

CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION

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

**DOCKET****08-AFC-1**

June 10, 2009

DATE JUN 10 2009RECD. JUN 10 2009

Dear Librarian:

DOCUMENT HANDLING FOR THE AVENAL ENERGY PROJECT (08-AFC-1) and POSTING OF PUBLIC NOTICE

The enclosed Final Staff Assessment (FSA) contains the California Energy Commission staff's final engineering, public health, and environmental evaluation of the proposed Avenal Energy (AE) project. 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 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. As such, please retain a copy of the enclosed Notice of Availability / Notice of Public Workshop behind the front cover of the FSA and also post a copy of the Public Notice in a place conspicuous and accessible to those members of the general public who visit the library.

Thank you for your cooperation. If you have any questions, please contact Joseph Douglas, Siting Project Manager, at (916) 653-4677 or at the address on this letterhead or by email to JDouglas@energy.state.ca.us

Sincerely,

Original signed by _____
 EILEEN ALLEN Office Manager
 Siting, Transmission and Environmental
 Protection Division

Enclosure

Mailed to list:
 7288 - Library

PROOF OF SERVICE (REVISED 5/27/09) FILED WITH
 ORIGINAL MAILED FROM SACRAMENTO ON 6/11/09

AA

CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION

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



June 10, 2009

**NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY
FINAL STAFF ASSESSMENT FOR THE PROPOSED AVENAL ENERGY PROJECT
(08-AFC-1)**

NOTICE OF PUBLIC WORKSHOP

Tuesday, June 23, 2009

2:00p.m.-7:00p.m.

There will be an initial meeting from 2:00p.m.-5:30p.m. followed by a summary meeting of the same contents from 5:30p.m.-7:00 p.m. to facilitate public participation after work hours.

**City of Avenal
Reef-Sunset Unified School District
205 N. Park Avenue, Avenal, CA 93204
(Wheelchair Accessible)
(Map Attached)**

TO: MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

This notice is to inform you of the availability of the Final Staff Assessment (FSA) for the Avenal Energy (AE) Application for Certification (**08-AFC-1**). The FSA was published on June 5, 2009. The FSA contains the California Energy Commission staff's preliminary engineering, public health, and environmental evaluation of the proposed AE.

Purpose of the Workshop

This notice is also to inform you that the Energy Commission staff will hold a workshop to discuss the FSA and to further encourage public participation, regarding the proposed AE and the Energy Commission's permitting process. The workshop will provide an opportunity for agencies, the public and other interested parties to present questions and comments on the FSA. All interested agencies and members of the public are invited to participate. The workshop will be held on Tuesday, June 23, 2009, starting at 2:00pm in City of Avenal Reef-Sunset Unified School District building, 205 N. Park Avenue, Avenal, CA 93204. Energy Commission staff will consider comments received and may prepare supplemental testimony or errata as appropriate.

The California Energy Commission encourages public participation in the review of the AE Application for Certification (**08-AFC-1**). Written comments on the FSA should be provided to Joseph Douglas, Siting Project Manager, no later than 5:00 p.m., June 19, 2009 at the address on this letterhead or by email to JDouglas@energy.state.ca.us Technical or project schedule questions should be directed to Joseph Douglas at (916) 653-4677 or by email.

Summary of the California Energy Commission Staff's Final Conclusions

Energy Commission staff concludes that with the applicant's proposed mitigation measures and the staff's proposed conditions of certification, the AE would not cause a significant adverse environmental or public health impact and would conform with all applicable laws, ordinances, regulations, and standards (LORS). The Energy Commission staff's findings are summarized as follows:

- The proposed project site is in a predominately agricultural region, currently being farmed in irrigated row crops, but the project site has been rezoned for industrial uses. With the implementation of the staff's recommended conditions of certification all biological, soil, water, and agricultural impacts will be fully mitigated for both the project site, for the construction laydown areas, and for the associated linear facilities including the water, gasoline, and electrical transmission routes.
- The San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District has determined that the project complies with the appropriate rules and requirements of the District and would not contribute to the degradation of the air quality.
- Staff evaluated the global climate change and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from the project. AE would be an efficient, new, dispatchable natural gas-fired combined cycle power plant that would provide a net reduction in GHG emissions across the electricity system while generating electricity for California consumers. Its addition to the system would displace less efficient plants and facilitate the integration of renewable resources.
- With the AE project's proposed use of dry cooling and zero liquid discharge technology, the project is in conformance with all water resources LORS and will not result in a significant adverse impact to water resources.
- With the proposed conditions of certification included in the various technical areas, the project's construction and operation impacts in all areas can be mitigated to a level less than significant, and the project would comply with all federal, state, and local laws, ordinances, regulations, and standards.

