

## **Path 15 upgrade status report - July 17, 2001**

- The National Energy Policy Report, released May 17, 2001, recommended the Energy Secretary take action to explore relieving the constraints on Path 15, a transmission path between Los Baños and Gates substations in Central California.
  
- On May 28, 2001, the Secretary of Energy directed Western to complete the planning needed to relieve Path 15 constraints and determine whether outside parties are interested in helping finance and co-own the necessary system additions.
  
- Construction of a third 84-mile, 500-kV transmission line and other system improvements are estimated to increase the non-simultaneous path rating by about 1,500 MW. Estimated cost is about \$300 million and will take 3 to 4 years to construct.
  
- Western requested Statements of Interest in co-owning and/or financing proposed improvements to Path 15. Responses were due to Western by July 13.
  
- Thirteen Statements of Interest were submitted to Western that, in aggregate, exceed the estimated increase in capacity. They are from:
  - Calpine Corporation
  - Donn Campion (proposed easement property owner)
  - East Bay Municipal Utility District
  - Kinder Morgan Power Co.
  - Mirant Americas Development Inc.
  - Pacific Gas & Electric Co.
  - Path 15 Partnership (Sempra Energy Resources, MidAmerican Energy Holdings Co., Aquila, Quanta Services)
  - PG&E National Energy Group
  - Sierra Nevada Region Marketing Function, Western Area Power Administration
  - Transmission Agency of Northern California
  - Transmission America
  - Trans-Elect Inc.
  - Williams Energy Marketing and Trading Co.
  
- Western's analysis of the interest statements will take about a month. Western will present its recommendation to the Secretary in mid-August 2001.
  
- Western is also updating its environmental studies on Path 15. Western seeks public comments and concerns as part of the National Environmental Policy Act process and plans public meetings in the project area in late August. Western is preparing a supplement analysis. It will take 60 days to complete the initial work to determine if an additional EIS is needed.
  
- Western is working in cooperation with other industry entities (Pacific Gas & Electric Co., Transmission Agency of Northern California, California Independent System Operator and others)

to avoid duplication of effort and to complete necessary system studies. The system study work will be completed in late 2001.