

cable-pulling operation used to initially install the conductors. While the project access roads can be used for access, pull sites would also be required. The size and location of these pull sites may vary, depending on the cable and equipment used, the methods used by the contractor, and the technology available at the time. For these reasons, the size and location of future temporary disturbance due to pull sites cannot be accurately estimated. In any event, such conductor replacement is infrequent and would require an amendment to any Presidential permit issued in the proceeding.

2.2.5 Connections to Facilities in Mexico

At the international border, both the BCP and SER transmission lines would connect with double-circuit, 230 kV transmission lines that are presently being constructed in Mexico. The BCP transmission line would connect to a transmission line being constructed by EBC in Mexico, which in turn would connect to the La Rosita Power Complex (LRPC). The EBC turbine (310 MW) and the three EAX turbines (250 MW each) (Figure 1.2) make up the 1,060 MW LRPC. The four combustion turbines would operate in combined-cycle configuration and would run on natural gas. The EBC transmission line would be connected to the EBC turbine and to the EAX turbine designated for export (560 MW total). The other two units owned by EAX will supply power to the Comisión Federal de Electricidad, the Mexican national utility, under a 25-year power purchase contract. BCP has submitted information indicating that EBC and EAX jointly have spent or have committed to spend approximately \$600 million out of a total estimated project cost of \$765 million for the entire LRPC project.

The EBC and the EAX turbine designated for export would be equipped with air emissions control technology, including dry low-NO_x (oxides of nitrogen) combustor technology and selective catalytic reduction (SCR) system for NO_x emissions control. EBC has received a Mexican environmental permit (Manifiesto de Impacto Ambiental SGPA-DGIRA-002526) for the proposed generating facility, as well as for the linear transmission line facilities located in Mexico. The environmental permit for the EAX generation facilities is D.O.O.DGOEIA-006752.

The SER transmission line would connect at the international border to a double-circuit, 230 kV transmission line in Mexico that is being constructed by TDM. The TDM transmission line would connect with the Termoeléctrica de Mexicali Power Project located approximately three miles (five kilometers) south of the international border, just east of CFE's La Rosita Substation in Mexicali. The TDM generating plant is designed to produce 600 MW of power, all of which is to be exported to the United States by way of the TDM and SER transmission lines. Information submitted by SER indicates that TDM has made over \$280 million in construction contractual commitments (\$180 million actually spent to date) and that they would incur an additional \$200 million in penalty costs if the project were to be cancelled. The facility would utilize gas turbine technology in a combined cycle configuration, utilizing natural gas as fuel.

The TDM facility would be equipped with air emissions control technology, including dry low-NO_x combustor technology and selective catalytic reduction (SCR) system for oxides of nitrogen emissions control, and catalytic oxidizers for carbon monoxide emissions control. TDM's proposed 600 MW generating facility would achieve air emission levels equal to those required in California. TDM has received a Mexican environmental permit (Manifiesto de Impacto Ambiental D.O.O.DGOEIA-000032) for the proposed 600 MW generating facility, as well as for the linear transmission line facilities located in Mexico. A diagram showing the relationships between the generating facilities and the transmission lines described in the EA is shown in Figure 1.2.

Construction of both of the transmission lines in Mexican national territory will be conducted in accordance with the Mexican CFE, Comisión Reguladora de Energía, (CRE) and Secretaría de Medio Ambiente y Recursos Naturales (SEMARNAT), as well as other Mexican provisions, rules and regulations. In Mexico, the transmission lines now under construction will parallel SDG&E's existing Imperial Valley Substation to La Rosita Substation 230kV transmission line.

Operation of the power plants will require water for purposes of recondensing steam vapor (steam is created and used to generate electricity in each of the TDM and LRPC facility's steam turbines) and for "makeup" of water that is evaporated during the cooling process. Both the TDM and LRPC have contracted with the local Mexican water authority to receive wastewater from the Zaragoza wastewater treatment facility in Mexicali. TDM and LRPC will separately treat this effluent to clean it to power plant standards. After use at the facilities, power plant wastewater will be discharged to drainage channels managed by the Comisión Nacional del Agua (CNA). The drainage channels terminate at the New River in Mexico. The New River flows north, crossing the international border, and discharges, eventually, into the Salton Sea.

2.2.6 Applicant's Proposed Environmental Protection Measures

Several features of the project design and construction methods are intended to reduce the amount of surface disturbance and therefore the potential impacts on environmental resources. These include locating the support structures (steel lattice towers, crossing structures, and steel monopoles) so that new access roads can be kept as short as possible, using existing access roads to the maximum extent possible, and using a helicopter to place lattice tower assemblies onto footings to reduce the amount of ground disturbance that would otherwise be caused by the use of laydown areas and operation of cranes. Additionally, the applicants have hired the same construction contractor to build both lines, further minimizing impacts by combining and coordinating construction activity, eliminating potential repeated impacts to the same area, minimizing traffic flows, and similar measures.