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RE: Comments on May 2nd Workshop

Additional submitted attachment is included below.

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Dockets Unit
California Energy Commission
Docket No. 15-RETI-02
1516 Ninth Street, MS-4
Sacramento, CA 95814-5512

May 11th, 2016

RE: Transmission Assessment Focus Areas. Presentation and discussion of proposed Focus Areas and next steps for assessment of potential transmission and environmental/land use issues during phase two of the RETI 2.0 process on May 2nd, 2016.

The Geothermal Energy Association (GEA) is pleased with the RETI 2.0 management team's decision to study the integration of 450 MW of geothermal power from Northern California and 1000 MW from the Imperial Valley. While the Imperial Valley resources are not fully flexible, as Hal Harvey's presentation noted there is still a substantial amount of dirty and imported power this geothermal generation could replace. In addition, building fast-ramping gas-fired generation to supplement intermittent generation rather than base load geothermal resources would be a less effective means in meeting California's energy goals.

To replace some of this dirty imported power, GEA would like to highlight Nevada's experience in geothermal development. Developers in Nevada have demonstrated geothermal power can be built quickly along existing transmission lines at cost-effective prices. New plants or existing projects that will be coming off contract should be considered by California's utilities trying to reach a 50% renewable goal by 2030.

As Jim Caldwell notes in his presentation and public comments on April 18th, additional geothermal power would help shrink the "duck's belly," reduce CO_2 emissions compared to the base case and save the electricity system up to $75 in operational costs for every MWh of added geothermal generation. This number translates into potential savings as high as 2% of total system costs by 2030.

As the California Energy Commission moves forward with RETI modeling and planning, please use the Geothermal Energy Association as a resource if you have any questions. GEA looks forward to your modeling results in a few months' time.

Sincerely,

Benjamin Matek
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