power--from electrical generating plants in Arizona and New Mexico, and, most importantly, from the Imperial Valley's geothermal fields.

How Does the Line
Help Geothermal?

--Geothermal energy development would be limited without the ability to transfer the energy to other nearby utilities. SDG&E's projections indicate that by early 1983, there will be enough geothermal energy to warrant a major transmission line.

How About the
Imperial Irrigation
District?

--The Imperial Irrigation District is continuously investigating alternative methods of meeting its future energy requirements at the lowest cost to its customers. IID has expressed an interest in continuing discussions with SDG&E which could lead to the district obtaining transmission capacity in the line between Arizona and the Imperial Valley.

If obtained, this capacity would lead to improved reliability through interconnections with other utilities, opportunities for energy exchanges, and the purchase of power from Arizona and New Mexico.

And Mexico?

--Mexico has important resources and wants to export energy to California customers. Discussions are also in progress between SDG&E and the Comision Federal De Electricidad (CFE) for a possible interconnection.

Where will the Proposed Line Go?

--There are two alternative routes being studied in the Imperial Valley (see map). Both the Northern and Southern routes have certain advantages over one another. SDG&E must select one of these routes by April 1, 1979.

How Does SDG&E Propose to Make the Decision?

--While some of the needed information (economics, engineering feasibility and environmental impact) have been collected on the two alternative routes, we still lack the most important--the advice and input of Valley residents. We recognize

that some residents of any area would rather have a new transmission line "somewhere else." But since one is absolutely necessary and SDG&E must make a route decision by April 1, the best thing to do is to ask interested residents to participate evaluating the proposed routes.

How Can Valley
Residents Provide
Their Input?

--SDG&E is scheduling six separate community meetings to be held in mid-March. Notices of the meeting dates and locations will be mailed to every resident in Imperial County.

...At these meetings, an objective comparison of both routes will be presented. Following the discussion, residents will be able to register their preferences and opinions.

Why Should
I Attend?

--The decisions that will be made should consider the feelings of the majority, not just the special interest groups.

1-15-79

How Can I Find
Out More About
the Routes Before
the Community Meetings?

--Call or Write:

Dan R. Canady or Anne Robison

P. O. Box 996
El Centro, CA 92243
(714) 352-0460

or

P. O. Box 1831
San Diego, CA 92112
(714) 232-4252

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EASTERN INTERCONNECTION PROJECT



