

DOCKETED

Docket Number:	08-AFC-09C
Project Title:	Palmdale Energy Project (Formerly Palmdale Hybrid Power Plant) - Compliance
TN #:	210844
Document Title:	Request for Comments on the Preliminary Staff Assessment for the Palmdale Energy Project Amendment
Description:	Palmdale (PEP) PSA Notice of Availability (NOA) Agency Distribution List
Filer:	Eric Veerkamp
Organization:	California Energy Commission
Submitter Role:	Commission Staff
Submission Date:	3/23/2016 4:20:19 PM
Docketed Date:	3/23/2016

CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION

1516 NINTH STREET
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814-5512
www.energy.ca.gov



March 23, 2016

**REQUEST FOR COMMENTS ON THE
PRELIMINARY STAFF ASSESSMENT FOR THE
PALMDALE ENERGY PROJECT AMENDMENT (08-AFC-9C)**

TO: AGENCY DISTRIBUTION LIST

The enclosed Preliminary Staff Assessment (PSA) contains the California Energy Commission (Energy Commission) staff's preliminary evaluation of the proposed amendment for the Palmdale Energy Project (PEP), formerly the Palmdale Hybrid Power Project (PHPP). The PSA is available for review on the Energy Commission's web site at http://docketpublic.energy.ca.gov/PublicDocuments/08-AFC-09C/TN210835_20160323T124157_Palmdale_Final_PSA_3232016.pdf

This PSA is not a decision document for power plant proceedings, nor does it contain findings of the Energy Commission related to environmental impacts or the project's compliance with local, state, and federal laws, ordinances, regulations and standards (LORS). The PSA will serve as a precursor to the Final Staff Assessment (FSA). After allowing for a public comment period on this PSA, staff will prepare and publish an FSA that will address comments received and serve as staff's formal testimony in evidentiary hearings to be held by the Energy Commission Committee assigned to hear this case. The Committee will hold evidentiary hearings and will consider the recommendations presented by the staff, petitioner, intervenors, government agencies, tribes and the public, prior to proposing its decision. The Energy Commission will make the final decision, including findings, after the Committee's publication of its proposed decision.

The Energy Commission encourages agency participation in the review of the PEP amendment. The agency comment period for this PSA ends on April 22, 2016. If you wish to provide comments on the document, please submit comments by going to the Energy Commission's PEP webpage <http://www.energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/palmdale/> and click on the "Submit e-Comment" link. Please provide your full name, agency name, an e-mail address, reference Docket No. 08-AFC-9C, in the subject line, and preferably put your comment in an attached document (.doc, .docx, or .pdf format). After entering characters to ensure that responses are generated by a human user and not a computer, click on the "Agree & Submit Your Comment" button to submit the comment to the Energy Commission Dockets Unit. If you wish to mail written comments on the project, please submit them to the Energy Commission Dockets Unit. Please include the Docket No., 08-AFC-9C, for the PEP in the subject line or first paragraph of your comments, and mail or hand-deliver them to:

California Energy Commission
Dockets Unit, MS-4
1516 Ninth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814-5512

All written comments and materials filed with the Dockets Unit will become a part of the public record of the proceeding. Additionally, comments will be posted on the SEP webpage of the Energy Commission's website.

Summary of the Palmdale Energy Center Petition to Amend

The proposed site for the PEP project is located approximately 60 miles north of downtown Los Angeles and in the northernmost portion of the city of Palmdale. The site address is 950 East Avenue M, located west of the northwest corner of US Plant 42 and east of the intersection of Sierra Highway and East Avenue M.

