

CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION

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

DOCKET**09-AFC-4**DATE 03/01/11RECD. 03/03/11

March 1, 2011

TO: AGENCY DISTRIBUTION LIST

**NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF A
FINAL STAFF ASSESSMENT
FOR THE PROPOSED OAKLEY GENERATING STATION PROJECT
(09-AFC-4)**

This notice is to inform you of the availability of the Final Staff Assessment for the Oakley Generating Station (OGS) project, Application for Certification (09-AFC-4). The FSA was published on **March 1, 2011**, and a CD copy is enclosed for your review.

Purpose of Final Staff Assessment

This Final Staff Assessment (FSA) contains the California Energy Commission staff's independent evaluation of the proposed Oakley Generating Station (OGS) project, Application for Certification (09-AFC-4). The FSA examines engineering, environmental, public health and safety aspects of the OGS project. This FSA provides such an analysis; however, an appendix to the **Transmission System Engineering** section is not included at this time and will be available later in March 2011. The FSA contains analyses similar to those normally contained in an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) required by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). When issuing a license, the Energy Commission is the lead agency under CEQA, and its process is functionally equivalent to the preparation of an EIR.

The Energy Commission staff has the responsibility to complete an independent assessment of the project's engineering design and its potential effects on the environment, the public's health and safety, and whether the project conforms to all applicable laws, ordinances, regulations and standards (LORS). The staff also recommends measures to mitigate potential significant adverse environmental effects and proposes conditions of certification for construction, operation and eventual closure of the project, if approved by the Energy Commission.

The FSA is not the decision document for these proceedings nor does it contain findings of the Energy Commission related to environmental impacts or the project's compliance with local, state, and federal legal requirements. However, the FSA will serve as staff's official sworn testimony in evidentiary hearings to be held by an assigned Committee of two Energy Commissioners and a Hearing Officer. After evidentiary hearings, the Committee will consider the testimony presented by staff, the applicant, and intervenors to the proceedings as well as recommendations and comments provided by government agencies and the public that contribute to the official record of this proceeding. The Committee will issue a Presiding Member's Proposed Decision (PMPD). Following a 30-day public review and a public hearing, the full five-member Energy Commission will render its final decision.

PROOF OF SERVICE (REVISED 1/25/10) FILED WITH
ORIGINAL MAILED FROM SACRAMENTO ON 3/3/11

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Agency Comments

The California Energy Commission encourages public and agency participation in the review of the Oakley Generating Station Project Application for Certification (09-AFC-4). Preliminary Staff Assessments Part A and Part B were published on December 20, 2010 and January 14, 2011 respectively and a comment period was provided from December 20, 2010 to February 14, 2011. The OGS project is scheduled for evidentiary hearings before the Energy Commission committee on March 15, 2011. A separate notice for these hearings can be found at the following link: http://www.energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/oakley/notices/2011-03-15_Notice_of_PHC+Evidentiary_Hearing.pdf.

Summary of the Proposed Oakley Generating Station Project

The Oakley Generating Station project is proposed as a natural gas-fired, combined-cycle facility with a nominal generating capacity of 624-megawatts (MW). The facility will be designed as a base-load facility with the added capabilities of rapid startup, high turndown capability (i.e. ability to turn down to a low load), and high ramp rates.

The proposed project site is located in the city of Oakley, eastern Contra Costa County, at 6000 Bridgehead Road, northeast of the junction of State Route 4 and State Route 160. This site is at the western city limits of Oakley and adjacent to the eastern city limits of Antioch. The project is located on a 21.95-acre site that was part of a larger 210-acre property owned by E.I. du Pont de Nemours and Company (DuPont).

The majority of the project site is currently used as a vineyard as this portion of the DuPont property was never developed for industrial purposes. A small wetland area is located at the northwestern corner of the site will not be disturbed.

Primary equipment for the generating facility will include:

- Two General Electric (GE) Frame 7FA combustion turbine generators (CTGs)
- One single condensing GE D11 steam turbine generator
- Two unfired heat recovery steam generators (HRSGs)
- One auxiliary boiler
- One air-cooled condenser (dry-cooled technology)
- One evaporative fluid cooler
- One diesel-powered fire pump, and other associated equipment.

Power will be transmitted to the regional electrical grid through a 230-kV connection to PG&E's Contra Costa Substation, located 2.4-miles to the southwest of the OGS. The project will replace the existing 60-kV line, located within an existing 80-foot-wide PG&E easement, with a 230-kV line.

Construction laydown and parking areas will be located on a 20-acre parcel east of the plant site on DuPont property.

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Energy Commission Licensing Authority

The Energy Commission is responsible for reviewing and ultimately approving or denying all applications for construction and operation of thermal electric power plants, 50 MW and greater, proposed for construction 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 California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), and produces several environmental and decision documents rather than an Environmental Impact Report.

Agency Participation

Please direct your technical or project schedule questions to Pierre Martinez, Energy Commission Project Manager, at (916) 651-3765 or by email at pmartine@energy.state.ca.us.

The status of the project, an electronic copy of the FSA, copies of notices, and other relevant documents are available on the Energy Commission's web site at: <http://www.energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/oakley>.

You can also subscribe to receive e-mail notification of all notices and announcements at: <http://www.energy.ca.gov/listservers>. By being on this e-mail list, you will receive all project-related notices and documents pertaining to the project's evaluation and review.

If you have any questions related to the automatic e-mail notification list, please contact Maria Santourdjian, Project Assistant, at (916) 651-9410, or by e-mail at msergoya@energy.state.ca.us.

Sincerely,

Date: _____

ROGER JOHNSON, Siting Office Manager
Siting, Transmission and Environmental
Protection Division

Enclosure: CD of FSA
Mailed to list:
7209 - Agency



**BEFORE THE ENERGY RESOURCES CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT
COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
1516 NINTH STREET, SACRAMENTO, CA 95814
1-800-822-6228 – WWW.ENERGY.CA.GOV**

**APPLICATION FOR CERTIFICATION
FOR THE *OAKLEY GENERATING STATION***

**Docket No. 09-AFC-4
PROOF OF SERVICE
(Revised 1/25/2011)**

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DECLARATION OF SERVICE

I, Maria Santourdjian, declare that on March 3, 2011, I served and filed copies of the attached Notice of Availability of a Final Staff Assessment, dated March 1, 2011. The original document filed with the Docket Unit, is accompanied by a copy of the most recent Proof of Service list, located on the web page for this project at: [\[http://www.energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/oakley/index.html\]](http://www.energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/oakley/index.html).

The documents have been sent to both the other parties in this proceeding (as shown on the Proof of Service list) and to the Commission's Docket Unit, in the following manner:

(Check all that Apply)

FOR SERVICE TO ALL OTHER PARTIES:

- sent electronically to all email addresses on the Proof of Service list;
- by personal delivery;
- by delivering on this date, for mailing with the United States Postal Service with first-class postage thereon fully prepaid, to the name and address of the person served, for mailing that same day in the ordinary course of business; that the envelope was sealed and placed for collection and mailing on that date to those addresses **NOT** marked "email preferred."

AND

FOR FILING WITH THE ENERGY COMMISSION:

- sending an original paper copy and one electronic copy, mailed and emailed respectively, to the address below (*preferred method*);

OR

- depositing in the mail an original and 12 paper copies, as follows:

CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION

Attn: Docket No. 09-AFC-4
1516 Ninth Street, MS-4
Sacramento, CA 95814-5512
docket@energy.state.ca.us

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct, that I am employed in the county where this mailing occurred, and that I am over the age of 18 years and not a party to the proceeding.

Originally Signed by
Maria Santourdjian