

PART E. ADDITIONAL LONG-TERM IMPLICATIONS

E.1 RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SHORT-TERM USES AND LONG-TERM PRODUCTIVITY OF THE ENVIRONMENT

Under CEQA Guidelines, Section 15126(e), an EIR must give special attention to effects which narrow the range of beneficial uses of the environment or pose long-term health and safety risks. In addition, the reasons why the project applicant believes the Proposed Project is justified now, rather than reserving an option for future alternatives, should be explained.

The Proposed Project involves construction and operation of a transmission line and associated substations. Sierra Pacific Power Company (SPPCo) anticipates an indefinite life expectancy for the project, assuming regular maintenance and repairs. Because most of the proposed transmission line would be located in rural areas, the project is not expected to significantly restrict existing land uses in the vicinity of the transmission line. Future uses that require structures (e.g., residences, commercial businesses) would be prohibited within the 160-foot transmission line right-of-way (ROW). However, cattle grazing and agricultural uses which are predominant uses along the route would not be prohibited within the ROW.

The operation of the transmission line would present an additional source of electric and magnetic fields (EMFs) along the proposed transmission line ROW. As discussed in Section C.10 (Public Safety and Health), at the edge of the project ROW (80 feet from transmission line), the calculated EMF level would meet the existing standards for those states with standards (California and Nevada have no standards), with the exception of the residential limit imposed in Montana. In addition, all residences within the vicinity of the Proposed Project would be at least 300 feet away from the transmission line, with the exception of a single-family residence on Segment L and an apartment complex on Segment X. As presented on Figures C.10-3 through C.10-10, at a distance of 300 feet, the EMF values would be comparable to common household appliances (see Tables C.10-1 and C.10-2).

The Applicant asserts that the Proposed Project is justified now because of existing system limitations and the need to accommodate anticipated growth. As discussed in Section A.6 (Purpose and Need for the Project), insufficient transmission capability restricts SPPCo's ability to serve existing wholesale customers within prudent utility practices. In addition, an augmentation of SPPCo's system would be required by the summer of 1997, if projected growth rates are realized. Postponement of this project would likely result in development of another transmission line project in the region to satisfy projected demand and system reliability concerns. As discussed in Section A.6.2.2, SPPCo expects to continue utilizing geothermal resources as part of its supply base through its Request for Proposal process, as has been historically done.

E.2 SIGNIFICANT IRREVERSIBLE ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGES

Pursuant to Section 15126(f) of the CEQA Guidelines, significant irreversible environmental changes must be identified and may include the following:

- Use of non-renewable resources during the initial and continued phases of the project which would be irreversible because a large commitment of such resources makes removal or nonuse thereafter unlikely;
- Primary impacts and, particularly, secondary impacts which commit future generations to similar uses (such as a highway improvement that provides access to a previously inaccessible area); and
- Irreversible damage which may result from environmental accidents associated with the Project.

The transmission line construction phase would require an irretrievable commitment of natural resources from direct consumption of fossil fuels, construction materials, the manufacture of new equipment that largely cannot be recycled at the end of the project's useful lifetime, and energy required for the production of materials. Furthermore, construction of the transmission line would necessitate vegetation and habitat removal. If the transmission line ROW was properly restored and revegetated through mitigation measures recommended in this EIR/S, permanent loss of biological resources would be confined to project structure locations and new access roads.

During the project's operational phase, the transmission line would allow for the transport of additional electrical power generated from renewable resources (hydroelectric) and the transport of power generated from non-renewable resources (e.g., coal, natural gas), since the project would improve the ability of the Applicant to transmit additional power generated within and outside of its service area (see Section A.6, Purpose and Need). Therefore, operation of the transmission line does commit the future use of potentially significant amounts of non-renewable resources.

With regard to irreversible damage, the potential exists for a transmission line accident which could cause a fire along the proposed ROW. An accidental fire could result in loss or damage to sensitive biological resources, residential uses, and cultural resources or sites. The potential risk and consequences of transmission line accidents and associated fires are mitigated to the extent possible with implementation of numerous mitigation measures outlined in this document. However, the risk cannot be completely eliminated, thus the potential for irreversible damage remains.

