June 10, 2009

Matt Trask, Amendment Project Manager
Energy Facilities Siting and Compliance Office
California Energy Commission
1516 Ninth Street
Sacramento, California 95814-5512

REQUEST FOR AGENCY PARTICIPATION IN THE REVIEW OF THE PETITION FOR
A MAJOR AMENDMENT TO THE SALTON SEA UNIT 6 GEOTHERMAL POWER
PLANT PROJECT (02-AFC-2C), IMPERIAL COUNTY

Dear Mr. Trask:

The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) has received your submitted
Amended Salton Sea Unit 6 Geothermal Power Plant (SSU6) Report for review for
Application for Certification (AFC) for the above-mentioned project. The following
project description is stated in your document: “CE Obsidian’s primary objective for the
proposed project is to construct, operate and maintain an efficient, economic, reliable,
safe and environmentally-sound geothermal generating facility. The modification
proposed in the petition would involve installation of three separate generating facilities,
which would produce a combined 159 MW net renewable geothermal power. The three
units would each utilize a single-flash brine/steam handling system, rather than the
multi-flash system planned for the original facility, and the steam production and brine
injection wells would be split up and moved close to each generating facility. The SSU6
project site is located on a 160-acre parcel in the Imperial Valley, approximately 1,000
feet southeast of the southern reach of the Salton Sea in the North Brawley Geothermal
Resources Area, within an unincorporated area of Imperial County, California. The
region is characterized by agriculture and geothermal power production.” DTSC has the
following comments:

1) DTSC provided comments on April 15, 2009 in response to the evaluation of the
project’s original Application for Certification (AFC). DTSC recommends that you
address those comments in the proposed project, since with respect to DTSC’s
jurisdiction, the project has not changed in a major way.
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2) If necessary, DTSC can provide guidance for cleanup oversight through an Environmental Oversight Agreement (EOA) for government agencies which would not be responsible parties under CERCLA, or a Voluntary Cleanup Agreement (VCA) for private parties. For additional information on the EOA or VCA, please see www.dtsc.ca.gov/SiteCleanup/Brownfields, or contact Ms. Maryam Tasnif-Abbasi, DTSC’s Voluntary Cleanup Coordinator, at (714) 484-5489.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Mr. Rafiq Ahmed, Project Manager, at rahmed@dtsc.ca.gov or by phone at (714) 484-5491.

Sincerely,

Greg Holmes
Unit Chief
Brownfields and Environmental Restoration Program

cc: Governor's Office of Planning and Research
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    P.O. Box 3044
    Sacramento, California 95812-3044
    state.clearinghouse@opr.ca.gov.

    CEQA Tracking Center
    Department of Toxic Substances Control
    Office of Environmental Planning and Analysis
    1001 I Street, 22nd Floor, M.S. 22-2
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CEQA #2611