

CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION1516 NINTH STREET
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814-5512

NOTICE OF RECEIPT
PETITION TO AMEND
THE ENERGY COMMISSION DECISION for the
WALNUT ENERGY CENTER PROJECT (02-AFC-4C)

DOCKET	
02-AFC-4C	
DATE	FEB 08 2011
RECD.	FEB 10 2011

On January 21, 2010, the Walnut Energy Center Authority filed a petition with the California Energy Commission requesting to modify the Walnut Energy Center Project (WEC). The 250-megawatt project was certified by the Energy Commission on February 18, 2004 and began commercial operation on February 28, 2006. The facility is located in the City of Turlock, in Stanislaus County.

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED MODIFICATION

Petitioner proposes to remove the 51 acre feet per year limit on the use of poor quality groundwater from the upper aquifer supplied by WEC's onsite wells specified in Condition Soil & Water-5. WEC depends on this groundwater to back-up the deliveries of recycled water from the City of Turlock's Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP). The proposed amendment will not result in any physical alteration to the project, and petitioner will continue to maximize the use of recycled water provided by the City's WWTP.

The project applicant has identified proposed modification is necessary to facilitate a reliable back-up water source for the project. At the time of certification, it was believed that the City of Turlock would be able to provide sufficient recycled water with few interruptions, and that WEC would not need to back-up this supply at a level greater than the 51 afy limit. However, since the WWTP began supplying recycled water, interruptions of recycled water have been more frequent than anticipated, and WEC's reliance on a back-up water supply needs to exceed an average 51 afy over a five-year period.

There is also no preferable source of water to back-up the City's recycled water supply. Use of poor quality groundwater pumped from WEC's wells is preferable to the use of higher quality potable water from the City of Turlock. The Commission has also found that "higher-than-expected costs for the original supplies and infrastructure associated with potable water" supports the Project's use of lower quality groundwater.

ENERGY COMMISSION AMENDMENT REVIEW PROCEDURES

The purpose of the Energy Commission's review process is to assess the impacts of this proposal on environmental quality, public health and safety. The review process includes an evaluation of the consistency of the proposed changes with the Energy Commission's Decision and, if the project, as modified, will remain in compliance with applicable laws, ordinances, regulations, and standards (Title 20, Calif. Code of Regulations, section 1769). Energy Commission staff is currently analyzing the request and will publish an analysis in the near future. A public hearing for the purpose of approving or denying the amendment proposal will be held at a regularly scheduled Energy Commission business meeting.

This Notice of Receipt is being mailed to interested parties and property owners adjacent to the project site who may want to participate in the amendment process.

The petition is available on the Energy Commission's website at <http://www.energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/turlock/compliance/index.html>. The staff analysis, when published, will also be posted on the website. If you would like to receive a hard copy of the petition and/or staff's analysis, please complete the enclosed Information Request Form and return it to the address shown.

If you have any comments or questions, please contact Craig Hoffman, Compliance Project Manager, at (916) 654-4781, or by fax to (916) 654-3882, or via e-mail at: choffman@energy.state.ca.us within 14 days of the date of this notice.

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.state.ca.us. News media inquiries should be directed to the Energy Commission Media Office at (916) 654-4989, or by e-mail at mediaoffice@energy.state.ca.us.

Date: _____

CHRIS MARXEN, Manager
Compliance and Dockets Office
Siting, Transmission & Environmental Protection
Division

Enclosure: Information Request Form

Mail List # 7164

INFORMATION REQUEST FORM

COMPLETE & MAIL TO: CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION
COMPLIANCE UNIT
ATTN: CRAIG HOFFMAN
1516 NINTH STREET, MS-2000
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814

OR FAX TO: (916) 654-3882

NAME AND/OR TITLE (AS IT IS TO APPEAR ON MAIL LABEL)

ORGANIZATION (IF APPLICABLE)

STREET ADDRESS OR P.O. BOX

CITY

STATE

ZIP CODE

Petitioner proposes to remove the 51 acre feet per year limit on the use of poor quality groundwater from the upper aquifer supplied by WEC's onsite wells specified in Condition Soil & Water-5.

PLEASE CHECK THE DOCUMENTS YOU WOULD LIKE TO RECEIVE:

- PETITION TO AMEND
- STAFF ANALYSIS
- COMMISSION ORDER

PROJECT: WALNUT ENERGY CENTER

DOCKET NO: 02-AFC-4C

MAIL LIST NO: 7164

PLEASE REMOVE MY NAME FROM THE WALNUT ENERGY CENTER PROJECT MAILING LIST