E.3 GROWTH-INDUCING IMPACTS OF THE PROPOSED PROJECT

E.3.1 INTRODUCTION

CEQA requires discussion of the growth-inducing impacts of a proposed action. NEPA does not have a similar requirement. Section 15126(g) of the CEQA Guidelines states:

Discuss the ways in which the Proposed Project could foster economic or population growth, or the construction of additional housing, whether directly or indirectly, in the surrounding environment.

Included in this are projects which would remove obstacles to population growth (a major expansion of a waste water treatment plant might, for example, allow for more construction in service areas). Increases in the population may further tax existing community service facilities so consideration must be given to this impact. Also discuss the characteristics of some projects which may encourage and facilitate other activities that could significantly affect the environment, whether individually or cumulatively. It must not be assumed that growth in any area is necessarily beneficial, detrimental, or of little significance to the environment.

Potential growth-inducing impacts of the proposed Alturas Transmission Line Project could be manifested in several ways:

- Growth resulting from the direct and indirect employment needed to construct and operate the Proposed Project
- Growth resulting from the additional power that would be transmitted by the Proposed Project
- Growth resulting from the presence or expansion of project facilities.

E.3.2 EXISTING SETTING

Several geographic areas could be subject to growth-inducing impacts resulting from the Proposed Project: (1) the Proposed Project alignment; (2) SPPCo's service area, which would receive the new power supply and which encompasses a small portion of California (Truckee and Tahoe) and the northwest Nevada region (including the Reno/Sparks urban area); (3) Lassen County, California, which is crossed by the project route and is slated for future tie-in to the proposed transmission line (year 2004 at the earliest); and (4) other areas that would receive additional power because of an increase in SPPCo's import capacity.

Population growth in the above areas is described in Section C.11, Socioeconomics and Public Services. Growth projections for SPPCo's service area were reviewed for this analysis. In general, the Nevada economy has begun to recover from the recession more rapidly than either the nation or California. According to *Nevada Business and Economic Indicators* (University of Nevada, 1994), taxable sales, gaming revenues, industrial employment, and personal income growth increased in the second half of 1993. Also, forecasts suggest that 1994 taxable sales and gaming revenues will grow 10 to 14 percent and industrial employment at about five percent.

The State of Nevada experienced a 4.1 percent increase in population in 1993 versus a 1.1 percent increase nationwide for the same year. Washoe County, Nevada, which comprises a large section of SPPCo's service area, grew 2.3 percent in 1993. While an average annual growth rate of 1.7 percent is projected for Washoe County through 2015, the years 1994 - 2000 are expected to experience as high as 2.4 percent annual growth.

E.3.3 POTENTIAL GROWTH-INDUCING EFFECTS

E.3.3.1 Project Employment-Related Growth

As described in Section C.11, Socioeconomics and Public Services, the direct and indirect employment needed to construct and operate the proposed transmission line would not result in significant population immigration into the study area. Most of the required labor force would be needed on a short-term basis during the construction phase. Over the long-term, operation of the Proposed Project would require very few employees and, therefore, the Project would have a negligible effect on population growth.

E.3.3.2 Growth Related to Provision of Additional Electrical Power

By providing a means to transmit a substantial amount of additional electric power into and through SPPCo's service area, the Alturas Transmission Line Project could significantly contribute to growth in SPPCo's service area, Lassen County, and other regions serviced by utilities who are interconnected to SPPCo.

E.3.3.2.1 *SPPCo Service Area*

Based on projections for residential and industrial growth in the service area, SPPCo predicts an average growth rate in power demand of 4.31 percent for the years 1993 to 1997. Given existing service system constraints, the enhancement of SPPCo's system with the Proposed Project would facilitate growth in SPPCo's service area, but would not directly induce growth. For example, the land use planning process for the various Reno region jurisdictions define areas of future development and desired densities through a public process and appropriate decision body approval(s). The Proposed Project did not cause these future community growth goals, but rather, SPPCo is responding to growth through the projected land use planning process. SPPCo's population projections are generally consistent with local jurisdiction growth projections in the region. It is noted that commercial and industrial growth in SPPCo's service area has been encouraged and promoted both by local agencies and SPPCo. Furthermore, the provision of an inexpensive source of electricity would be an incentive to industries to locate within Sierra's service area. The establishment of new industrial facilities would result in direct and indirect population growth from industry-related employment and support facilities. In some cases, businesses may relocate from California to Nevada in response to the provision of inexpensive power and encouragement from SPPCo and local commerce groups (as has been the case in recent years).

