

## NOTICE OF PREPARATION OF A DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT AND NOTICE OF A PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING

**Date:** April 1, 2024

**To:** Agencies, Organizations, and Interested Parties

**Subject:** Notice of Preparation of a Draft Environmental Impact Report for the McCullough-Victorville Transmission Lines 1 and 2 Upgrade Project

This Notice of Preparation (NOP) has been prepared in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines Section 15082 to notify agencies, interested parties, and members of the public that the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP), as the lead agency, will prepare a Draft Environmental Impact Report pursuant to CEQA for the proposed McCullough-Victorville Transmission Lines 1 and 2 Upgrade Project (proposed Project).

LADWP is requesting input from interested members of the public and affected agencies regarding the scope and content of the environmental analysis to be included in the Environmental Impact Report (EIR). A description of the project and preliminary determination of the environmental resource factors to be addressed in the EIR are included in the Initial Study for the proposed Project, which is available for review as outlined below.

### PROJECT OVERVIEW

McCullough-Victorville (MCC-VIC) Transmission Lines 1 and 2 are two existing 500 kilovolt (kV) electrical power lines which run parallel to each other and are supported on approximately 1,740 single-circuit towers and spanning over 160 miles from McCullough Switching Station in Nevada, through several mountain ranges, into the Mojave Desert and ending at the Victorville Switching Station in California. The Project would upgrade the McCullough-Victorville Transmission Lines 1 and 2 circuits to newly rate them as 570kV at 2500 Amperes (A)/3000A from their current rating of 500kV at 1600A/2400A. The upgrade of the existing McCullough-Victorville Transmission Lines would provide critical transmission capacity and is required to accommodate incoming renewable energy resources along the west of Colorado River Path 46 transmission corridor to ensure the continued safe and reliable operation of the lines. This proposed Project supports LADWP's goal to transition to a clean energy future, with ongoing efforts to transition from coal to renewable energy, influenced by Los Angeles City Council's vote in 2021 to commit to 100 percent carbon-free energy. The additional 475 megawatts (MW) would contribute over 15 percent towards LADWP's Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) as part of LADWP's commitment to be 100 percent carbon-free by 2035, ten years ahead of the State's target.

## **PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

The Project would require upgrading insulators and hardware on the 1,740 existing transmission towers that span 162 miles from Boulder City, Nevada to the Victorville Switching Station in Victorville, California. The Project would consist of modifications and/or replacement of existing insulators and hardware assemblies, raising existing transmission towers as needed to mitigate any ground clearance violations, replacing towers as needed within the footprints of existing tower sites, repairing or replacing damaged structural members, replacing conductors, ground wire, and re-tensioning conductors, repairing/retrofitting existing main access roads and spur roads, and replacing or reinforcing tower foundations where needed.

Construction of the proposed Project would require establishing a temporary work area at each transmission structure along the entire length of the transmission lines. Most of the work shall occur within existing pre-disturbed areas along the McCullough-Victorville transmission line corridor, including existing tower sites, spur roads and main access roads. Towers that would need to be replaced in full are expected to be installed in the existing tower footprint to minimize ground disturbance. Access to the Project site is available from various existing access routes along the McCullough-Victorville transmission line corridor.

Preliminary construction surveys and inspections for the proposed Project are projected to begin around April 2025. Construction of the proposed Project is anticipated to begin in mid-2026 and continue through 2028. The upgraded transmission lines are anticipated to be fully operational by the end of 2028.

## **PROJECT LOCATION**

The proposed Project is in Clark County, Nevada and San Bernadino County, California and would upgrade 162 miles of transmission line. The McCullough-Victorville Transmission Lines 1 and 2 run northeast/southwest, parallel to each other, for 162 miles from Boulder City, Nevada to Victorville, California. Approximately 138 miles of MCC-VIC are in the state of California and the remaining 24 miles are in the state of Nevada (please see enclosed map).

## **POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS**

In accordance with CEQA Guidelines Section 15063, an Initial Study has been completed, and LADWP has determined that that the proposed Project may potentially create significant impacts related to various environmental factors considered under CEQA. Therefore, an EIR will be prepared for the proposed Project. The potential environmental impacts of the proposed Project that will be addressed in the EIR will include, but may not be limited to, the following factors:

- Air Quality
- Biological Resources
- Cultural Resources
- Geology and Soils
- Tribal Cultural Resources

## **PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING**

LADWP will hold a virtual Public Scoping Meeting to share information regarding the proposed Project and the environmental review process, and to receive comments regarding the scope and content of the environmental analysis to be addressed in the EIR. LADWP encourages all interested individuals and organizations to attend this meeting. The date, time and details for the virtual Scoping Meeting are as follows:

Date: Wednesday, April 17, 2024

Time: 7:00 PM

Location: Zoom Conference:

[https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_WMVhYkY9SoO6RkYyCIBX1w](https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_WMVhYkY9SoO6RkYyCIBX1w)

Meeting ID: 883 9764 2475

Or by phone dial: +1 (669) 444-9171/Meeting ID: 883 9764 2475

Or by QR Code:



Verbal comments provided at the Scoping Meeting will be recorded so that they may be addressed in the preparation of the Draft EIR.

Reasonable accommodation or other auxiliary aids and/or services may be provided upon request. To ensure availability, you are advised to make your request at least 72 hours prior to the meeting you wish to attend. Due to difficulties in securing Sign Language Interpreters, five or more business days' notice is strongly recommended. For additional information, please call (213) 367-5204.

## **PUBLIC REVIEW AND COMMENTS**

LADWP invites comments on the scope and content of the EIR in connection with the proposed Project. The public comment period for this NOP and review of the Initial Study will commence on **April 1, 2024**, and conclude on **May 1, 2024**.

Please ensure that comments are postmarked or emailed on or before **May 1, 2024**.

Agencies, Organizations, and Interested Parties  
Page 4  
April 1, 2024

The NOP and Initial Study are available for review at the location listed below and may be accessed electronically and/or downloaded at the following website:  
<https://www.ladwp.com/envnotices>.

LADWP Environmental Affairs  
111 North Hope Street, Room 1044  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Please direct your comments or questions to the following:

Mr. Matthew Kerby  
Los Angeles Department of Water and Power  
Environmental Planning and Assessment  
111 North Hope Street, Room 1044  
Los Angeles, CA 90012  
Phone: (213) 367-1795  
Email: [matthew.kerby@ladwp.com](mailto:matthew.kerby@ladwp.com)

Please remember to include your name and return address so that you can be added to the Project mailing list for future project notifications. Written comments can be submitted via email or hard copy by the methods described above. Please note, LADWP's practice is to make the entirety of comments received a part of the public record. Therefore, names, home addresses, home phone numbers, and email addresses of commenters, if included in the response, will be made part of the record available for public review. Individual commenters may request that LADWP withhold their name and/or home addresses, etc., but if you wish LADWP to consider withholding this information, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your comments. In the absence of this written request, this information will be made part of the record for public review. LADWP will always make submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, available for public inspection in their entirety.

Additional information regarding the proposed Project can be found on the Project website at <https://www.ladwp.com/MCC-VIC>

Sincerely,

Jane Hauptman  
Manager of Environmental Planning and Assessment

