

SDG&E commemorates official construction underway on Sunrise Powerlink transmission line

Gov. Schwarzenegger and SDG&E mark official groundbreaking for the 117-mile project

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SAN DIEGO, Dec. 9, 2010 – California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, San Diego Gas & Electric's (SDG&E) Chairman and Chief Executive Officer Jessie J. Knight Jr. and others today launched the official start of construction of the utility's approximately \$1.9 billion, 117-mile Sunrise Powerlink transmission line. Construction on the underground portion of the new power line, which will increase the reliability of the power grid and transport renewable wind, solar and geothermal energy to San Diego, started this week in Alpine, Calif. When completed in 2012, the 500-kilovolt Sunrise Powerlink electric "superhighway" will have the capacity to carry at least 1,000 megawatts of clean power, or enough energy to power approximately 650,000 homes.

As a key supporter of the project, Gov. Schwarzenegger hailed the Sunrise Powerlink as an important factor in the state's economic recovery by helping to advance the region's renewable energy industry.

"The construction of the Sunrise Powerlink is a huge win for the people of California," said Governor Schwarzenegger. "This transmission line opens the door for additional green investments and job creation in the Imperial Valley, while helping us meet our renewable energy and greenhouse gas reduction goals and improving the reliability of our power grid. It is these types of big, bold projects California needs to transition to a clean energy future."

"Today's ceremony marks the culmination of more than five years of study and planning for a transmission line critically needed to increase reliability and help meet our goal of 33 percent renewable energy by 2020," said Jessie J. Knight, Jr., chairman and chief executive officer of SDG&E. "We value the support we've received from the governor and federal and state agencies to move this project forward. At the same time, I'd also like to acknowledge the thousands of supporters in San Diego and Imperial counties who recognized early on the importance of this project to our region and pledged their full backing."

On Nov. 23, the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) issued a "notice to proceed" to SDG&E, clearing the way for the utility to begin construction on the underground section of the transmission line in Alpine. On Nov. 30, crews started preparing the 6.2-mile stretch of Alpine Boulevard for construction of the underground facilities. SDG&E has conducted extensive outreach in the Alpine community, and plans to minimize disruptions during construction by maintaining access to all businesses along Alpine Boulevard.

The project's rigorous, five-year environmental review and permitting process

included approvals by the CPUC in late 2008, the U.S. Department of the Interior's Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in early 2009, and the U.S. Department of

