

## DOCKETED

|                         |   |
|-------------------------|---|
| <b>Docket Number:</b>   | 12-AFC-02C  |
| <b>Project Title:</b>   | Huntington Beach Energy Project - Compliance  |
| <b>TN #:</b>            | 211975  |
| <b>Document Title:</b>  | Notice of Availability - Preliminary Staff Assessment for the Huntington Beach Energy Project Petition to Amend   |
| <b>Description:</b>     | Also, Request for Public Access to the Enclosed Preliminary Staff Assessment and Request for Comments on the Preliminary Staff Assessment for Agency, Library, and Public Letters |
| <b>Filer:</b>           | Marichka Haws   |
| <b>Organization:</b>    | California Energy Commission  |
| <b>Submitter Role:</b>  | Commission Staff  |
| <b>Submission Date:</b> | 6/24/2016 4:02:22 PM  |
| <b>Docketed Date:</b>   | 6/24/2016   |

**CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION**

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



June 24, 2016

**NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY  
PRELIMINARY STAFF ASSESSMENT FOR THE  
HUNTINGTON BEACH ENERGY PROJECT PETITION TO AMEND  
(12-AFC-02C)**

To: MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

This notice is to inform you of the availability of the Preliminary Staff Assessment (PSA) for the Huntington Beach Energy Project (HBEP) Petition to Amend (PTA) (12-AFC-02C) which was published on June 24, 2016. The PSA contains the California Energy Commission staff's preliminary engineering, environmental and public health and safety evaluation of the proposed project. The PSA is available for review on the Energy Commission website, [http://www.energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/huntington\\_beach\\_energy/](http://www.energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/huntington_beach_energy/)

The PSA is not a 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 laws, ordinances, regulations, and standards (LORS). The PSA will serve as a precursor to the Final Staff Assessment (FSA).

During the 30-day public comment period on the PSA, staff will notice a public workshop indicating the location, time and date. After the conclusion of the workshop and the 30-day public comment period, staff will then prepare its FSA.

The FSA will address comments received on the PSA and will serve as staff's formal testimony in evidentiary hearings to be held by the Energy Commission Committee assigned to hear this case. The Committee will hold evidentiary hearings and will consider the recommendations presented by the staff, applicant, intervenors, government agencies, tribes, and the public, prior to proposing its decision. The Energy Commission will make the final decision, including findings, after the Committee's publication of its proposed decision.

The Energy Commission encourages public participation in the review of HBEP PTA. The public comment period for this PSA ends on July 24, 2016. If you wish to provide comments on the document, please submit comments by going to the Energy Commission's HBEP- PTA webpage [http://www.energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/huntington\\_beach\\_energy/](http://www.energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/huntington_beach_energy/) 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-02C 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-02C) 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 will be posted on the HBEP amendment webpage of the Energy Commission’s website.

### **SUMMARY OF THE PROPOSED HUNTINGTON BEACH ENERGY PROJECT PETITION TO AMEND**

On September 4, 2015, AES Huntington Beach Energy, LLC, submitted a petition to amend the final decision (12-AFC-02), which was approved on October 29, 2014. The requested amendment to the HBEP Final Decision from the Energy Commission is the result of the selection by SCE of the revised AES project in the 2013 Local Capacity Requirements Request for offers to provide 644 MW of nominal capacity, with different technology than that permitted in the HBEP Final Decision.

The amendment request is to amend the decision and license (12-AFC-02C) by allowing for the replacement of the existing operating Huntington Beach Generating Station (HBGS) with the previous proposal of a 939- MW power plant consisting of two independently operating, three-on-one, combined-cycle gas turbine power blocks. The amended proposal would total 844 MW. Construction and demolition activities at the project site are anticipated to take approximately 10 years, lasting through the fourth quarter of 2025. The PTA indicates a construction schedule for the various phases of activities with the combined-cycle, gas turbine (CCGT) phase 1, power block 1, consisting of a natural gas-fired, combined-cycle, air-cooled, 644-MW electrical generating facility to begin in the second quarter of 2017. Commercial operation of power block 1 is anticipated to begin during the second quarter of 2020. Existing units 3 and 4 would then be demolished. Construction of the SCGT phase 2, power block 2, would begin with adding two 100-MW simple-cycle gas turbines. Construction for power block 2 is scheduled to begin during the first quarter of 2022 with commercial operation during the first quarter of 2024. Existing units 1 & 2 would then be demolished. No new offsite linear facilities are proposed as part of this project.

