

**PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
505 VAN NESS AVENUE
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102-3298**



**To: State Clearinghouse, Responsible and Trustee Agencies, Property Owners
& Interested Parties**

From: Mr. Boris Sanchez, CPUC Project Manager

**Subject: NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT AN INITIAL STUDY/MITIGATED NEGATIVE
DECLARATION (IS/MND)
Round Mountain 500 kV Dynamic Reactive Support Project (A-22-04-004)**

Date: May 26, 2023

The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) has prepared a Draft Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (Draft IS/MND) under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) for consideration of LS Power Grid California, LLC's (LSPGC's) application (A-22-04-004) to construct, operate, and maintain the Round Mountain 500 kV Dynamic Reactive Support Project (the Project). The Draft IS/MND details the Project; evaluates and describes the potential environmental impacts associated with the Project's construction, operation, and maintenance; identifies impacts that could be significant; and presents mitigation measures that, if adopted by the CPUC, would avoid or minimize these impacts.

Description of the Project

The Project would be located in unincorporated eastern Shasta County upon and surrounded by agricultural lands with existing transmission infrastructure.

The Project would involve construction of the Fern Road Substation containing two static synchronous compensator (STATCOM) units (devices used to regulate voltages for transmission networks and assist in ensuring reliable operation of transmissions systems in proximity to a substation) and ancillary components adjacent and independently connected to Pacific Gas and Electric Company's (PG&E) regional electric transmission system via the Round Mountain – Table Mountain #1 and #2 500 kV transmission lines. The Project would support the regional transmission system by providing voltage support and grid stability, which would facilitate the reliable operation of the extra high voltage transmission system proximal to the PG&E Round Mountain and Table Mountain substations. The purpose of the Project is to provide dynamic reactive support at the PG&E Round Mountain Substation, a 500 kV level regional substation. Connection to the PG&E Round Mountain Substation would require PG&E to reconfigure approximately 1,000 feet of both the Round Mountain – Table Mountain #1 and #2 500 kV transmission lines for an overhead connection to the Fern Road Substation.

LSPGC requests CPUC authorization to:

- Construct, operate, and maintain the Project including the Fern Road Substation and ancillary facilities, and connect such facilities to the PG&E-owned Round Mountain Substation.

Project components include:

- Two equally sized STATCOM units and ancillary components that would be connected to the Fern Road Substation via the reconfiguration of approximately 1,000 feet of both the Round Mountain – Table Mountain #1 and #2 500 kV transmission lines for an overhead connection.
- Two approximately 6,000 square-foot STATCOM insulated gas bipolar transistors (IGBT)

- valve/control enclosures that would contain IGBT converters, protective relaying and control equipment, supervisory control and data acquisition (SCADA) equipment, cooling equipment, AC/DC auxiliary power equipment, and maintenance storage;
- Chain link and barb wire security fencing approximately nine feet in height with secure gates accessible only by LSPGC staff, PG&E staff, and emergency services personnel;
- Signage and shielded, motion-detection lighting;
- New and/or improved access road construction; and
- Transformer oil containment system designed to contain the oil volume of the transformers plus the stormwater volume from a 25-year, 24-hour storm.

Public Comment on the Draft IS/MND.

The Draft IS/MND is available for a 30-day public comment period: **May 26, 2023 through June 26, 2023** The public may submit written comments and concerns regarding the proposed Project and the adequacy of the Draft IS/MND. Comments on the Draft IS/MND must be postmarked or received by e-mail no later than **June 26, 2023** at 5:00 pm. Please include your name, address, and telephone number in your correspondence.

Written comments on the Draft IS/MND should be sent to:

CPUC c/o ESA, Attn. Round Mountain/Michael Manka
1425 N. McDowell Blvd., Suite 200
Petaluma, CA 94954
RndMnt@esassoc.com

Availability of Draft IS/MND.

Copies of the Draft IS/MND will be available for public review on the CPUC’s Project website:

https://ia.cpuc.ca.gov/environment/info/esa/round_mountain/index.html

This website will be used to post all public documents during the environmental review process. Printed copies of the Draft IS/MND may be requested by e-mail at RndMnt@esassoc.com.

Printed copies of the Draft IS/MND are available for public review at the following libraries in the Project area.

Oak Run Community Library
 27480 Oak Run to Fern Rd
 Oak Run, CA 96069
 Phone: (530) 472-1211

Shasta Public Libraries - Redding Library
 1100 Parkview Ave
 Redding, CA 96001
 Phone: (530) 245-7250

REMINDER: Draft IS/MND comments will be accepted by e-mail, or mail postmarked through June 26, 2023. Please include your name, address, and telephone number. Note that comments become public record.