

DOCKETED

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Description:	Petition for Post Certification CHange Gateway Generating Station (00-AFC-01C)
Filer:	susan fleming
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SUMMARY OF POST CERTIFICATION PETITION PETITION FOR POST CERTIFICATION CHANGE GATEWAY GENERATING STATION (00-AFC-01C)

On September 25, 2025, the Pacific Gas and Electricity Company (Project Owner) filed a Post-Certification Petition for Changes in Project Design, Operation or Performance and Amendments to the Commission Decision (Petition) ([TN 266146](#)) with the California Energy Commission (CEC) for the Gateway Generating Station (GGS) pursuant to California Code of Regulations, title 20, section 1769.

GGS, a 530-megawatt (MW) combined-cycle, natural gas facility was certified by the CEC in May 2001 and began commercial operation in January 2009. The facility is within the site complex of the existing Contra Costa Power Plant (CCPP) in Contra Costa County, just north of the City of Antioch, in Contra Costa County.

On August 10, 2018, [TN 224461](#), The California Energy Commission (Energy Commission or Commission) and Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) as owner of the Gateway Generating Station (GGS), enter into this Settlement Agreement (Agreement).

This Settlement Agreement was a result of CEC investigating complaints received by PG&E between May 28, 2016, and June 22, 2016, at the GGS. The investigation included calls with GGS and Bay Area Air Quality Management District (District) personnel and review of all relevant documents including data provided by the GGS in response to the Energy Commission data requests.

The Investigation Findings excerpts:

Major maintenance of the GGS occurred between March 27, 2016, and May 27, 2016. Maintenance included inspections and repairs on the major combustion turbines, the Heat Recovery Steam Generators (HRSGs), and the steam turbines. Maintenance also included valve work.

PG&E received four complaints between May 28 and June 22, 2016, alleging that emissions associated with the operations at the GGS facility caused damage to boats and other personal property located in the city of Antioch, approximately 0.25 miles east of GGS.

PG&E hired the Rimkus Consulting Group to prepare a report that concluded that the reddish-brown material deposited on the boats was "suggestive that the major constituent contributing to the stain is iron."

Energy Commission Staff alleges that it is necessary to require two additional Air Quality Conditions of Certification (COCs), AQ-SCI2 and AQ-SCI3, to monitor emissions at start up after certain maintenance operations at the GGS and to ensure the GGS operates in compliance with all LORS. PG&E does not agree that the additional Air Quality Conditions of Certification are necessary, but in order to settle this outstanding claim, agrees to their inclusion in this Agreement. The agreed upon Air Quality COCs, AQ-SCI2 and AQ-SCI3.

The project owner has indicated in the Petition for Amendment that COC AQ-SC12 and AQ-SC13 present operational constraints to the GGS facility by limiting how quickly the plant can restart operations after an outage.

PG&E has complied with VEE requirements for the past 6 years and no evaluated air containment emissions have been No.1 or darker on the Ringelmann Chart demonstrating consistent compliance with Condition of Certification AQ-SC12. Also, PG&E has made the GGS facility available for inspection at any time and implemented additional resources to manage public complaints. PG&E has a call line for public complaints to be filed and has posted signs outside the plant with the phone number of the call line. The VEE requirements, as outlined in Condition of Certification AQ-SC13, present an operational burden to the GGS facility by limiting how quickly the plant can restart operations after an outage.

The project owner has indicated that the proposed COC modification to AQ-SC12 and the deletion of AQ-SC13 would facilitate quicker restart operations while still maintaining air quality standards and implementing additional maintenance measures in COC AQ-SC12 as provided in the Petition for Amendment TN 266146 and listed below.

SUMMARY OF PROPOSED CHANGES

The project owner seeks approval to modify COC **AQ-SC12** and delete Condition of Certification **AQ-SC13**.

AQ-SCI2: Except for temporary sandblasting operations and the fire pump engine, the project owner shall not discharge into the atmosphere from any single source of emissions whatsoever any air contaminant for a period or periods aggregating more than three minutes in any one hour which is:

- a) As dark or darker in shade as that designated No. I on the Ringelmann Chart, as published by the United States Bureau of Mines; or
- b) Of such opacity as to obscure an observer's view to a degree equal to or greater than does smoke described in subparagraph (a) of this condition.

