

CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION

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

DOCKET**09-AFC-2**DATE MAY 26 2009RECD MAY 28 2009

May 26, 2009

Dear Librarian:

DOCUMENT HANDLING FOR THE ALMOND 2 POWER PLANT PROJECT (09-AFC-2)

On May 11, 2009, the California Energy Commission received an Application for Certification (AFC) from the Turlock Irrigation District (TID) to construct and operate the Almond 2 Power Plant Project (A2PP). A2PP is a proposed 174-megawatt (MW) facility that would consist of natural gas-fired turbine generators and ancillary systems including electric and gas transmission lines. A2PP is proposed for a 4.6 acre parcel adjacent to the existing TID Almond Power Plant in an industrial area in Stanislaus County, 2 miles from the Ceres city center and 5 miles south of Modesto.

If approved, construction of the project would begin in the third quarter of 2010 and continue through a 12-month construction schedule. It is currently anticipated that the Project will be on line and in commercial service by the fourth quarter of 2011.

The project is under the Energy Commission's siting authority. The power plant certification process examines engineering, public health and safety, and environmental aspects of power plant proposals and provides analyses pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). When issuing a certificate, the Energy Commission is the lead state agency under CEQA, and its process is functionally equivalent to the preparation of an Environmental Impact Report.

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 Energy Commission has sent copies of the AFC to libraries in the project area, and to libraries in Eureka, San Francisco, Sacramento, Fresno, Los Angeles, and San Diego.

Please make the enclosed AFC available for those who may wish to be informed about the project. We request that you not allow the AFC or any of its contents 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.

Thank you for your cooperation. If you have any questions, please contact Felicia Miller, Energy Commission Project Manager, at (916) 654-4640, or by email at fmiller@energy.state.ca.us or Hilarie Anderson, Project Secretary, at (916) 651-0479, or by e-mail at handerso@energy.state.ca.us.

Sincerely,

Eileen Allen, Manager
Energy Facilities Siting and Compliance Office

Enclosure

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May 26, 2009

To: MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

**DOCUMENT HANDLING FOR THE ALMOND 2 POWER PLANT PROJECT,
APPLICATION FOR CERTIFICATION (09-AFC-02)**

On May 11, 2009, Turlock Irrigation District (TID) submitted an Application for Certification (AFC) to construct and operate the Almond 2 Power Plant (A2PP), adjacent to the existing Almond 1 Power Plant (A1PP), in the city of Ceres, in Stanislaus County.

Project Description

The project will occupy a 4.6-acre site, previously used as a borrow pit, within an industrial area approximately 2 miles from the Ceres city center and 5 miles south of Modesto, in Stanislaus County. A2PP will be a natural-gas fired, simple-cycle peaking facility rated at a gross generating capacity of 174 megawatts (MW). Primary equipment for the generating facility would include three 58-MW General Electric LM6000PG turbines equipped with a water injection system to the turbine in order to reduce nitrogen oxide (NOx) formation, and a selective catalytic reduction system to further control NOx emissions. Power will be transmitted to the grid at 115 kilovolts (kV) through two proposed new transmission lines which will connect to the proposed TID Grayson Substation, to be located approximately 3,300 feet from A2PP. The substation is expected to be complete before the A2PP project is operational and is not part of the A2PP project. Existing facilities at the adjacent A1PP will be shared with the A2PP facility without modification. They include the fire protection system, water treatment system, process water supply and wastewater discharge system, and demineralized and reverse osmosis water storage tanks. A2PP will receive process water from the Ceres Wastewater Treatment Plant through an existing pipeline at A1PP, as well as service water for domestic use provided by an existing onsite water well. Expansion of the existing natural gas service would be required for the proposed project. PG&E will construct an 8-inch natural gas pipeline to their supply line approximately nine to eleven miles from the A2PP site.

Energy Commission's Facility Certification Process

The Energy Commission is responsible for reviewing and ultimately approving or denying all applications to construct and operate thermal electric power plants, 50 MW and greater, 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 CEQA, but through its certified regulatory program produces several environmental and decision documents rather than an Environmental Impact Report.

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The issuance of a certificate by the Energy Commission is in lieu of any local, state or federal permit (to the extent permitted by federal law).

As part of our review process, the staff of the Energy Commission works closely with local, state and federal agencies to ensure that all laws, ordinances, regulations and standards are addressed in the Energy Commission's final decision. The first step in the review process is for the Energy Commission staff to determine whether or not the AFC contains all the information required by our regulations. When the AFC is deemed data adequate, we will begin the discovery and issue analysis phases. At that time a detailed examination of the issues will occur.

Public Participation

Over the coming months, the Energy Commission will conduct a number of public workshops and hearings to determine whether and under what conditions the proposed project should be approved for construction and operation. The workshops will provide the public as well as local, state and federal agencies the opportunity to participate in reviewing the proposed project. The Energy Commission will issue notices for these workshops and hearings at least ten days prior to the meeting. If you are not currently receiving these notices and wish to be placed on the mailing list, please contact Hilarie Anderson, Project Secretary, at (916) 651-0479, or by email at handerso@energy.state.ca.us.

If you desire information about participating in the Energy Commission's review of the proposed project, please contact the Energy Commission's Public Adviser by phone at (916) 654-4701 or toll free in California at (800) 822-6228, or by email at pao@energy.state.ca.us. Technical or project schedule questions should be directed to Felicia Miller, Energy Commission Project Manager, at (916) 654-4640, or by email at fmiller@energy.state.ca.us.

Note: Please retain this letter behind the front cover of the AFC. Thank You.