

## CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION

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



<b>DOCKET</b>
<b>08-AFC-7</b>

June 9, 2009

DATE	JUN 09 2009
RECD.	JUN 09 2009

Dear Librarian:

**DOCUMENT HANDLING FOR THE PRELIMINARY STAFF ASSESSMENT FOR THE PROPOSED GWF TRACY COMBINED CYCLE POWER PLANT (08-AFC-7) and POSTING OF PUBLIC NOTICE**

The enclosed Preliminary Staff Assessment (PSA) contains the California Energy Commission staff's preliminary engineering and environmental evaluation of the proposed GWF Tracy Combined Cycle Power Plant to be located near the City of Tracy. Please make this PSA available for those who may wish to be informed about the project. We request that you not allow the PSA 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 PSA.

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 PSA 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 PSA 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 Alan Solomon, Energy Commission Project Manager, at (916) 653-8236, or by email at [asolomon@energy.state.ca.us](mailto:asolomon@energy.state.ca.us), or April Albright, Project Secretary, at (916) 653-1640, or by e-mail at [aesau@energy.state.ca.us](mailto:aesau@energy.state.ca.us).

Sincerely,

Original signed by \_\_\_\_\_  
ERIC KNIGHT  
Siting and Docket Office Manager

Enclosure

Mailed to list: 7315 - Library

PROOF OF SERVICE (REVISED 6/25/09) FILED WITH  
ORIGINAL MAILED FROM SACRAMENTO ON 6/9/09

AA

**CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION**

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



June 9, 2009

**Notice of Availability and Notice of a Public Workshop  
Related to the  
Preliminary Staff Assessment for the Proposed  
GWF Tracy Combined Cycle Power Plant (08-AFC-7)**

The California Energy Commission (Energy Commission) staff filed a Preliminary Staff Assessment (PSA) for the proposed GWF Tracy Combined Cycle Power Plant (GWF Tracy). Additionally, Energy Commission staff will conduct a workshop on this PSA. All interested agencies and members of the public are invited to review the PSA and participate in the workshop. The workshop will be held:

**Tuesday, June 23, 2009  
Starting at 10:00am**

**City of Tracy, City Hall Council Chambers  
333 Civic Center Plaza,  
Tracy, California 95376  
(Wheelchair Accessible)  
(Map Attached)**

**To participate in the meeting by telephone,  
Please call: (800) 857-9848 (toll-free in the U.S. and Canada)  
Enter passcode: 55963**

The purpose of this PSA workshop is to receive comments on staff's analysis from the applicant, public, intervenors in the proceeding, and local, state and federal agencies. Public comments on the PSA are welcome and encouraged to be submitted in writing by July 10, 2009, to Alan Solomon, Project Manager. Comments will be used to revise the PSA and complete the Final Staff Assessment which will become staff's testimony in evidentiary hearings.

TO: MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

This notice is to inform you of the availability of the Preliminary Staff Assessment (PSA) for the GWF Tracy Combined Cycle Power Plant (GWF Tracy) Application for Certification (08-AFC-7). The PSA was published on June 9, 2009. The PSA contains the California Energy Commission staff's preliminary engineering, environmental, and

public safety evaluation of the proposed GWF Tracy project. Currently, there are three technical areas (Air Quality, Biological Resources, and Traffic and Transportation) which are currently undetermined with respect to mitigation of potential impacts and/or for conformance with applicable laws, ordinances, regulations, and standards (LORS). Otherwise, staff believes that as currently proposed, including the applicant's and the staff's proposed mitigation measures and the staff's proposed conditions of certification, the GWF Tracy project would comply with all applicable LORS. For a detailed review of potentially significant impacts and the related mitigation measures, please refer to each chapter of the PSA.

### **Purpose of the Workshop**

This notice is also to inform you that Energy Commission staff will hold a workshop to discuss the PSA. This public notice is to further encourage public participation, as it relates to the proposed GWF Tracy project 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 PSA. All interested agencies and members of the public are invited to participate. The workshop will be held on Tuesday, June 23, 2009 starting at 10:00 a.m. in the City of Tracy, City Hall Council Chambers, 333 Civic Center Plaza, Tracy, California 95376. Based on the workshop dialogue, written comments received regarding the PSA, and additional information that will be gathered, the Energy Commission staff will revise the PSA, where appropriate, and issue a Final Staff Assessment (FSA).

The California Energy Commission encourages public participation in the review of the Application for Certification (08-AFC-7). The public comment period for this PSA is from June 9, 2009 through July 10, 2009. Written comments on the PSA should be provided to Alan Solomon, Project Manager, no later than 5:00 p.m., July 10, 2009, at the address on this letterhead or by email to [asolomon@energy.state.ca.us](mailto:asolomon@energy.state.ca.us).

