

DOCKETED

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CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION

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



September 14, 2016

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

TO: AGENCY DISTRIBUTION LIST

The enclosed Final Staff Assessment (FSA) contains the California Energy Commission Energy Commission staff's evaluation of the proposed Palmdale Energy Project (PEP) Petition to Amend (PTA). The FSA contains all technical staff analyses and conditions of certification. http://docketpublic.energy.ca.gov/PublicDocuments/08-AFC-09C/TN213623_20160912T162711_Final_Staff_Assessment.pdf

This FSA 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). An Energy Commission Committee assigned to the petition will hold evidentiary hearings on the FSA 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 FSA. 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/index.html> 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 PEP webpage of the Energy Commission's website.

SUMMARY OF THE PALMDALE ENERGY PROJECT PETITION TO AMEND

The PEP site is located in the northernmost portion of the city of Palmdale, approximately 60 miles north of downtown Los Angeles. The site address is 950 East Avenue M.

The PEP project owner proposes to modify the approved Palmdale Hybrid Power Project (PHPP) primarily to remove the solar component of the project, utilize air cooling, and to change the name to the Palmdale Energy Project. Modifications proposed for the project include the following:

- 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 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 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's 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 gas turbine components to an FM200 based system.

SUMMARY OF THE ENERGY COMMISSION STAFF'S CONCLUSIONS

Based upon the information provided and analyses completed, the following **Summary Table 1** illustrates Energy Commission staff's assessment of the petition to amend. Please review the FSA for a detailed discussion of the significance of staff's conclusions.

Summary Table 1

Technical Area	Complies with LORS	Impacts Mitigated
Air Quality/Greenhouse gases	Yes	Yes
Biological Resources	Yes	Yes
Cultural Resources	Yes	Yes
Efficiency	Yes	Yes
Facility Design	Yes	Yes
Geological and Paleontological Resources	Yes	Yes
Hazardous Materials	Yes	Yes
Land Use	Yes	Yes
Noise and Vibration	Yes	Yes
Public Health	Yes	Yes
Reliability	Yes	Yes
Socioeconomics	Yes	Yes
Soil and Water Resources	Yes	Yes
Traffic & Transportation	Yes	Yes
Transmission Line Safety/Nuisance	Yes	Yes
Transmission System Engineering	Yes	Yes
Visual Resources	Yes	Yes
Waste Management	Yes	Yes
Worker Safety and Fire Protection	Yes	Yes
Alternatives	NA	NA

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.

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: 9/14/16



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

Mailed to Agency List 7318c