

DOCKETED

Docket Number:	12-AFC-02
Project Title:	Huntington Beach Energy Project
TN #:	200852
Document Title:	Requests for Comments to Agencies on the Preliminary Staff Assessment Part A for the Huntington Beach Energy Project
Description:	N/A
Filer:	Tiffani Winter
Organization:	California Energy Commission
Submitter Role:	Commission Staff
Submission Date:	10/15/2013 4:55:35 PM
Docketed Date:	10/15/2013

CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION

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October 15, 2013

**REQUEST FOR COMMENTS ON THE PRELIMINARY
STAFF ASSESSMENT PART A FOR THE PROPOSED
HUNTINGTON BEACH ENERGY PROJECT (12-AFC-02)**

To: AGENCY DISTRIBUTION LIST

The enclosed Preliminary Staff Assessment (PSA) Part A contains the California Energy Commission staff's preliminary evaluation of the proposed Huntington Beach Energy Project (HBEP) Application for Certification (12-AFC-02). Part A provides staff's analyses in the areas of Biological Resources, Cultural Resources, Efficiency, Facility Design, Geology and Paleontology, Hazardous Materials, Land Use, Reliability, Socioeconomics, Soils and Water, Traffic and Transportation, Transmission System Engineering, Transmission Line Safety and Nuisance, Visual Resources, Waste Management and Worker Safety and Fire Protection. The PSA Part B will include Air Quality, Public Health and Alternatives analyses and will be filed 45 days from receipt of a Preliminary Determination of Compliance from South Coast Air Quality Management District.

The California Energy Commission encourages agency participation in the review of the HBEP's Application for Certification (AFC). The agency comment period for this PSA Part A is from October 10, 2013 to November 10, 2013. If you wish to provide comments on the PSA, please submit comments by going to the Energy Commission's HBEP webpage http://www.energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/huntington_beach_energy/index.html and click on the "Submit e-Comment" link. Please provide your full name, any organization name, an e-mail address, a reference to Docket No. 12-AFC-02 in the subject line, and preferably put your comment in an attached document (.doc, .docx, or .pdf format). After entering characters to ensure that responses are generated by a human user and not a computer, click on the "Agree & Submit Your Comment" button to submit the comment to the Energy Commission Dockets Unit.

If you wish to mail written comments on the project, please submit them to the Energy Commission Dockets Unit. Please include the docket number (12-AFC-02) for the HBEP in the subject line or first paragraph of your comments and mail or hand-deliver them to:

California Energy Commission
Dockets Unit, MS-4
1516 Ninth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814-5512

All written comments and materials filed with the Dockets Unit will become a part of the public record of the proceeding. Additionally, comments may be posted on the HBEP webpage of the Energy Commission's website.

Following a 30-day comment period and a public workshop on the PSA Part A, publication of the PSA Part B, a 30-day comment period, and an additional public workshop, staff will prepare a Final Staff Assessment (FSA) which will serve as staff's formal testimony in evidentiary hearings to be held by the Energy Commission's Committee assigned to hear this case. The Committee will hold evidentiary hearings to consider the recommendations presented by staff,

applicant, interveners, government agencies, and the public prior to proposing its decision. In the last step, the full Energy Commission will issue the final decision.

SUMMARY OF THE PROPOSED HUNTINGTON BEACH ENERGY PROJECT

On June 27, 2012 AES Southland Corporation submitted an Application for Certification (AFC) to the California Energy Commission seeking permission to construct and operate a power generation facility, the Huntington Beach Energy Project (HBEP), located in the city of Huntington Beach, just north of the intersection of the Pacific Coast Highway and Newland Street. The project will be located entirely within the footprint of the existing Huntington Beach Generating Station, an operating power plant.

The proposed HBEP is a natural-gas fired, combined-cycle, air-cooled, 939-megawatt (MW) electrical generating facility that will replace the AES Huntington Beach Generating Station. The HBEP will consist of two independently operating, three-on-one, combined-cycle gas turbine power blocks. Each power block will consist of three-gas-fired combustion turbine generators (CTG), three supplemental-fired heat recovery steam generators (HRSG), one steam turbine generator (STG), an air-cooled condenser, and related ancillary equipment. Other equipment and facilities to be constructed and shared by both power blocks include natural gas compressors, water treatment facilities, emergency services, and administration and maintenance buildings.

ENERGY COMMISSION'S SITE 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 has a certified regulatory program and is the lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

SUMMARY OF STAFF'S PRELIMINARY CONCLUSIONS – PSA Part A

Staff concludes that with implementation of staff's recommended mitigation measures described in the conditions of certification, the HBEP would comply with all applicable laws, ordinances, regulations, and standards (LORS), with the exception of Land Use, Transmission System Engineering, and Visual Resources as additional information is needed in those areas to make a determination regarding LORs compliance.

AVAILABILITY OF THE PRELIMINARY STAFF ASSESSMENT

The status of the project, copies of notices and other relevant documents are available on the Energy Commission's web site: http://www.energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/huntington_beach-energy/index.html.

Date: 10/15/13

Sincerely,



Chris Davis, Manager
Siting Office

Enclosure:
Preliminary Staff Assessment – Part A (12-AFC-02)

Mailed to Agency list - 7438