Summary of the Proposed AE project

On February 21, 2008 Avenal Power LLC, submitted an Application for Certification (AFC) to construct and operate Avenal Energy, in the city of Avenal just south of the Fresno County line. The proposed site is located in a predominantly agricultural region of southwestern San Joaquin Valley in western Kings County, just south of the Fresno County line, and two miles east of Interstate 5. The proposed AE project would be built on approximately 34 acres of a 148-acre industrial zoned parcel. The proposed project would be a nominal 600-megawatt (MW) combined cycle facility and consist of two natural gas-fired General Electric 7FA gas turbines with heat recovery steam generators and one General Electric steam turbine. Natural gas would be provided via a 2.5-mile, 20-inch underground pipeline interconnection to PG&E's natural gas pipeline transmission system at the Kettleman natural gas compressor station.

The plant would use a dry cooling and a zero liquid discharge process to minimize water consumption. The use of this technology would allow AE to follow all LORS and decrease water use by over 97% from its original design of evaporative cooling. The proposed project would be connected to the PG&E transmission grid via a 6.4-mile single-circuit 230 kV transmission line, traversing agricultural land to the Gates substation in Fresno County.

Energy Commission Licensing Authority

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), and because the regulatory program has been certified by the Natural Resources Agency pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21080.5, produces several environmental and decision documents rather than an Environmental Impact Report.

Public Resources, Contact Information and Additional Sources for Information

If you desire information on how to participate in the Energy Commission's review of the proposed project, please contact Elena Miller, the Energy Commission's Public Adviser, at (916) 654-4489 or toll free in California at (800) 822-6228, or by email at: publicadviser@energy.state.ca.us.

June 10, 2009

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To request special accommodations for those persons with disabilities, please contact Lourdes Quiroz, the Energy Commission's Equal Employment Opportunity Officer at lquiroz@energy.state.ca.us or by telephone (916) 654-5146. For those persons with limited English knowledge, request interpreter services by contacting the Project Manager, Joseph Douglas, at (916) 653-4677.

The status of the project, an electronic copy of the FSA, copies of notices, and other relevant documents are also available on the Energy Commission's web site at: <http://www.energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/avenalenergy>.

News media inquiries should be directed to Assistant Director, Susanne Garfield, at (916) 654-4989, or by email at: mediaoffice@energy.state.ca.us.

Sincerely,

Original sign by Eileen Allen for Terrence O'Brien
TERRENCE O'BRIEN, Deputy Director
Siting, Transmission and Environmental
Protection Division

Note: Please retain a copy of this Public Notice behind the front cover of the Final Staff Assessment (FSA) and post a copy of the Public Notice in a place conspicuous and accessible to those members of the general public who visit the library. Thank You.

FSA WORKSHOP FOR AVENAL ENERGY PROJECT (08-AFC-1)

