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Memorandum

Date: January 8, 2014

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To: Commissioner Andrew McAllister, Presiding Member
Commissioner Karen Douglas, Associate Member
Susan Cochran, Hearing Officer

From: **California Energy Commission -** Felicia Miller
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Subject: **HUNTINGTON BEACH ENERGY PROJECT (12-AFC-02)**
STAFF STATUS REPORT #9

This status report is being submitted as a response to the Committee Order dated 7/31/13, which directed the parties to submit status reports on the first of each month, commencing on 9/1/13. These monthly status reports are to provide the Committee with proceeding developments and the potential for any schedule delays. Staff apologizes for filing this status report late due to holiday vacations.

Preliminary Staff Assessment

Staff published the PSA Part A on 10/10/13. Part A included the following technical sections: Biological Resources, Cultural Resources, Efficiency, Compliance Conditions, Geology and Paleontology, Hazardous Materials, Land Use, Noise and Vibration, Reliability, Socioeconomics, Soils and Water Resources, Traffic and Transportation, Transmission Line Safety and Nuisance, Transmission System Engineering, Visual Resources, Waste Management and Worker Safety and Fire Protection. A workshop to discuss the PSA was held on 11/20/13 to discuss the following technical areas: Biological Resources, Cultural Resources, Noise, Socioeconomics, Traffic and Transportation, Visual Resources, Worker Safety and Fire Protection, and Compliance.

On 12/20/13, staff published a Focused Supplemental Analysis (FoSA) to further address certain issues and the comments received on those issues. The FoSA included discussions and analyses on the issues discussed at the workshop, and where appropriate, revisions to the analyses and Conditions of Certification. In the FoSA, staff recommended the use of recycled water for the HBEP, and indicated an environmental analysis of the use of recycled water for industrial use and associated infrastructure would need to be included in staff's Final Staff Analysis (FSA). Staff's analysis would be based on information provided by the applicant. The applicant has indicated they will file comments on the FoSA by 1/21/14.

Staff will publish PSA Part B within 30 days of receiving the Preliminary Determination of Compliance (PDOC) from the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD). The PDOC will enable staff to complete their analyses on Air Quality and Public Health. In addition to Air Quality and Public Health, PSA Part B will include the Alternatives section. Staff plans to notice and hold another workshop in Huntington Beach to discuss the FoSA and PSA Part B after Part B is published. The SCAQMD has indicated they intend to publish the PDOC late December 2013, but the PDOC has not yet been published, and at this time a new date has not been provided.

Project Updates

On 12/23/13, the applicant filed the Cluster 5 Phase II Interconnection Study Report dated 12/3/13 from the California Independent System Operator. This report will enable staff to complete their analysis of Transmission Engineering for the FSA.

Staff held a conference call with California Coastal Commission (CCC) staff on 12/13/13. The CCC staff reports that they will not need additional information about the project in order to file their 30413(d) report. The CCC identified several concerns about the HBEP including construction parking and noise, geology, project layout, and biological issues associated with the current tanks located on the AES site. Staff expects these concerns will be addressed in the CCC's forthcoming report.

The City of Huntington Beach and the applicant continue to work on conceptual visual treatment plans for the HBEP. To date, no visual treatment plans have been finalized. When a plan is finalized, staff will analyze it in the FSA.