

CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION1516 NINTH STREET
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814-5512**DOCKET****99-AFC-1C**DATE 9/14/2009RECD. 9/14/2009

NOTICE OF RECEIPT
PETITION TO AMEND
TO MODIFY THE ELK HILLS POWER PLANT SWITCHYARD
ELK HILLS POWER PLANT PROJECT
(99-AFC-1C)

On March 26, 2009, the California Energy Commission (Energy Commission) received a request from Occidental of Elk Hills (OEHI), for expedited review of its project to convert their current PG&E 115kV system to the PG&E 230kV system. OEHI operates the Elk Hills oil and gas field and is part owner of the Elk Hills Power Plant (EHP). As presented to the Energy Commission on March 30, 2009, OEHI's conversion project will include a new substation on OEHI property under separate review by Kern County, modifications to the EHP switchyard and a tie-in transmission line to connect the two. The switchyard modifications and the new transmission line tie-in are the portions of this conversion project under Energy Commission review. The length of the tie-in between EHP and the new OEHI substation will be 2,200 feet. It will go north from the EHP Switchyard, roughly parallel to the existing Gen Tie and then due west to the OEHI substation. The proposed project was to be completed in two phases. Phase 1 which was scheduled to begin in April 2009 and end in May 2009 was approved by Energy Commission Staff on April 6, 2009. Phase 2 is scheduled to begin in the fall of 2009.

The EHP plant, a 550-megawatt combined cycle facility was certified by the Energy Commission on December 6, 2000, and began commercial operation on July 23, 2003. The facility is located on a parcel of land in the middle of Occidental's Elk Hills oil and gas field, which is about 25 miles west of Bakersfield, CA, in Kern County.

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED MODIFICATIONS

The modifications proposed by OEHI are to improve the reliability of its electricity supply by converting from the current PG&E 115kV system to the PG&E 230 kV System. This conversion is scheduled to be completed by late 2010.

These modifications will allow OEHI access to the existing 230 kV transmission line from EHP to PG&E Midway Substation, in Buttonwillow, Kern County. The work to install a 230 kV breaker with associated control equipment in the EHP Switchyard is planned to take place during the power plant's downtime for routine maintenance.

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 modification may have a significant effect on the environment, and

- The modification 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 has determined that the proposed modifications meet the criteria for staff approval 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 LORS.

Any person may file written comments on 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 Mary Dyas, 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 mdyas@energy.state.ca.us. If no substantive objection is received in writing within 14 days of the date of this notice, 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 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.

If you have questions about this notice, please contact Mary Dyas at (916) 651-8891, or by fax or e-mail using the above information.

9/14/09

Date



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