NOTICE OF PUBLIC WORKSHOP TO BE HELD

Tuesday, June 23, 2009

Starting at 2:00pm

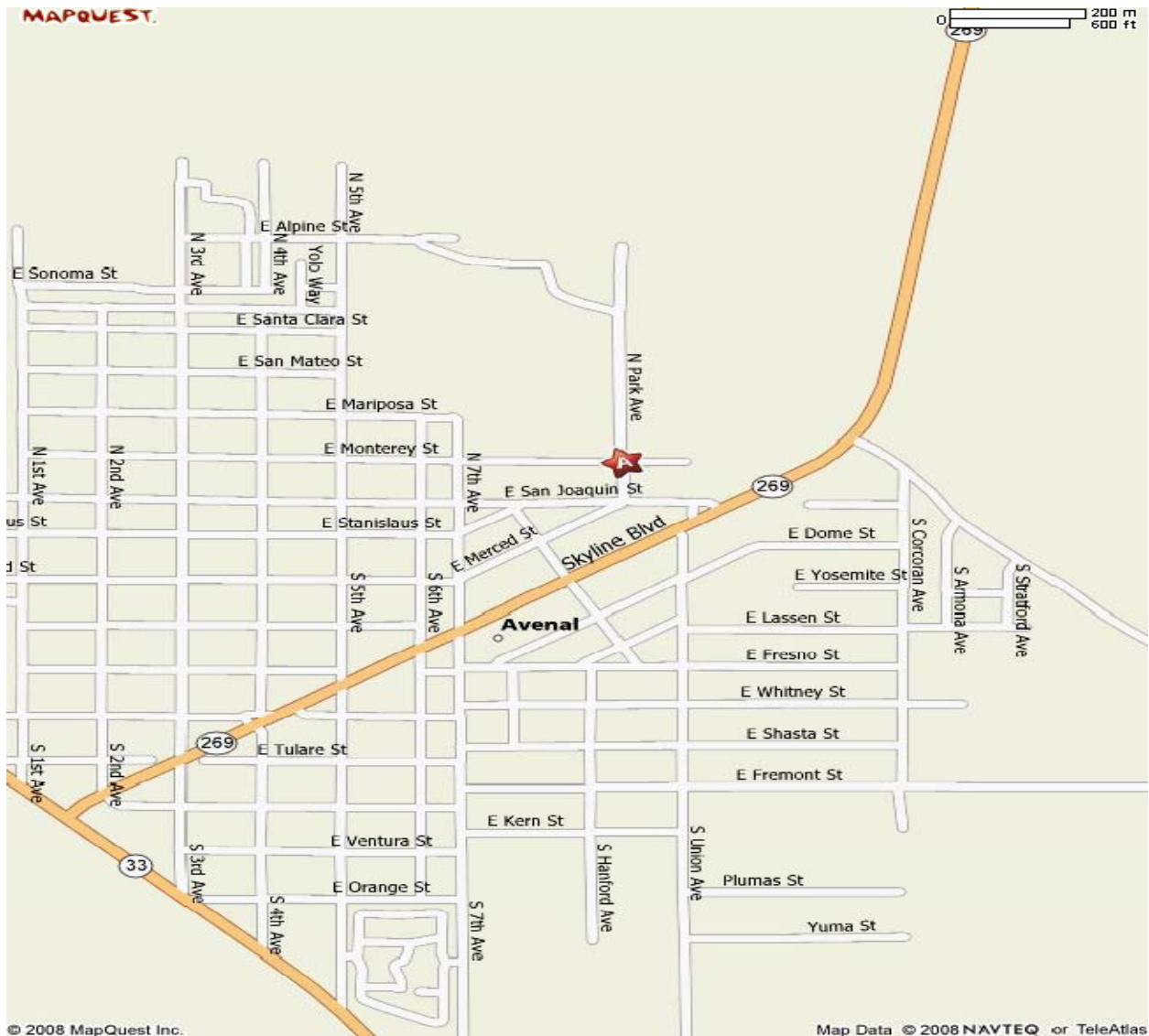
(An additional session will be held starting at 5:30pm)

(Wheelchair Accessible)

City of Avenal

Reef-Sunset Unified School District

205 N. Park Avenue, Avenal, CA 93204





BEFORE THE ENERGY RESOURCES CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
1516 NINTH STREET, SACRAMENTO, CA 95814
1-800-822-6228 – WWW.ENERGY.CA.GOV

APPLICATION FOR CERTIFICATION
For the AVENAL ENERGY PROJECT

Docket No. 08-AFC-1
PROOF OF SERVICE
(Revised 5/27/2009)

APPLICANT

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DECLARATION OF SERVICE

I, April Albright, declare that on June 11, 2009, I served and filed copies of the attached Notice of Availability of the Final Staff Assessment with Public Workshop Notice; Document Handling and Posting of Public Notice; and Request for Agency Comments on the Final Staff Assessment with Public Workshop Notice. The original document, filed with the Docket Unit, is accompanied by a copy of the most recent Proof of Service list, located on the web page for this project at:

[www.energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/avenal]. The document has been sent to both the other parties in this proceeding (as shown on the Proof of Service list) and to the Commission's Docket Unit, in the following manner:

(Check all that Apply)

FOR SERVICE TO ALL OTHER PARTIES:

sent electronically to all email addresses on the Proof of Service list;

by personal delivery or by depositing in the United States mail at Sacramento, CA with first-class postage thereon fully prepaid and addressed as provided on the Proof of Service list above to those addresses **NOT** marked "email preferred."

AND

FOR FILING WITH THE ENERGY COMMISSION:

sending an original paper copy and one electronic copy, mailed and emailed respectively, to the address below (***preferred method***);

OR

depositing in the mail an original and 12 paper copies, as follows:

CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION

Attn: Docket No. 08-AFC-1

1516 Ninth Street, MS-4

Sacramento, CA 95814-5512

docket@energy.state.ca.us

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Original signed by _____
April Albright