E.3.3.2.2 *Lassen County*

The Alturas Transmission Line Project could also significantly contribute to growth in Lassen County if an interconnection is established between the Proposed Project and LMUD. SPPCo has indicated that it would make its system available for a tie-in with LMUD, through a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) executed between LMUD and SPPCo, reserving 50 MW of transmission service for LMUD from January 1, 1996 until January 1, 2005. No specific plans have been proposed, however SPPCo anticipates making an intertie in approximately the year 2004. At the time such plans are developed, new

applications would be required to be filed with appropriate agencies. Future applications would be subject to a separate CEQA process. A future LMUD interconnection would facilitate future growth within the LMUD service area, but would not directly induce growth.

E.3.3.2.3 *Other Regions*

As discussed in Section A.6.2.3, other utilities, which are imbedded in SPPCo's system, utilize SPPCo's transmission system to wheel electric power from other utilities who are outside the SPPCo service area. With the Alturas Project, the amount of power to be wheeled into and through SPPCo's system would increase (since SPPCo's import capacity would increase), as evidenced by the wheeling requests received by SPPCo (see Table A-4 and Section A.6.7.1). Future growth would be facilitated in the areas that are serviced by utilities requesting this additional power, but additional wheeling capabilities would not directly induce growth.

E.3.3.3 Growth Related to Existence or Expansion of Project Facilities

The Proposed Project and its associated facilities could entice future growth by virtue of their presence, as follows:

- Expansion of Border Town facilities to service new growth within SPPCo's service area
- Interconnection to Proposed Project facilities by other utilities and Independent Power Producers
- Construction of additional transmission lines parallel to the Proposed Project
- Development of additional generation in the Pacific Northwest
- Growth in communities along the transmission line that could gain fiber optic service.

E.3.3.3.1 *Expansion due to New Growth in SPPCo Service Area*

The Proposed Project PEA and SPPCo's 1993 Electric Resource Plan both refer to future expansion of the Border Town Substation facilities into the North Valleys area. There has been some concern expressed over this future expansion and associated growth-inducing impacts. At this time, SPPCo does not have a definite long-term expansion plan for the Border Town Substation, but through its planning process, SPPCo has identified the use of the Border Town Substation for future expansion into the North Valley area as an option.

Because of restrictions on water and sewer service availability in the North Valleys area, the majority of recent and projected growth in the area has occurred in Stead, which is located within the North Valleys, but is under the jurisdiction of the City of Reno. The North Valleys planning area is defined in part by the Antelope Valley, Cold Spring Valley, Lemmon Valley and Long Valley Hydrographic Basins. These basins are designated groundwater systems. Given present conditions, all ground waters in the North Valleys planning area are totally appropriated and as a result growth within the unincorporated North Valleys area has been severely restricted (Washoe County, 1993). Stead does not have the same growth restrictions placed on it as does the unincorporated North Valleys area, since water service to the eastern portion of Stead is provided by pipeline from the Truckee River; a major source of water for the Reno

region. Currently, about 900 acre feet per year of water is delivered to the Stead area, with system capacity of up to 3000 acre feet per year.

As growth in the Stead area occurs, expansion of additional transmission facilities to the area would be required. Currently, Stead is served by an existing 60 kV transmission system that is capable of reliably serving approximately 43 MW of load. In 1994, the peak demand was 26.5 MW. Depending on the rate of growth, a 120 kV transmission addition could be required within the next 5 to 10 years (SPPCo, 1995c).

