

CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION1516 NINTH STREET
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California Energy Commission

DOCKETED**01-AFC-24C**

TN # 66499

AUG 07 2012

DATE: August 7, 2012

TO: Interested Parties

FROM: Dale Rundquist, Compliance Project Manager

SUBJECT: Palomar Energy Center (01-AFC-24C)
Staff Analysis of Proposed Modifications to build a new bridge crane.

On May 29, 2012, San Diego Gas and Electric Company (SDG&E) filed a petition with the California Energy Commission (Energy Commission) to amend the Energy Commission Decision for the Palomar Energy Center (PEC). Staff prepared an analysis of this proposed change, and a copy is enclosed for your information and review.

The PEC is a 500-megawatt project that was certified by the Energy Commission on August 6, 2003, and began commercial operation on April 6, 2006. The facility is located in the City of Escondido in San Diego County.

SDG&E is proposing to build a new bridge crane for turbine overhauls and general maintenance of surrounding equipment. The crane will consist of a 65-ton main hook and a 15-ton auxiliary hook, located on a single trolley above the two combustion turbines. Both cranes are supported by a single trolley system operated from a local cab or a remote control device. To ensure safe and stable operation, the crane will consist of a cast-in-place foundation that reduces the risk of unbalanced loads that compromise the engineered specifications of the equipment and could cause an unsafe working environment.

Energy Commission staff reviewed the petition and assessed the impacts of this proposal on environmental quality, public health and safety, and proposes no revisions to existing conditions of certification. It is staff's opinion that the project will remain in compliance with applicable laws, ordinances, regulations, and standards and that the proposed modifications will not result in a significant adverse direct or cumulative impact to the environment (Title 20, California Code of Regulations, Section 1769).

The amendment petition and staff analysis have been posted on the Energy Commission's webpage at www.energy.ca.gov/sitingcases. The Energy Commission's Order (if approved) will also be posted on the webpage. Energy Commission staff intends to recommend approval of the petition at the October 10, 2012 Business Meeting of the Energy Commission. If you have comments on this proposed modification, please submit them to me at the address below prior to September 6, 2012.

Dale Rundquist, Compliance Project Manager
California Energy Commission
1516 9th Street, MS-2000
Sacramento, CA 95814

Comments may be submitted by fax to (916) 654-3882, or by e-mail to Dale.Rundquist@energy.ca.gov. If you have any questions, please contact me at (916) 651-2072.

For further information on how to participate in this proceeding, please contact the Energy Commission Public Adviser's Office, at (916) 654-4489, or toll free in California at (800) 822-6228, or by e-mail at publicadviser@energy.ca.gov. News media inquiries should be directed to the Energy Commission Media Office at (916) 654-4989, or by e-mail at mediaoffice@energy.ca.gov.

Enclosure
Mail List 7152

PALOMAR ENERGY CENTER (01-AFC-24C)
Request to Amend Final Commission Decision
Bridge Crane Staff Analysis
Prepared by: Dale Rundquist

INTRODUCTION

A petition, dated May 29, 2012, was filed with the California Energy Commission (Energy Commission) by San Diego Gas and Electric Company (SDG&E), requesting to modify the Energy Commission Decision for the Palomar Energy Center (PEC). The 500-megawatt project was certified by the Energy Commission on August 6, 2003, and began commercial operation on April 6, 2006. The facility is located in the City of Escondido in San Diego County.

SDG&E is proposing to build a new bridge crane for turbine overhauls and general maintenance of surrounding equipment. The crane will consist of a 65-ton main hook and a 15-ton auxiliary hook, located on a single trolley above the two combustion turbines. Both cranes are supported by a single trolley system operated from a local cab or a remote control device. To ensure safe and stable operation, the crane will consist of a cast-in-place foundation that reduces the risk of unbalanced loads that compromise the engineered specifications of the equipment and could cause an unsafe working environment.

Pursuant to Section 1769 (a)(2), Title 20, California Code of Regulations (20 CCR), Energy Commission staff determined that approval by the full Commission is not required, and the proposed modifications meet the criteria for approval at the staff level because:

- The modification will not have any significant effect on the environment;
- Existing conditions of certification are sufficient to cover the proposed modification without changes to, or deletions of, any conditions of certification; and
- The project as modified will maintain full compliance with applicable laws, ordinances, regulations and standards (LORS).

On July 9, 2012, Mr. Mark Rodriguez, an Escondido resident, sent an e-mail to Dale Rundquist (the CPM for PEC) stating that: "The Notice of Determination to install a new bridge crane...needs to be reconsidered and addressed only after additional mitigation measures are implemented because of the fire on December 22, 2010." Because of the objection by Mr. Rodriguez, this petition will now be processed as an amendment pursuant to the provisions in section 1769 (a)(3), 20 CCR.

LAWS, ORDINANCES, REGULATIONS AND STANDARDS COMPLIANCE

No laws, ordinances, regulations and standards (LORS) applicable to the project have changed since the Energy Commission Decision was published on August 6, 2003.

The conditions of certification in the original Energy Commission Decision and any and all amendments thereafter, ensure that the project will remain in compliance with all LORS. The project, as proposed for modification herein, will continue to comply with all applicable LORS.

ANALYSIS

On August 10, 2011, staff published a report on the December 22, 2010 fire at PEC. In that report staff recommended, "...that no additional mitigation be required for the Palomar facility or for new facilities to be permitted by the Energy Commission in the future..."

Staff has reviewed the petition for potential environmental effects and consistency with applicable LORS and considered the objections provided by Mr. Rodriguez. Based on this review and the conclusions of the August 10, 2011 report, staff determined that no significant adverse impacts pertaining to any technical area are expected to be created by the proposed project modification.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Staff concludes that the proposed amendment will remain in compliance with the original Conditions of Certification and all amended Conditions of Certification, as the mitigation for the original and amended project will be sufficient for this addition. Staff intends to recommend the Energy Commission approve the amendment petition at the October 10, 2012 Business Meeting. Any comments or objections to staff's recommendations and analysis should be sent to Dale Rundquist at Dale.Rundquist@energy.ca.gov by September 6, 2012. The amendment petition can also be found on the Energy Commission website at <http://www.energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/palomar/compliance/index.html>.

PROPOSED MODIFICATIONS TO CONDITIONS OF CERTIFICATION

There are no proposed modifications to the existing Conditions of Certification as the original Conditions of Certification and all amended Conditions of Certification will be sufficient to reduce impacts from the proposed amendment to a less than significant level.

REFERENCES

Palomar 2012 – Palomar Energy Center Bridge Crane Amendment May 29, 2012.

CEC (California Energy Commission) – Report on the Step-up Transformer Failure and Fire at Palomar Unit 1 – December 2010.

CEC (California Energy Commission) -- Energy Commission Final Decision for the Palomar Energy Center (01-AFC-24C) project on August 6, 2003.