AQ-SC12 proposed modifications: (underline and italicized text)

The project owner shall implement the following precautionary measures to ensure loose debris that could exit the heat recovery generator exhaust stack, will be mitigated following maintenance activities. These measures could include, but are not limited to:

- a. Thorough inspection will be performed.*
- b. Loose debris will be removed by appropriate means.*
- c. Thorough vacuuming of internal flue gas spaces including catalyst faces.*
- d. In the event of extended (greater than 60 days) dry lay-up, a means to dehumidify the internal flue gas space will be installed and utilized.*
- e. During abrasive blasting activities to address tube bundle fouling, the exhaust stack will be blinded using a suitable method while the work is being performed.*

Verification: The project owner shall certify compliance with the condition in the quarterly reports required by condition AQ-14. The project owner shall report all instances of non-compliance with the condition in writing to the Compliance Project Manager (CPM) within 10 calendar days of the discovery of the incident.
The project owner shall make the site available for inspection by representatives of the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD), California Air Resources Board (ARB), United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and California Energy Commission (Energy Commission) Compliance Project Manager (CPM).

AQ-SC13 proposed deletion:

AQ-SC13 The project owner shall perform a visible emissions evaluation (VEE) using EPA Method 9 during any restart of the turbine following any maintenance activities requiring the Heat Recovery Steam Generator (HRSG) to be opened. For the purpose of this condition, restart shall include anytime the turbine is operated after being taken offline for maintenance activities and prior to the actual return to commercial service. The individual performing the evaluation shall be trained and certified in Method 9 evaluations.

The project owner shall notify the Bay Area Air Quality Management District BAAQMD and the Energy Commission CPM at least 7 days prior to any VEE performed for a restart after scheduled maintenance activities and as soon as practicable for a restart after unscheduled maintenance activities.

Verification: At least 7 days prior to the VEE for a restart after scheduled maintenance activities and as soon as practicable for a restart after unscheduled maintenance activities, the project owner shall notify the BAAQMD and Energy Commission CPM of the anticipated restart(s) and shall provide documentation of certification of the individual performing the VEE. The project owner shall make the site available to representatives of the BAAQMD, ARB, EPA and Energy Commission CPM for viewing the restart(s). The VEE results shall be submitted to the Energy Commission CPM within 7 days of any restart.

For additional information, please visit the CEC's project webpage at, <https://www.energy.ca.gov/powerplant/combined-cycle/gateway-generating-station>. Accessible on the webpage is a link to the petition locate the box labeled "Compliance Proceeding"; select the "Docket Log" option to view.

REVIEW PROCESS

This petition is reviewed pursuant to California Code of Regulations, title 20, section 1769. The review process includes an evaluation of the effect the change could have on the environment; the project's compliance with applicable laws, ordinances, regulations, or standards; and whether a change to, or deletion of any condition of certification adopted by the CEC in the final decision or subsequent amendments is required.

After staff completes an independent review and analysis of this petition, the assessment will be published for public review and comment. Included in the staff analysis, will be written notice of staff's intent to either process the proposed changes as a staff-approved project change or schedule it for consideration by the CEC at a regularly scheduled business meeting.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

This summary of the post certification petition is being mailed to the following persons on the CEC's mailing list for the project: interested agencies, members of the public, property owners who requested placement on the mailing list, and property owners within 500 feet of linear features (for example, pipeline) and within 1,000 feet of the facility. The notice is also being sent electronically using the [Gateway Generating Station](#) electronic subscription service. The electronic subscription service is an automated CEC system by which information about this

facility is emailed to parties who have subscribed. To subscribe, go to the [CEC's project webpage](#), cited above, scroll down the right side of the project webpage to the box labeled "Subscribe," and provide the requested contact information.

Any person may comment on the petition or the staff analysis when publicly available. The CEC encourages use of its electronic commenting system. To use the CEC's electronic commenting feature, go to the [CEC's project webpage](#), cited above, click on the "[Submit e-Comment](#)" link, and follow the instructions in the online form. Be sure to include the facility name in your comments.

Written comments, attachments, and associated contact information (for example, address, phone number, email address) become part of the viewable public record. This information may also become available via any internet search engine.

Written comments may also be mailed to:

California Energy Commission
Docket Unit, MS-4
Docket No. 00-AFC-01C
715 P Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

If you have questions about this notice, please contact Compliance Project Manager John Heiser, Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Unit, Safety and Reliability Branch, at (916) 628-5566 or via e-mail at John.Heiser@energy.ca.gov.

For information on public participation, please contact the CEC's Office of Public Advisor, Energy Equity, and Tribal Affairs at (916) 957-7910 or email at publicadvisor@energy.ca.gov.

News media inquiries should be directed to the CEC's Media Office at (916) 654-4989, or by email to mediaoffice@energy.ca.gov.

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