

**DOCKETED**

<b>Docket Number:</b>	79-AFC-04C
<b>Project Title:</b>	Compliance - Application for Certification of DWR Bottlerock Geothermal Project
<b>TN #:</b>	264566
<b>Document Title:</b>	Data Requests - Petition to Amend the Bottle Rock Geothermal Power Plant
<b>Description:</b>	Data Requests - Petition to Amend the Bottle Rock Geothermal Power Plant - 7.5 MW Binary Project
<b>Filer:</b>	Anwar Ali
<b>Organization:</b>	California Energy Commission
<b>Submitter Role:</b>	Commission Staff
<b>Submission Date:</b>	7/8/2025 10:32:29 AM
<b>Docketed Date:</b>	7/8/2025

July 8, 2025

Brady Olson  
Chief Executive Officer  
Open Mountain Energy  
3451 N Triumph Blvd STE 201  
Lehi, Utah 84043

**Data Requests Set No. 1 - Bottle Rock Geothermal Power Plant (79-AFC-04C)**

Dear Brady Olson:

The California Energy Commission (CEC) staff is asking for the information specified in the enclosed Data Requests which is necessary for the staff analysis of the Bottle Rock Geothermal Power Plant petition to amend (PTA) (TN # 262318). The Mayacma Geothermal, LLC, proposes to construct and operate a 7.5-megawatt (MW) Binary Geothermal Power Plant within the Bottle Rock Power Plant (BRPP) site.

These Data Requests seek further information in the areas of Project Description and the operational profiles for both the proposed 7.5 MW Binary project as well as the CEC-licensed 55 MW BRPP, based on the information provided in the PTA.

To assist CEC staff in timely completing its environmental review and to meet the requirements of CEQA (see Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, §§ 15108, 15109), the CEC staff is requesting responses to the data requests within 30 days. If you are unable to provide the information requested or need to revise the timeline, please let me know within 10 days of receipt of this letter.

If you have any questions, please email me at [anwar.ali@energy.ca.gov](mailto:anwar.ali@energy.ca.gov).

*Anwar Ali*  
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Enclosure: Data Requests:

# **BOTTLE ROCK GEOTHERMAL POWER PLANT (79-AFC-04C)**

## **DATA REQUESTS – SET NO. 1**

### **A. COMPLIANCE, MONITORING AND ENFORCEMENT UNIT**

**Author: Anwar Ali**

#### **BACKGROUND: Project Description**

The CEC has been provided with conflicting information regarding the nature of the proposed changes at the Bottle Rock Power Plant (BRPP). The Petition to Amend (PTA) filed with the CEC in December 2024 is inconsistent with the information provided in the letter received on March 28, 2025, from Open Mountain Energy (OME) and the message provided by Bottle Rock Power, LLC (BRP). OME proposed to add 7.5 MW of turbine generation capacity to the BRPP on top of the existing 55 MW BRPP that is jurisdictional to the CEC. However, Jill Waltz, of BRP, indicated that BRP has leased Geysers natural geothermal resources and shared access to the power plant site to OME for production of up to 7.5 MW. Jill Waltz's direction was that 7.5 MW is a part of the existing capacity allocation under the current CEC permit. Further, she has indicated that BRP intends to re-power the full 55 MW capacity of its CEC permit over time with advanced geothermal and thermal energy storage that is outside the Geysers natural reservoir and to use the existing power plant infrastructure for the remaining geothermal production (up to 47.5 MW).

#### **DATA REQUESTS**

With this information, CEC staff is requesting the following data requests noted below:

1. An updated Project Description that explains whether the proposed 7.5 MW is part of the existing BRPP 55 MW capacity or whether the proposed 7.5 MW is in addition to the existing CEC licensed 55 MW capacity.

### **B. COMPLIANCE, MONITORING AND ENFORCEMENT UNIT**

**Author: Anwar Ali**

#### **BACKGROUND: Operational Profiles**

The operation profiles for the proposed 7.5 MW Binary Geothermal project and the existing 55 MW BRPP is not clear. The following are examples of the unclear nature of the operational profiles:

1. OME's proposed project change would involve shared use of some BRPP equipment.
2. BRP would use the existing power plant infrastructure of the BRPP for the remaining geothermal production (up to 47.5 MW).
3. The PTA proposes disconnecting the existing steam supply pipeline at the turbine generator building inlet, steam-stacking system, and rock muffler.

# **BOTTLE ROCK GEOTHERMAL POWER PLANT (79-AFC-04C)**

## **DATA REQUESTS – SET NO. 1**

### **DATA REQUESTS**

1. Since the CEC has to evaluate worst case environmental impacts, please provide clear operational profiles of the 7.5 MW Binary project and the 55 MW BRPP, including detailed description of how the two facilities could operate simultaneously to the maximum extent that the CEC's certification allows.
2. Would a second cooling tower be constructed to ensure that the 7.5 MW facility could operate independently without reducing the load from the 55 MW BRPP facility?
3. If the proposed project change would add 7.5 MW to the existing 55 MW BRPP facility for a total of 62.5 MW, would any additional equipment (in addition to the new equipment for the 7.5 MW facility provided in the PTA) be needed?
4. Would the use of some shared infrastructure (e.g., the Stretford system, cooling towers, pipelines, groundwater wells, etc.) prevent the facility from achieving 62.5 MW?

### **C. COMPLIANCE, MONITORING AND ENFORCEMENT UNIT**

**Authors: Anwar Ali**

#### **BACKGROUND: CEQA Review Requirements**

Review of the proposed 7.5 MW addition necessarily includes any and all ancillary activities required to bring the facility to full operational capacity. If achieving the 7.5 MW project or 55 MW plus the 7.5 MW (62.5 MW) project requires drilling new wells, deepening existing ones, upgrading aging turbines, or installing new cooling systems, those activities must be analyzed within the PTA.

### **DATA REQUESTS**

1. Provide a comprehensive review for both the 7.5 MW and the 55 MW BRPP facility under CEQA ensuring that all activities to achieve either scenario are analyzed.