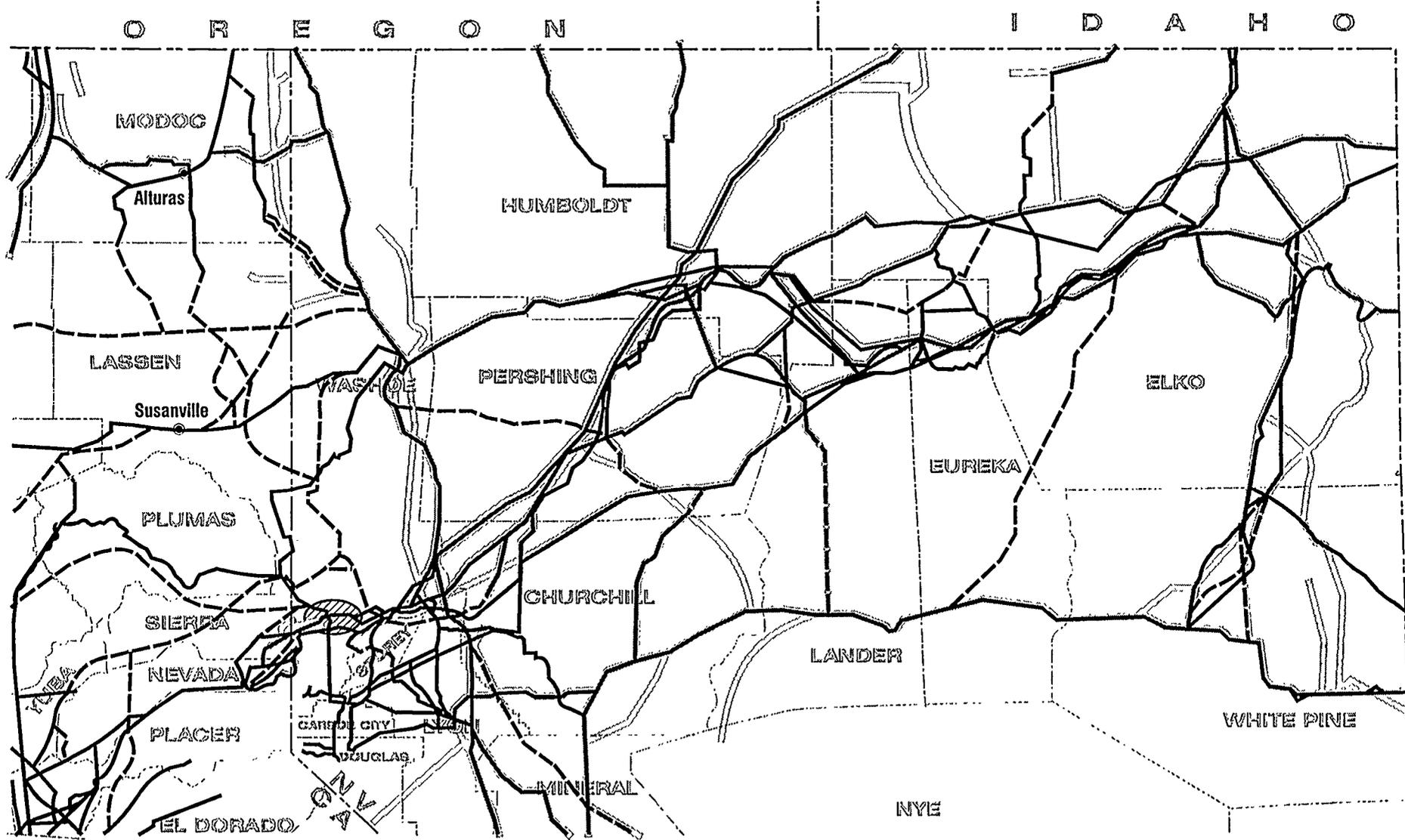
In its long range planning studies, SPPCo has identified two options for servicing future Stead growth: 1) a 120 kV source into Silver Lake Substation from Tracy and 2) a 120 kV source into Silver Lake Substation from Border Town. If the Alturas Transmission Line Project were approved as proposed, and growth in the North Valleys warranted a 120 kV transmission addition, then SPPCo would consider the addition of a 345/120 kV transformer at the Border Town Substation and a 120 kV transmission feed to the Silver Lake Substation. At the time such plans are developed, new applications would be required by responsible agencies. Future applications would be subject to a separate environmental review process.

