

CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION

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

**DOCKET****08-AFC-8A**

May 11, 2012

DATE MAY 11 2012RECD. MAY 15 2012**To: MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC****RECEIPT OF AMENDED APPLICATION FOR CERTIFICATION FOR THE HYDROGEN ENERGY CALIFORNIA PROJECT (08-AFC-8A),**

On May 2, 2012, the Energy Commission received an amended Application for Certification (AFC) for Hydrogen Energy California (HECA).

Project History

On July 31, 2008, Hydrogen Energy California, LLC (HECA) submitted an Application for Certification (08-AFC-8) to the California Energy Commission. In 2011, Hydrogen Energy California LLC, was acquired by SCS Energy California, LLC. A Revised AFC was submitted, to reflect a change of the project site to an alternative location. On May 2, 2012, SCS Energy, LLC, submitted an Amended Application for Certification (08-AFC-8A) reflecting several changes to the original project design.

The new Amended Application for Certification (AFC) has been assigned a separate distinguishing docket number, 08-AFC-8A. The Amended AFC for the project supersedes and replaces all previous submissions, and incorporates all relevant information from the previous versions of the HECA proceedings. All previous applicant documents can be disposed and replaced with the Amended AFC.

Project Location

The project modification is within the proposed 453-acre site (currently used for agricultural production of alfalfa, cotton, and onions), and is comprised of two parcels (Part of Assessor's Parcel # 159-040-16 and 159-040-18, respectively). The proposed site is located in western unincorporated Kern County, Section 10 of Township 30 South, Range 24 East, approximately 7 miles west of the outermost edge of the city of Bakersfield. It is 1.5 miles northwest of the unincorporated community of Tupman and approximately 4 miles southeast of the unincorporated community of Buttonwillow, and is bounded by Adohr Road on the north, Tupman Road to the east, an irrigation canal (California State Water Project, aqueduct) to the south, and Dairy Road to the west. Elk Hills Oil Field is located approximately 1 mile south of the project site.

Energy Commission's Facility Certification Process

The Energy Commission is responsible for reviewing and ultimately approving or denying applications for construction for all thermal electric power plants in California that are, 50 MW and greater. The Energy Commission's facility certification process carefully examines public health and safety, environmental impacts and engineering aspects of proposed power plants and all related facilities such as electric transmission lines and natural gas and water pipelines. The Energy Commission is the lead agency

under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), but through its certified regulatory program produces several environmental and decision documents rather than an Environmental Impact Report.

As part of our review process, the staff of the Energy Commission works closely with local, state and federal agencies to ensure that all laws, ordinances, regulations and standards are addressed in the Energy Commission's final decision. The AFC was complete on August 26, 2009, and staff's data discovery and issue analysis phases has begun.

Public Participation

Over the coming months, the Energy Commission will conduct a number of public workshops and hearings to determine whether and under what conditions the proposed project should be approved for construction and operation. The workshops will provide the public as well as local, state and federal agencies the opportunity to participate in reviewing the proposed project. The Energy Commission will issue notices for these workshops and hearings at least ten days prior to the meeting. If you are not currently receiving these notices and wish to be placed on the mailing list, please contact Elizabeth Stuart, Project Assistant, at (916) 651-9106, or by email at elizabeth.stuart@energy.ca.gov.

If you desire information about participating in the Energy Commission's review of the proposed project, please contact Loreen McMahon, the Energy Commission's Public Adviser, by phone at (916) 654-4489 or toll free in California at (800) 822-6228, or by email at pao@energy.state.ca.us. Technical or project schedule questions should be directed to Robert Worl, Energy Commission Project Manager, at (916) 651-8853 or by email at robert.worl@energy.ca.gov.

Note: Please retain this letter behind the front cover of the Amended AFC, and with the 2 CD set electronic version of the Amended AFC.

Thank You.