

DOCKETED

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**Before the Energy Resources Conservation and Development
Commission of the State of California**
1516 Ninth Street, Sacramento, CA 95814
1-800-822-6228 – www.energy.ca.gov

APPLICATION FOR CERTIFICATION FOR THE:

PUENTE POWER PROJECT

Docket No. 15-AFC-01

REVISED COMMITTEE SCHEDULING ORDER

Background

On April 15, 2015, NRG Oxnard Energy Center, LLC (Applicant) submitted an Application for Certification (AFC) to the California Energy Commission (Energy Commission) seeking permission to construct and operate a 262-megawatt (MW) natural-gas-fired power generation facility, the Puente Power Project (Project). The Project would be located at 393 North Harbor Boulevard in the city of Oxnard, on the site of the existing Mandalay Generating Station (MGS), an operating power plant.

Following the completion of four days of Evidentiary Hearings on February 7-10, 2017, and its initial review of the evidence, the Committee¹ issued *Committee Orders for Additional Evidence and Briefing Following Evidentiary Hearings*.² Those orders required the Applicant to provide results from one or more focused biological surveys of the proposed project site, and invited all parties to provide additional evidence regarding those surveys and on subtopics related to Soil and Water Resources, Alternatives, and Compliance and Closure. Energy Commission Staff (Staff) was ordered to propose a schedule for the remainder of this proceeding and the parties were invited to comment on Staff's proposal. The Committee conducted a Committee Conference on April 28, 2017 to discuss the schedule and the status of this proceeding, as well as a pending motion.³

Revised Schedule

The Committee has considered the Staff's proposed schedule, party responses, and the discussion during the April 28 Committee Conference and hereby issues the attached revised schedule. The revised schedule provides for the submission of supplemental testimony by June 15, 2017, from all parties on Soil and Water Resources, Alternatives,

¹ The Committee assigned to conduct proceedings on the Application for Certification (AFC) for the Puente Power Project consists of Commissioner Janea Scott, Presiding Member, and Commissioner Karen Douglas, Associate Member. The Energy Commission made this Committee assignment at its June 10, 2015 Business Meeting.

² TN 216505.

³ The Committee's ruling on the motion will be filed separately.

and Compliance and Closure. Biological Resources supplemental testimony begins with the Applicant's filing of the focused survey results by June 23, 2017. Supplemental testimony ends with the filing of any additional testimony on all four topics by all parties by July 14, 2017.⁴

Prehearing Statements⁵ are due on July 21, 2017. Evidentiary Hearings will be held on July 26 and 27, in Oxnard. The Committee expects to complete the Evidentiary Hearings within those two days. Should the need for additional hearing time arise, the Committee has set aside July 28 on its calendar for that purpose.

Opening briefs are due by September 1, 2017, five weeks after the Evidentiary Hearings conclude. Reply briefs are due two weeks later, by September 15, 2017.

The Applicant shall confirm the availability of the Oxnard Performing Arts Center or another suitable venue on the above hearing dates including July 28. Formal notice of the evidentiary hearings, including the required content of the Prehearing Statements, will be filed closer in time to the hearings.

The Committee may modify the schedule at any time upon either its own motion or that of a party.⁶

Status Reports

Status reports are no longer required. Should information that may affect the schedule come to a party's attention, the Committee asks that the party share that information with the Committee by filing a written report in the docket.

Public Adviser and Public Participation

The Energy Commission Public Adviser's Office is available to assist the public in participating in the application review process. For information on how to participate, contact Alana Mathews, Public Adviser, at (916) 654-4489 or (800) 822-6228, or e-mail at publicadviser@energy.ca.gov.

⁴ As to each of those topics, the Committee's request for additional evidence was limited to specific subtopics. For example, regarding Alternatives, the request was directed to an analysis of "the use of one or more smaller (50 – 100 MW) turbines instead of the larger turbine proposed by the applicant at the two alternative sites analyzed in the Final Staff Assessment ... to determine whether it is feasible to reduce or eliminate the previously identified potential impacts on aviation." See the *Orders for Additional Evidence and Briefing Following Evidentiary Hearings* (TN 216505) for the precise descriptions of the subtopics.

⁵ No Prehearing Conference is contemplated. The Committee will take the Prehearing Statements and release a schedule of topics and witnesses prior to the Evidentiary Hearings. The first order of business at the beginning of the Evidentiary Hearings will be confirming or modifying that schedule as necessary.

⁶ Cal. Code Regs., tit. 20, § 1203, subd. (c).

Contact Information

Questions of a procedural nature should be directed to Paul Kramer, Hearing Officer, at (916) 654-5103 or e-mail at paul.kramer@energy.ca.gov.

Technical questions concerning the project should be addressed to Shawn Pittard, Staff Project Manager, at (916) 654-3936 or e-mail at shawn.pittard@energy.ca.gov.

Media inquiries should be directed to the Media and Public Communications Office at (916) 654-4989 or e-mail at mediaoffice@energy.ca.gov.

Information concerning the status of the project, as well as notices and other relevant documents, may be viewed on the Energy Commission's web page at <http://www.energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/puente/>.

Dated: May 11, 2017, at Sacramento, California.

Original signed by _____
JANEA A. SCOTT
Commissioner and Presiding Member
Puente Power Project Committee

Original signed by _____
KAREN DOUGLAS
Commissioner and Associate Member
Puente Power Project Committee

**PUENTE POWER PROJECT
REVISED COMMITTEE SCHEDULE
15-AFC-01
May 2017**

ACTIVITY	DATE
Applicant Conducts Focused Biological Surveys	April – June 2017
Supplemental testimony due on these topics: •Soil and Water Resources — coastal flooding analysis; •Alternatives; and •Compliance and Closure	Thursday, June 15, 2017
Applicant's Biological Survey Report (supplemental Biological Resources testimony) due	Friday, June 23, 2017
Closing testimony due on topics: •Biological Resources •Soil and Water Resources — coastal flooding analysis; •Alternatives; and •Compliance and Closure	Friday, July 14, 2017
Prehearing Statements due	Friday, July 21, 2017
Evidentiary Hearings	Wednesday and Thursday, July 26 - 27, 2017, (Friday, July 28, 2017, if necessary)
Transcripts filed	Monday, August 7, 2017
Opening Briefs on all issues due	Friday, September 1, 2017
Reply Briefs due	Friday, September 15, 2017
Committee Files Presiding Member's Proposed Decision (PMPD)	October 2017
Committee Conference on PMPD	TBD
Close of Public Comment Period on PMPD	30 days after publication of the PMPD
Committee Files Errata or Revised PMPD (if necessary)	TBD
Energy Commission Final Decision	TBD

TBD - to be determined