

## CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION

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

**DOCKET****11-AFC-1**

DATE FEB 15 2011

February 15, 2011

RECD. FEB 15 2011

Dear Librarian:

**DOCUMENT HANDLING FOR THE PIO PICO ENERGY CENTER, APPLICATION FOR CERTIFICATION (11-AFC-1)**

On February 10, 2011, Pio Pico Energy Center LLC submitted an Application for Certification (AFC) to the California Energy Commission seeking permission to construct and operate a nominal 300-megawatt (MW) natural gas-fired simple-cycle generating facility, the Pio Pico Energy Center (PPEC). The current AFC replaces the previously proposed project that was withdrawn on December 10, 2010. The new project site is proposed to be located in an unincorporated area of southwestern San Diego County, known as Otay Mesa.

The PPEC is under the Energy Commission's siting authority. The Commission's power plant certification process examines engineering, environmental, public health, and safety aspects of power plant proposals and provides analyses pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). When issuing a license, the Energy Commission is the lead state agency under CEQA and through its certified regulatory program produces several environmental and decision documents rather than an Environmental Impact Report.

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 has sent copies of the AFC to libraries in Fresno, Eureka, Sacramento, San Francisco, Los Angeles, and San Diego.

Please make the enclosed AFC available for those who may wish to be informed about the project. We request that you not allow the AFC 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.

Thank you for your cooperation. If you have any questions, please contact the Energy Commission's Project Manager, Eric Solorio, at (916) 651-0966, or by e-mail at [esolorio@energy.state.ca.us](mailto:esolorio@energy.state.ca.us).

*Signature on following page...*

Sincerely,

Original Signature in Dockets

Roger Johnson, *Manager*  
Energy Facilities Siting Office

Enclosures (2): Pio Pico Energy Center, Application for Certification (11-AFC-1) and  
Request for Public Participation

**CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION**

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



February 15, 2011

To: MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

**REQUEST FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN THE REVIEW OF THE PIO PICO ENERGY CENTER, APPLICATION FOR CERTIFICATION (11-AFC-1)**

On February 10, 2011, Pio Pico Energy Center LLC submitted an Application for Certification (AFC) to the California Energy Commission seeking permission to construct and operate a nominal 300-megawatt (MW) natural gas-fired simple-cycle generating facility, the Pio Pico Energy Center (PPEC). The current AFC replaces the previously proposed project that was withdrawn on December 10, 2010. The new project site is proposed to be located in an unincorporated area of southwestern San Diego County, known as Otay Mesa.

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION***Project Location*

The PPEC project would be located on approximately 10 acres of disturbed land on the southeast quadrant of the Alta Road and Calzada de la Fuente intersection. The construction lay down (equipment and materials) area is proposed to be 6-acres of an adjacent parcel to the south.

*Power Plant Technology*

The generating facility would include three General Electric (GE) LMS100 natural gas-fired combustion turbine generators (CTGs), each equipped with water injection to the combustors for reducing production of oxides of nitrogen (NOx), a selective catalytic reduction (SCR) system with 19 percent aqueous ammonia injection to further reduce NOx emissions, and an oxidation catalyst to reduce carbon monoxide (CO). Thermal energy is produced in the CTGs through the combustion of natural gas, which is converted into mechanical energy to drive the combustion turbine compressors and electric generators. The total net generating capacity would be approximately 300 MW.

*Prominent Visual Features*

Following are some of the more important and/or larger project features related to the visual impact assessment:

- Three (3) combustion turbines 40-feet tall and approximately 130-feet long.
- Three (3) 100-foot tall combustion turbine generator (CTG) stacks.
- Three (3) variable bleed vents with silencers proposed at 53 feet tall.
- Three (3) 35-foot tall hot selective catalytic reduction systems (SCR).
- One (1) hybrid-cooling system at 23-feet tall, 14 feet wide and approximately 400 feet long.

- A proposed 30-foot tall raw water storage tank and a 30-foot tall demineralized water storage tank.

### *Electrical Transmission System*

Two possible routes are provided for a 230kV transmission line that would connect the project into the existing 230kV Otay Mesa switchyard. Route A would begin as an overhead power line along Calzada de la Fuente, extend approximately 1,700 feet east where it would then be routed underground for approximately 400 feet into the Otay Mesa switchyard (total length of Route A would be approximately 2,100 feet). Route B would be an overhead power line from the eastern edge of the project site, run south approximately 550 feet, then turn east along the northern border of the parcels with APN 648-040-48 and APN 648-040-43 for 1,400 feet, and finally turn north for approximately 700 feet into the Otay Mesa switchyard (total length of Route B would be approximately 2,650 feet).