Similar to the growth facilitation aspects that the Proposed Project provides land uses within SPPCo's system, the expansion of the Border Town substation facilities and expansion of a 120 kV line to the Stead area would not directly induce growth in the Stead area, but would facilitate growth planned or projected by the local jurisdictions. However, expansion of the Border Town Substation and construction of a 120 kV line to Stead could occur. Construction of these required facilities would impose additional environmental impacts, especially visual and land use impacts. Given that no definite plans have been designed for future facility expansion, any further identification of impacts associated with the expansion would be speculative at this time.

SPPCo has also indicated that a second 345 kV phase shifter might be required in the future for two reasons: (1) to maintain system reliability by providing a secondary backup phase shifter, especially as total system imports increase over time, and (2) depending on the resultant operation of the western utility system with the Proposed Project, desired transfer capacity might not be realized (Nelson, 1995). The addition of a second phase shifter at the Border Town Substation would contribute to growth within SPPCo's system by facilitating service, but would not directly induce growth.

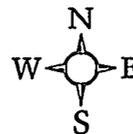
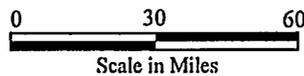
E.3.3.3.2 Interconnection to Proposed Project Facilities

Concern has been expressed as to the potential of SPPCo or other utilities to interconnect future transmission or generation projects to the Proposed Project, particularly at the Border Town Substation. This concern has been propagated by several factors: 1) The designation of the Border Town region as an intersection for several existing and proposed transmission corridors in the 1992 Western Regional Corridor Study prepared by the Western Utility Group (WUG) (see Figure E-1); 2) the identification of



- Existing Corridor
- - - Proposed Corridor
- ▬ Agency Designated Corridor
- ▨ Reno/Sparks Urbanized Area

Source: Western Regional Corridor Study, Western Utility Group, 1992



ALTURAS TRANSMISSION LINE EIR/S

Figure E-1
**Utility Identified Corridors
 in Northern Nevada and
 Northeastern California**

potential alternative alignments that traverse the Border Town region for a future Transmission Agency of Northern California (TANC) transmission line project; and 3) a list of potential transmission and generation projects presented in SPPCo's 1995 - 2014 Electric and Gas Integrated Resource Plan (1995 IRP).

It should be noted that the utility corridors identified in the 1992 Western Regional Corridor Study have been identified by the WUG. The BLM and USFS utilize the corridor study as a reference document in the development of Land Management Plans and Forest Plans, respectively, and when considering land use decisions. However, simply because the WUG identified a future corridor, does not mean that the corridor is considered permissible by the appropriate agencies.

The BLM made inquiries of TANC and Plumas-Sierra Rural Electric Cooperative (a local utility and member of TANC) as to its intentions with respect to future interconnections at Border Town. In its response, TANC stated that its primary objective is to increase the transmission capacity between Central California and Southern Nevada, generally referred to as the Central California-Desert Southwest Transmission Project (CCDSW) (TANC, 1995).

In pursuit of this objective, during 1992 and early 1993, TANC conducted internal studies to assess the potential feasibility of alternative methods whereby the transmission system transfer capability between the southern terminal of the California-Oregon Transmission Project in central California and the desert Southwest could be firmed up and increased. During late 1993 and the first four months of 1994, TANC, PG&E, the Southern California Edison Company, and the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power conducted planning-level studies which identified and evaluated certain alternative transmission projects (either the upgrading of existing facilities or the development of new facilities) that would meet the goals of the parties. The original alternatives outlined by TANC focused on options traversing the high desert area northeast of the Los Angeles Basin. However, as the studies progressed, options were added that extended from southern California to the Marketplace/Allen area in southern Nevada, and subsequently, options were added that would cross the Sierra Nevada north of Lake Tahoe and then continue in a southwesterly direction towards the Marketplace/Allen area. According to TANC, the trans-Sierra options would pass near the area of the Border Town Substation, but would not interconnect with Border Town or any existing or proposed transmission facilities in the area northwest of Reno.