The project owner proposes to modify the approved PHPP

- Replacement of the General Electric gas turbines with new Siemens SGT6-5000Fs to meet pending need for "Flexible Resources" to support integration of renewable energy;
- A new steam turbine;
- A new auxiliary boiler;
- Elimination of the solar components of the approved project;
- Elimination of brine concentrator/crystallizer systems;
- Replacement of the wet cooling towers with an air-cooled condenser (ACC);
- Reduction of the site from 333 acres to 50 acres;
- Reduction of the construction laydown and parking area from 50 acres to 20 acres;
- Reorientation of the power block with the HRSG stacks now on the east and the combustion turbine inlets to the west;
- Relocation of the site access road from approximately 900 feet further east on East Avenue M to the western edge of the site property line;
- Relocation of the point where the 230 kV transmission line turns south to the generating facility from East Avenue M to a point approximately 1,800 feet further west on East Avenue M;
- Addition of three 230 kV transmission line towers along the south side of East Avenue M north of the project site and extension of the generation tie-line westerly approximately 1,800 feet along the south side of East Avenue M;
- Addition of waste stream consisting of combustion turbine inlet evaporative cooler blow down, water treatment system reject, and plant drains;

- Reduction in the length of the approved project sewer pipeline which will now interconnect with an existing city of Palmdale sewer pipeline along the south side of East Avenue M;
- Change in the water steam cycle chemistry control system from a phosphate based system to an all volatile system; and
- Possible change from a CO₂ based fire suppression system for some components to an FM200 based system.

Summary of the California Energy Commission Staff's Preliminary Conclusions

Based upon the information provided and analyses completed to date, the following **Summary Table 1** illustrates Energy Commission staff's preliminary assessment of the petition to amend. Please review the PSA for a detailed discussion of the significance of staff's conclusions. These preliminary conclusions are subject to change in the FSA depending upon additional information and comments received.

**Summary Table 1
Environmental and Engineering Assessment**

Technical Area	Complies with LORS	Impacts Mitigated	Additional Information Required
Air Quality/Greenhouse Gases	Unknown	Unknown	Undetermined
Biological Resources	Yes	Yes	No
Cultural Resources	Unknown	Unknown	Yes
Efficiency	Yes	Yes	No
Facility Design	Yes	Yes	No
Geological and Paleontological Resources	Yes	Yes	No
Hazardous Materials	Yes	Yes	No
Land Use	Yes	Yes	No
Noise and Vibration	Yes	Yes	No
Public Health	Yes	Yes	No
Reliability	Yes	Yes	No
Socioeconomics	Yes	Yes	No
Soil and Water Resources	Unknown	Unknown	Yes
Traffic and Transportation	Yes	Yes	No
Transmission Line Safety and Nuisance	Yes	Yes	No
Transmission System Engineering	Yes	Yes	No
Visual Resources	Yes	Yes	No
Waste Management	Yes	Yes	No
Worker Safety and Fire Protection	Yes	Yes	No
Alternatives	NA	NA	No

*Staff's analysis of the proposed amendment is presently inconclusive for Air Quality/Greenhouse Gases, Soil and Water Resources, and Transmission System Engineering. Insufficient data was available to staff at the time the PSA was prepared to conduct a reliable analysis of potential impacts on these technical areas. Currently staff is reviewing additional information provided by the petitioner and has yet to determine if all information is complete.

Additional Project Information

The status of the project, copies of notices and other relevant documents are available on the Energy Commission's web site:

<http://www.energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/palmdale/index.html>

If you have questions about the project, review process or schedule, please contact Eric Veerkamp, Energy Commission Compliance Project Manager, at (916) 654-4295 or [e-mail at eric.veerkamp@energy.ca.gov](mailto:eric.veerkamp@energy.ca.gov).

List Serve

If you would like to be notified of upcoming workshops or other documents being docketed for this project you can subscribe to the List Serve for this project by going to <http://www.energy.ca.gov/listservers/index.html> and entering your first and last name, e-mail address and selecting “**Palmdale Energy Project**” located under the heading **Construction On Hold**.

Sincerely,

Date: March 23, 2016

<< Signature on file >>

CHRISTINE ROOT
Compliance Office Manager
Siting, Transmission, & Environmental Protection Division

Mailed to agency list 7318c