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JUDGE RULES FOR MORE TIME FOR PUBLIC COMMENT ON POWERLINE CORRIDOR  
Inland Empire Waterkeeper, California Unions for Reliable Energy Urge Separate Environmental Review for  
Nevada Hydro Company's Proposed 500-KV Power Line Through Cleveland National Forest

SANTA ANA MOUNTAINS, March 12, 2008—Citizens and interested parties watching the progress of a proposal to run a major transmission line through the Temescal Valley and the Cleveland National Forest have been given more time to review and comment on the Proponent's Environmental Assessment (PEA) before it is considered by the California Public Utilities Commission. The PEA is part of the process of Nevada Hydro Company seeking a "Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity" from the CPUC for the project.

Inland Empire Waterkeeper was one of several parties and individuals that had requested more time to review the revised PEA for Nevada Hydro Company's proposed 30-mile Talega-Escondido/Valley-Serrano 500 Kilovolt Interconnect Project.

The power line corridor would cut through an important part of the Cleveland National Forest posing impacts to critical water resources and protected species and at the same time posing a significant fire hazard. "Part of the value in preserving these lands in the first place was to ensure watershed protection for the area," said Inland Empire Waterkeeper Lee Reeder.

Both Inland Empire Waterkeeper and California Unions for Reliable Energy (CURE) have urged the CPUC to conduct a complete, project-specific Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the project before it considers granting a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity sought by the company. Nevada Hydro Company asserted in the revised PEA that a separate EIR may not be needed for its project, since an EIR was conducted for the project when it was considered as one of the alternatives to the Sunrise Powerlink project in San Diego County.

In its response to the revised PEA, CURE wrote, "It would be substantively and procedurally inadequate for the Commission to rely upon the EIR in the Sunrise Powerlink project in lieu of preparing an EIR for the TE/VS project."

Administrative Law Judge Victoria S. Kolakowski has extended the time period for concerned individuals and parties to respond to a revised PEA presented by Nevada Hydro Company to the CPUC. Over objections that less than a month had been given for concerned individuals to assess the revisions in the 1,064-page document, Nevada

Hydro Company offered to create a “redline” comparison of the original and revised PEA, but the company released the comparison only a day before comments were due to the CPUC on March 7.

On the day before comments were due, Kolakowski wrote, “In light of Nevada Hydro Company's offer of a ‘redline’ PEA which has not yet been provided to parties, and based on the concerns stated by several individuals and parties in this proceeding, I will be issuing a ruling within the next week (assuming that the redline is released this week) setting a new deadline for revised protests.”

“Inland Empire Waterkeeper applauds Judge Kolakowski for granting parties and concerned citizens more time to review this extensive document,” said Reeder. “Too much is at stake environmentally in running a transmission corridor through our National Forest lands.”

Inland Empire Waterkeeper is a grassroots non-profit environmental organization focused on ensuring water quality in the Santa Ana River watershed and other waterways of the Inland Empire. Waterkeeper is concerned about possible water quality effects of Nevada Hydro’s plan to run the high-voltage transmission towers through the Temescal Valley, the Santa Ana Mountains and the Cleveland National Forest.

California Unions for Reliable Energy is a coalition of unions whose members help solve the State's energy problems by building, maintaining and operating conventional and renewable energy power plants, along with transmission infrastructure. To contact CURE, call Loulena Miles at 650-589-1660.

If you would like more information or would like to schedule an interview with Lee Reeder and Autumn DeWoody of Inland Empire Waterkeeper, call 951-689-6842 or e-mail [info@iewaterkeeper.org](mailto:info@iewaterkeeper.org).

For members of the public who would like to read the project proposal, go to [www.leapsforward.org/](http://www.leapsforward.org/) or call the Waterkeeper office. The public comment period is now open.