Since the fall of 1994, TANC and several other parties have been undertaking certain joint planning activities to determine if interest might exist in selecting a potential project for future evaluation and study. These studies are anticipated to be completed in late 1995 or early 1996. To date (September, 1995), neither a description of a project or a permitting/construction schedule have been developed. According to Plumas-Sierra Rural Electric Cooperative, it is opposed to and is discouraging a CCDSW project, including a trans-Sierra option (Plumas, 1995).

SPPCo also conducted an investigation to determine if the needs of TANC could be met with the Alturas Transmission Line Project or a modified Alturas Project. Since TANC's and SPPCo's needs, including timing, differed significantly, SPPCo concluded that a joint project would not successfully meet both parties' needs (SPPCo, 1995d). SPPCo has listed the TANC project and the trans-Sierra alternative as

future options to be considered to meet system and customer requirements in its 1995 IRP. However, the 1995 IRP states that SPPCo does not believe a trans-Sierra tie is a viable transmission alternative at this time.

Given the objective of TANC to increase transmission capacity between Central California and Southern Nevada, an interconnection to SPPCo's system, regardless of whether an interconnection point were at Border Town or elsewhere, is not a stated a sub-objective of TANC. However, an interconnection with SPPCo would add another customer to TANC's customer base for power sales and might provide SPPCo with some improvement in import capacity, both aspects being desirable from a utility perspective. As suggested by Plumas-Sierra Rural Electric Cooperative, if a route were to be built that connects TANC and SPPCo, the two most likely alignments are a northern route going from Redding to SPPCo, somewhere through northern Lassen County, or a re-building of the existing 115 kV line that runs along I-80 from Truckee to Sacramento. At this time, it appears to be unlikely that the expansion of the Border Town Substation would be required because of TANC's plans for the CCDSW project.

SPPCo's 1995 IRP also states that SPPCo is requesting approval from the Public Service Commission of Nevada to expend \$600,000 over a three-year period to investigate and select a site, option land, install an air quality monitoring tower, and begin permitting and development of a new generation site in its Northern Nevada service territory. Potential sites to be addressed in this analysis include the Carlin Trend, Oreana, middle to northern Washoe County, or northeastern California (along the proposed Alturas Transmission Line Project and Tuscarora Pipeline routes). The Valmy Power Plant site is also to be considered.

In summary, no growth-inducement impacts are expected related to the future expansion of the Border Town Substation; however, interconnection of another major transmission or generation project along the Proposed Project, other than Border Town, could occur in the future. However, the likelihood, character, and impacts of such an interconnection are virtually impossible to project since no plans exist at this time and any further analysis would be extremely speculative. Any such project would be subject to additional environmental review at the time that concrete proposals are brought forward.

E.3.3.3.3 *Expansion as a Utility Corridor*

Figure E-1 illustrates the existing and proposed utility corridors (as proposed by WUG) within northeastern California and northern Nevada. Many of these utility corridors contain major transmission lines. In some cases, the corridors have been designated as "right-of-way corridors" by the BLM and/or USFS. Concern has been raised as to the potential of future transmission facilities being constructed within or parallel to the proposed Alturas Transmission Line Project right-of-way.

Section C.8.2.3.2 of this Final EIR/S presents California Senate Bill 2431, which provides guiding policies for planning and developing new transmission facilities, as follows:

- (1) Encourage the use of existing right of way by upgrading existing transmission facilities where technically and economically feasible.

- (2) Encourage expansion of existing right of way, if technically and economically feasible, whenever construction of new transmission lines is required.
- (3) Provide for the creation of new right of way if justified by environmental, technical, or economic reasons, as determined by the appropriate licensing agency.
- (4) Seek agreement among all interested utilities on the efficient use of new transmission capacity whenever there is a need to construct additional capacity.

The California Energy Commission, in cooperation with the California Public Utilities Commission, is responsible for the implementation of the Senate Bill 2431 policies. As new transmission facilities are proposed, the noted State agencies would assess the consistency of the proposed projects with the above policies (a consistency analysis for the proposed Alturas Transmission Line Project with California Senate Bill 2431 policies is presented in Section C.8.2.3.2). Depending on the objectives of future projects, the proposed Alturas Transmission Line Project could facilitate the implementation of policies (1) and (2) above.

