

CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION

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



DOCKET 06-AFC-5
DATE SEP 14 2007
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September 14, 2007

Dear Librarian:

**DOCUMENT HANDLING FOR THE PANOCHE ENERGY CENTER
FINAL STAFF ASSESSMENT (06-AFC-5)**

The enclosed Final Staff Assessment (FSA) contains the California Energy Commission staff's final environmental and engineering evaluation of the Panoche Energy Center. Please make this FSA available for those who may wish to be informed about the project. We request that you not allow the FSA or any of its contents to be removed from the library. To increase accessibility of the document, we ask, if possible, that you cross reference it as a general reference work under the title and author categories, as well as under such subjects as "Energy Commission," "electricity energy/generation," "power plant siting," or any other relevant subject. Please retain the enclosed letter to the public behind the front cover of the FSA.

The Energy Commission's siting process is open to the public and incorporates the input of the public as well as local, state and federal agencies. To facilitate public participation in our review process, the Energy Commission distributes copies of staff documents such as the FSA to public libraries in communities near the proposed project and in major cities throughout the state.

Thank you for your cooperation. If you have any questions, please contact James W. Reede, Jr., Ed.D, Project Manager, at (916) 653-1245, or by e-mail at: jreede@energy.state.ca.us

Sincerely,

Roger E. Johnson
Siting and Compliance Office Manager

Enclosure

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September 14, 2007

To: MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN THE REVIEW OF PANOCHÉ ENERGY CENTER
FINAL STAFF ASSESSMENT**

On August 2, 2006, Energy Investors Fund, LLC, submitted an Application for Certification (AFC) to construct and operate a 400 megawatt (MW) simple-cycle power plant, the Panoche Energy Center, in an unincorporated area of western Fresno County. The facility site will be located on a 12.8-acre site within a 128-acre parcel. The site is approximately 12 miles southwest of the city of Mendota, 16 miles south-southwest of the city of Firebaugh and approximately 2 miles east of Interstate 5, adjacent to the Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E) existing Panoche Substation. The proposed site and substation are located south of West Panoche Road.

The Energy Commission is responsible for reviewing and ultimately approving or denying all applications for construction and operation of thermal electric power plants, 50 MW and greater, proposed for construction in California. 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 produces several environmental and decision documents rather than an Environmental Impact Report.

The Final Staff Assessment (FSA) contains the Energy Commission staff's final environmental and engineering evaluation of the project. Any written comments should be submitted by **October 5, 2007**. The FSA is **not** the Energy Commission's final decision on the proposed PEC project. The Energy Commission's Committee assigned to the project will conduct one or more hearings to consider and weigh the testimony or comments or recommendations of all interested parties, including Energy Commission staff, the applicant, intervenors, public, and other local, state and federal agencies. The Committee will then issue the Presiding Member's Proposed Decision (PMPD) for consideration by the full Energy Commission. The public, intervenors, local, state and federal agencies are encouraged to participate in these hearings. The Energy Commission will issue notices at least 10 days prior to these hearings. If you are not currently receiving these notices and want to be placed on the mailing list, please contact Dora Gomez, Project Secretary, at (916) 653-1608.

Persons wanting information on how to participate in the Energy Commission's review of the project should contact the Energy Commission's Public Adviser's Office, at (916) 654-4489, or toll free in California at (800) 822-6228.

Technical or project schedule questions should be directed to James W. Reede, Jr., Ed.D, Siting Project Manager, at (916) 653-1245 or by email at jreede@energy.state.ca.us. The FSA and other relevant documents are available on the Energy Commission's Internet web site at: www.energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/panoche.

Note: Please retain this letter behind the front cover of the FSA. Thank You.