

Study 30 – Visual Simulations Work Plan

FERC Study Request 30: Visual Simulations
Lake Elsinore Advanced Pumped Storage Project
Riverside County, California

1.0 Introduction

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) has requested that The Nevada Hydro Company (TNHC) conduct an updated and expanded visual simulation study of the proposed and alternate northerly transmission alignments of the Lake Elsinore Advanced Pumped Storage (LEAPS) Project (FERC Project Number 14227-003). In 2007, FERC prepared a Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the project that considered three alternative routes for the proposed connection to the existing Valley Serrano (V-S) transmission line, once the line exits from the Cleveland National Forest (CNF) heading generally east. In addition to the proposed and alternate segments, FERC requested that TNHC also review an “Additional Alternative Connection to V-S.” The three proposed routes and alternative connection are shown on the attached Exhibit 1.

FERC referenced a City of Lake Elsinore submission the noted that the simulations provided in Section 8 of Exhibit E of the LEAPS Final License Application are low quality, dated, and fail to consider residential development that has occurred since the original application.

TNHC proposes to acquire new high-resolution photography of vistas and specific vantage points of the proposed transmission routes and to superimpose visual simulations of proposed transmission towers and power lines based on photographs of existing electricity transmission facilities crossing I-15 near residences in Temescal Valley.

A LEAPS Project Description may be found in Volume 1, Exhibit A “Project Description” of the Final License Application to FERC submitted in October 2017 as Project Number 14227 and available at www.leapshydro.com.

2.0 Acquisition of new right of way photography in areas where potential transmission alignments near residential and business developments and roadways.

TNHC will use high definition land-based and drone photography of key vantage points near residential developments and also of scenic vistas along the transmission routes being considered by the Project. The team will use Google Earth and GPS technology to determine vantage points and, as appropriate, will solicit specific viewpoints and recommendations from interested parties, including potentially impacted residents at key points along the right of way, such as the route between the Sycamore and Glen Eden developments, the I-15 crossing, and where the proposed lines could traverse the proposed Lakeside development near Corona Lake/Lake Lee.

3.0 Use of Google Earth and high resolution photography to superimpose transmission towers and lines on key vantage points determined through discussions with interested parties

TNHC has commissioned visual simulations (attached) using the existing SCE 500 KV line that crosses Hiway I-15 near Stone Canyon Road in Temescal Valley. This gives a realistic simulation of the visibility of the proposed transmission towers and power lines.

In areas of specific proximity to developments, TNHC will work with potentially impacted residents and developers to acquire photography of individual viewpoints on which to superimpose proposed towers, with respect to topography, elevation and likely visibility of the towers from those viewpoints.

4.0 Conclusion

The proposed visual simulation acquisition will enable TNHC, residents, municipal officials, and regulators to more accurately assess the visual impact of the proposed transmission lines connecting the LEAPS project to the California electrical grid.