The Proposed Project traverses lands of both the Modoc and Toiyabe National Forests. In their review of the Proposed Project, both National Forests are considering the amendment of their respective Forest land management plans to designate the Proposed Project alignment as a "right-of-way corridor." If the "right-of-way corridor" designation were to be applied, the land management regulations and policies that direct the operations of both National Forests would require the Modoc and Toiyabe Forests to encourage, but not require, the siting of future utilities, including transmission facilities, within the designated right-of-way corridors.

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) mandates regarding designated corridors are contained in the regulations and BLM Manuals. Section 2800.0-5(l) of Title 43, Code of Federal Regulations, defines a "designated right-of-way corridor" as follows:

Designated right-of-way corridor means a parcel of land either linear or areal in character that has been identified by law, by Secretarial Order, through the land use planning process or by other management decision as being a preferred location for existing and future right-of-way grants and suitable to accommodate more than 1 type of right-of-way or 1 or more rights-of-way which are similar, identical or compatible;

The BLM is not proposing to amend its Land Management Plan(s) to designate the Proposed Project alignment through BLM lands as a "right-of-way corridor." However, the Proposed Project would satisfy the federal definition of "transportation and utility corridor" in Section 2800.0-5(n) of Title 43, Code of Federal Regulations:

Transportation and utility corridor means a parcel of land, without fixed limits or boundaries, that is being used as the location for 1 or more transportation or utility right-of-way.

It should be noted that portions of the proposed route for the Proposed Project currently meet this definition due to the presence of existing transportation and utility rights-of-way such as Highway 395

and various railroads, telephone and power lines, and county roads. In addition, BLM policy concerning the use of designated right-of-way corridors is contained in BLM Manual 2801.11.A, Corridor Philosophy.

BLM will manage right-of-way use of public land through a system of designated corridors. Use of designated right-of-way corridors for future right-of-way grants will be actively encouraged by BLM. The presence of a designated right-of-way corridor or a system of designated right-of-way corridors does not preclude the granting of a right-of-way on public land outside a designated corridor, whenever appropriate.

The State and Federal policies identified above would encourage, but not require, these respective agencies to site future utility projects within or adjacent to the Proposed Project right-of-way. For example, the Modoc National Forest has an existing designated right-of-way corridor that travels in an easterly direction from Alturas to the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power 1000 kV DC transmission line. However, the Forest has stated that this designated right-of-way corridor would be inappropriate for the Nevada Route Alternative (Henderson, 1995). In addition to the State and Federal policies guiding the planning and location of transmission lines, other factors that would be taken into consideration would include the objectives of future projects, available alternatives, environmental impacts, and technical and regulatory feasibility. However, if the Proposed Project were to be approved and constructed, it would impose a growth-inducement potential, especially in light of the noted State and Federal regulatory direction.

E.3.3.3.4 *Development of Additional Generation in the Pacific Northwest*

There is also the possibility that tapping into the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) system would encourage further development of electric power resources in the Pacific Northwest (BPA transmits hydroelectric and nuclear power generated in the Pacific Northwest). Although an in-depth analysis of the impact on Pacific Northwest power production is beyond the scope of this EIR/S, exporting more electric power from that region could theoretically stimulate new or expanded Pacific Northwest power production, including hydroelectric, natural gas, coal, and nuclear.

Hydroelectric. Hydroelectric power production is dependent on snowfall and runoff; therefore, power supply varies on a seasonal basis. BPA does not have a firm agreement with SPPCo and thus is not committed to supplying fixed amounts of power on a regular basis. With the Proposed Project in place, additional demand for this generation resource might occur because purchasers, other than SPPCo, could utilize the increased capacity of SPPCo's system to acquire hydroelectric power. However, like SPPCo, these purchasers would not have firm agreements with BPA, given the varying availability of hydroelectric power. Finally, as described in Section A.6.9.1, hydroelectric operations in the Pacific Northwest are undergoing a federal System Operation Review (SOR) process which could result in a reduction in current regional hydroelectric power generation. Therefore, there is little potential for an increase in hydroelectric production as a result of the Proposed Project.