Following a public comment period on the PSA, the PSA will be superseded by staff's FSA which will serve as staff's formal testimony in evidentiary hearings to be held by the Energy Commission Committee assigned to hear this case. The Committee will hold evidentiary hearings and will consider the recommendations presented by staff, applicant, interveners, government agencies, and the public prior to proposing its decision. In the last step, the full Energy Commission will issue the final decision.

### **Background**

On July 18, 2008, the California Energy Commission received an Application for Certification (AFC) from GWF Energy, LLC for the GWF Tracy Combined Cycle Power Plant (GWF Tracy). GWF Energy, LLC proposes to modify the existing Tracy Peaker Plant (TPP) (01-AFC-16), a nominal 169-megawatt (MW) simple-cycle power plant by converting the facility into a combined-cycle power plant with a new nominal generating capacity of 314 MW. On September 5, 2008, GWF Energy, LLC provided a supplement to the AFC to satisfy the Energy Commission's informational requirements. On September 10, 2008, the Energy Commission accepted the AFC with the supplemental information as complete, beginning staff's analysis of the project.

GWF Energy, LLC's objectives are to convert the TPP to a combined cycle plant in order to address the future electricity needs of California, construct and operate an electrical generating facility on an existing brown-field site, and provide additional electrical capacity in the San Joaquin County and City of Tracy area. The proposed project would utilize existing TPP infrastructure to reduce environmental impacts and costs, and enhance the reliability of the state's electrical system by providing power generation near the centers of electrical demand.

### **Project Description**

The proposed project site consists of 16.38 acres within a 40-acre parcel in San Joaquin County, and is located within an industrial and agricultural area which includes the existing TPP. The property is bounded by the Delta-Mendota Canal to the southwest, agricultural property to the south, and east, and the Union Pacific Railroad to the north. The San Joaquin County General Plan designates the proposed project site as General Agriculture and the County Zoning Designation is G-40, which allows electrical generation.

The project would include the addition of two heat recovery steam generators, a steam turbine generator, an auxiliary boiler, an air-cooled dry condenser unit, and a 115-kilovolt (kV) electrical switchyard. The proposed project would use existing TPP infrastructure, including the existing natural gas pipeline, water supply pipeline, and electric transmission line. Three short segments of the PG&E's 115 kV transmission system (totaling approximately 3 miles) would require reconductoring (upgraded wires to accommodate the added generating capacity). The reconductoring segments would be a 0.7 mile long transmission line adjacent to the proposed project site, and two segments, approximately 1.6 miles and 0.7 mile long, respectively, near the intersection of Interstate 5 and Interstate 205, near the PG&E Kasson Substation. Process water would be supplied via the existing TPP pipeline from the Delta-Mendota Canal by the Byron Bethany Irrigation District.

If approved, project construction would begin in the fall of 2011, with commercial operation commencing in 2013.

### **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 produces several environmental and decision documents rather than an Environmental Impact Report.

June 9, 2009

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**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](mailto:publicadviser@energy.state.ca.us).

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](mailto:lquiroz@energy.state.ca.us) or by telephone at (916) 654-5146. For those persons with limited English knowledge, request interpreter services by contacting the Project Manager, Alan Solomon, at (916) 653-8236. Requests for interpreter services must be made by Thursday, June 18.

The status of the project, an electronic copy of the PSA, copies of notices, and other relevant documents are also available on the Energy Commission's web site at: <http://www.energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/tracyexpansion/index.html>. You can also subscribe to receive email notification of all notices at <http://www.energy.ca.gov/listservers>.

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

Sincerely,

Date: 6/9/09

Original signed by  
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 Preliminary Staff Assessment (PSA) 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.**





**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](http://WWW.ENERGY.CA.GOV)**

**APPLICATION FOR CERTIFICATION  
FOR THE *GWF TRACY COMBINED CYCLE  
POWER PLANT PROJECT***

**Docket No. 08-AFC-7  
PROOF OF SERVICE**

**(Revised 2/25/2009)**

**APPLICANT**

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**INTERESTED AGENCIES**

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**ENERGY COMMISSION**

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**DECLARATION OF SERVICE**

I, April Albright, declare that on June 9, 2009, I served and filed copies of the attached Notice of Availability and Notice of Public Workshop to Agency Distribution List; Notice of Availability and Notice of Public Workshop to Members of the Public; and Document Handling for the Preliminary Staff Assessment, dated June 9, 2009. 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: **[<http://www.energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/tracyexpansion/index.html>]**. 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, California 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-7  
1516 Ninth Street, MS-4  
Sacramento, CA 95814-5512

[docket@energy.state.ca.us](mailto:docket@energy.state.ca.us)

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

Original signed by \_\_\_\_\_  
**April Albright**