### *Natural Gas Pipeline*

There are two possible routes for the natural gas supply pipeline. Both routes would connect to an existing San Diego Gas & Electric (SDG&E) natural gas pipeline, but at different locations. Route A would extend approximately 8,000 feet south along Alta Road to near the US–Mexico border, at which point it would connect to the existing SDG&E natural gas pipeline. Route B would extend approximately 2,375 feet south along Alta Road, turn west on Otay Mesa Road, and continue approximately 7,920 feet to Harvest Road at which point it would connect to the existing SDG&E natural gas pipeline for a total of approximately 10,300 feet. The pipeline will be constructed, owned, and operated by SDG&E.

### *Sewer Pipeline*

An underground sewer pipeline connection would be made to an existing 12-inch sewer main along Calzada de la Fuente along the north project site boundary or to an existing 15-inch sewer main along Alta Road, along the west project site boundary.

### *Stormwater Pipeline*

An underground stormwater pipeline connection would be made from a detention pond located at the northwest corner of the project site to an existing 30-inch stormwater pipeline located along Calzada de la Fuente, adjacent to the project site.

### *Water Supply Pipelines*

The project would make a short connection to the potable service system, either at an existing 12-inch main along Calzada de la Fuente, or at an existing 24-inch main along Alta Road. Upon the Otay Water District (OWD)'s completion of the planned Otay Mesa area recycled water system, the project would make a connection to the new 24-inch recycled water main to be constructed in Alta Road.

### *Construction Schedule*

The start of construction is planned for February 2013 with testing planned for March 2014 and commercial operation planned to begin in May 2014. The PPEC has signed a 20-year power purchase agreement (PPA) with SDG&E.

### **ENERGY COMMISSION'S SITE CERTIFICATION PROCESS**

The Energy Commission is responsible for reviewing and ultimately approving or denying all applications to construct and operate thermal electric power plants, 50 MW and greater, 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 has a certified regulatory program and is the lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

The first step in the review process is for Energy Commission staff to determine whether or not the AFC contains all the information required by our regulations. When the AFC is deemed complete, we will begin data discovery and issue analysis phases. At that time, a detailed examination of the issues will occur.

### **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Over the coming months, the Energy Commission will conduct a number of public workshops and hearings on the proposal to determine whether the proposed project should be approved for construction and operation and under what set of conditions. These workshops will provide the public as well as local, state and federal agencies the opportunity to ask questions about, and provide input on, the proposed project. The Energy Commission will issue notices for these workshops and hearings at least 10 days prior to the meeting.

Please direct your technical or project schedule questions to Eric Solorio, Project Manager, at (916) 651-0966, or by email at [esolorio@energy.state.ca.us](mailto:esolorio@energy.state.ca.us). For more information on how to participate in the Energy Commission's review of the project, please contact the Energy Commission's Public Adviser's Office, at (916) 654-4489, or toll free in California at (800) 822-6228. The Public Adviser's Office can also be contacted via email at [pao@energy.state.ca.us](mailto:pao@energy.state.ca.us). News media inquiries should be directed to the media office at (916) 654-4989 or via email at [mediaoffice@energy.state.ca.us](mailto:mediaoffice@energy.state.ca.us). The status of the proposed project, copies of notices, an electronic version of the AFC, and other relevant documents are also available on the Energy Commission's Internet web site at <http://www.energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/piopico/index.html>. You can also subscribe to receive e-mail notification of all notices at <http://www.energy.ca.gov/listservers>.

This notice of receipt has been mailed to all parties that requested placement on the mailing list during the pre-filing period and to property owners located within 1000 feet of the proposed project site and 500 feet of a project linear feature (e.g. pipeline). By being on the mailing list, you will receive notices of all project-related activities and notices

when documents related to the proposed project’s evaluation are available for review. If you want your name removed from the mailing list, please contact Teraja Golston, Project Assistant, at (916) 651-8839, or by e-mail at [tgolston@energy.state.ca.us](mailto:tgolston@energy.state.ca.us).

**AVAILABILITY OF THE APPLICATION FOR CERTIFICATION (11-AFC-1)**

Copies of the AFC are available for public review at the following public libraries:

Civic Center Branch 365 F Street Chula Vista, CA 91910	South Chula Vista Branch 389 Orange Avenue Chula Vista, CA 91911	East Lake Branch 1120 EastLake Parkway Chula Vista, CA 91915	Central Library 820 E Street San Diego, CA 92101
Otay Mesa-Nestor Branch 3003 Coronado Avenue San Diego, CA 92154	Bonita-Sunnyside Branch 4375 Bonita Road Bonita, CA 91902	Imperial Beach Branch 810 Imperial Beach Boulevard Imperial Beach, CA 91932	Lincoln Acres Branch 2725 Granger Avenue National City, CA 91950

Copies are also available at the Energy Commission’s Library in Sacramento, the California State Library in Sacramento, and at public libraries in Eureka, San Francisco, Los Angeles, and San Diego. In addition, this information has been shared with those public agencies that would normally have jurisdiction except for the Energy Commission’s exclusive authority to certify sites and related facilities.

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