Natural Gas, Coal, Nuclear. The western U.S. energy market relies on diverse energy sources, including natural gas, coal, hydroelectric, and nuclear. If available hydroelectric resources were depleted because of the SOR process to such a level that additional supply were needed, additional natural gas, coal, or nuclear generation could be developed in the Pacific Northwest. However, this event is unlikely because, as discussed in Section A.6, the electric power system of the western United States is interconnected via an integrated system of transmission lines. Over this collective transmission system, excess generation is transferred from one utility to another. A supply shortfall in one region of the western United States could likely be satisfied by other regions. With the Proposed Project in place, the ability of the Pacific Northwest to purchase power from other regions would be enhanced.

As discussed in Section A.6.9.1, even without access to economy energy from the Pacific Northwest, the Proposed Project is still required based on the other project objectives (increased import capacity, improved service reliability).

E.3.3.3.5 *Growth Due to Fiber Optic Service*

As described in Section B.2.2.4, SPPCo's proposed communication facilities would expand fiber optic facilities to areas without such service (e.g., Alturas). If the Proposed Project were to be approved, with the fiber optic communication facilities in place, other utilities could connect to the facilities (subject to the discretion of SPPCo) and provide fiber optic service to the local region. The provision of this improved communication service could increase competition among service providers and stimulate growth in that area, subject to applicable regulations.

E.3.3.4 *Growth-Related Environmental Impacts*

Several of the jurisdictions within SPPCo's service area are experiencing impacts to resources, public facilities, city services, and housing markets as a result of recent growth. Projected growth that is facilitated by the Proposed Project may exacerbate these impacts. One natural resource of particular concern in Nevada is potable water supply. Air quality is another critical issue since portions of Washoe County are non-attainment areas for carbon monoxide, ozone, and particulate matter. However, it is the responsibility of local cities and counties to place planning controls on new development in order to not overtax natural resources and public services; the degree to which they may accomplish this is largely dependent on their respective political processes and, ultimately, their responsiveness to public and environmental needs and concerns.

The construction of another transmission line within or parallel to the proposed Alturas Transmission Line Project right-of-way would impose similar environmental impacts as the Proposed Project; however, cumulative visual and land use impacts would be more severe since multiple transmission lines would be in place. The impacts associated with a future transmission line or generation facility interconnection would be dependant on the location, physical characteristics, and construction procedures for such a project.

E.4 REFERENCES

- Carson, Janet. 1995. SPPCo, Gas & Water Engineering. Personal Communication. July 5.
- Diederich, Dean W. 1995. Principal Planner, Washoe County Department of Comprehensive Planning. Personal Communication. June 28.
- Henderson. 1995. Forest Supervisor, United States Forest Service, Modoc National Forest. Personal Communication. July 24.
- Hoffman, Stanley R. 1994. *Town of Truckee General Plan Economic and Demographic Analysis*. Prepared for Town of Truckee. June 29.
- Nelson, Duane. 1995. SPPCo. Personal communication. September 26.
- Plumas-Sierra Rural Electric Cooperative. 1995. Letter correspondence to Peter Humm, Bureau of Land Management, regarding future Transmission Agency of Northern California projects. August 28.
- Sierra Pacific Power Company (SPPCo). 1995a. Lassen Municipal Utility District and Sierra Pacific Power Company Memorandum of Understanding. August 31.
- _____. 1995b. Electric & Gas Integrated Resource Plan, 1995 - 2014, Volume 5, Supply Side Plan. May 1.
- _____. 1995c. Responses to Aspen Environmental Group July 3, 1995 data request.
- _____. 1995d. Responses to Aspen Environmental Group August 22, 1995 data request.
- Sparks, City of. 1992. *The City of Sparks Master Plan*, Final Draft. March.
- Transmission Agency of Northern California. 1995. Letter correspondence to Peter Humm, Bureau of Land Management, regarding future Transmission Agency of Northern California projects. September 12.
- University of Nevada, Reno. 1994. *Nevada Business and Economic Indicators*.
- Washoe County Department of Comprehensive Planning. 1994. *Washoe County Consensus Forecast 1994 - 2015*. August 24.
- _____. 1993. Comprehensive Plan, North Valleys Area Plan. March 2.
- _____. 1992. Comprehensive Plan, Public Services and Facilities Element. August 18.