


CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION

1516 NINTH STREET
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814-5512

DOCKET 06-AFC-9C		
DATE	MAR 25 2009	
RECD.	MAR 25 2009	

NOTICE OF RECEIPT
PETITION TO MODIFY
ELECTRICAL SWITCHYARD AND TRANSMISSION FACILITIES FOR THE
COLUSA GENERATING STATION PROJECT
(06-AFC-9C)

On January 22, 2009, the California Energy Commission received a petition from the Pacific Gas & Electric Company (PG&E) to modify the Colusa Generating Station (CGS) Project. The 660-megawatt project was certified on April 23, 2008, construction was initiated on October 2, 2008, and the project is 20 percent complete. The facility is located in an unincorporated area of Colusa County, six miles north of the community of Maxwell.

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED MODIFICATIONS

PG&E is seeking approval to modify the design to make a slight increase in the size of the electrical switchyard, which remains within the 100-acre construction site originally approved by the Energy Commission.

Modification to the switchyard design also requires the alignment of transmission facilities that interconnect to the existing PG&E electrical infrastructure to be modified. The Energy Commission Final Decision for CGS approved 12 new towers. Under the new design, a total of 20 new towers will be constructed. The southernmost transmission lines will interconnect with the existing transmission corridor following a similar alignment to that approved, but avoid crossing over the existing Delevan gas compressor station. The two northernmost transmission lines will exit the west side of the switchyard rather than the east side as originally approved. Six additional lattice steel transmission towers will be required within the original 100-acre the project site. Six new transmission towers required outside the 100-acre construction site have the potential to increase impacts to Swainson's hawk foraging habitat. To mitigate that potential impact, PG&E purchased one additional acre of Swainson's hawk habitat preservation/management credits at the Elsie Gridley Multi-species Conservation Bank. A California Department of Fish and Game representative approved the amount of mitigation and agreed that revising the Consistency Determination for the project was not warranted.

ENERGY COMMISSION STAFF REVIEW AND DETERMINATION

Pursuant to section 1769(a)(2), Title 20, California Code of Regulations, Energy Commission approval of the project modifications is not required if Energy Commission staff determines that:

- There is no possibility that the modifications may have a significant effect on the environment, and
- The modifications will not result in a change to or deletion of a condition of certification, or make changes that would cause the project not to comply with applicable laws, ordinances, regulations, or standards (LORS).

Energy Commission staff have determined that the proposed modifications meet the criteria for staff approved modifications because:

- The modifications 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 LORS.

Any person may file a written objection to staff's determination within 14 days of the date of this notice on the grounds that the project modification does not meet the criteria set forth in Section 1769(a)(2). All objections must be in writing and must be sent either by U.S. mail, e-mail, or other document delivery service to Chris Davis, Compliance Project Manager, at the address shown below:

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 at CMDavis@energy.state.ca.us. If no substantive objection is received in writing by 5:00 p.m. on April 7, 2009, the requested project modifications will be deemed approved, and a description of the change will be placed in the project file.

For further information on how to participate in any 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 pao@energy.state.ca.us.

If you have questions about this notice, please contact Chris Davis at (916) 654-4842, or by fax or e-mail using the above information.

Date:

3/25/09



EILEEN ALLEN, Manager
Siting and Compliance Office
Siting, Transmission & Environmental
Protection Division

Mail List # 7182