The HBGS, is located on 30 acres in Huntington Beach, California at 21730 Newland Street, just north of the intersection of the Pacific Coast Highway and Newland Street, Orange County.

## **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, engineering aspects and conformance with all applicable laws, ordinances, regulations and standards 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 CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION STAFF'S PRELIMINARY CONCLUSIONS**

Staff concludes that with implementation of staff's recommended mitigation measures described in the conditions of certification, the project will not cause a significant adverse impact to the environment, public health and safety, or to environmental justice communities, and will comply with all applicable LORS.

## **AVAILABILITY OF THE PRELIMINARY STAFF ASSESSMENT**

The PSA is available on the Energy Commission's website at:

<https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/Lists/DocketLog.aspx?docketnumber=12-AFC-02C>

Copies of the PSA are also available at the Energy Commission's Library in Sacramento, the California State Library in Sacramento, as well as, state libraries in Eureka, Fresno, Los Angeles, San Diego, and San Francisco. Additionally, copies of the PSA were mailed to the following public libraries:

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>Huntington Beach Public Library</b><br><b>7111 Talbert Avenue</b><br><b>Huntington Beach, CA 92648</b> | <b>Orange County Public Library</b><br><b>HQ</b><br><b>1501 E Street Andrew Place</b><br><b>Santa Ana, CA 92705</b> |
| <b>Costa Mesa/Donald Dungan Library</b><br><b>1855 Park Avenue</b><br><b>Costa Mesa, CA 92627</b>         | <b>Costa Mesa/Mesa Verde Library</b><br><b>2969 Mesa Verde Drive</b><br><b>Costa Mesa, CA 92626</b>                 |
| <b>Mary Wilson Library</b><br><b>707 Electric Avenue</b><br><b>Seal Beach, CA 90740</b>                   | <b>Fountain Valley Library</b><br><b>17635 Los Alamos</b><br><b>Fountain Valley, CA 92708</b>                       |

Copies of the PSA have also been sent to those public agencies that would normally have jurisdiction except for the Energy Commission's exclusive authority to certify sites and related facilities.

The electronic copy of the PSA has also been sent to those on the listserve.

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 email list, you will receive all project related notices and documents pertaining to the project's evaluation and review.

**PUBLIC RESOURCES, CONTACT INFORMATION AND ADDITIONAL SOURCES FOR INFORMATION**

If you desire information on how to participate in the Energy Commission's review of the proposed project, please contact Alana Mathews, the Energy Commission's Public Adviser, at (916) 654-4489 or toll free in California at (800) 822-6228, or by email at [publicadviser@energy.ca.gov](mailto:publicadviser@energy.ca.gov).

To request special accommodations for those persons with disabilities, contact Lourdes Quiroz at [lquiroz@energy.state.ca.us](mailto:lquiroz@energy.state.ca.us) or by telephone at (916) 654-5146.

For additional information about the project or this PSA, contact John Heiser, Energy Commission Project Manager, at (916) 653-8236 or email at [John.Heiser@energy.ca.gov](mailto:John.Heiser@energy.ca.gov).

News media inquiries should be directed to Albert Lundeen, Deputy Executive Director, at (916) 654-4027, or by email at [mediaoffice@energy.ca.gov](mailto:mediaoffice@energy.ca.gov).

Sincerely,

Date: 6/24/16

**Originally Signed by**  
Chris Davis, Manager  
Siting Office

Mailed to:  
Property Owners List # 7437

**CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION**

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



June 24, 2016

**REQUEST FOR PUBLIC ACCESS TO THE ENCLOSED PRELIMINARY STAFF ASSESSMENT FOR THE PROPOSED HUNTINGTON BEACH ENERGY PROJECT PETITION TO AMEND (12-AFC-02C)**

Dear Librarian:

We request that the enclosed copy of the Preliminary Staff Assessment (PSA) for the Huntington Beach Energy Project – Petition to Amend be made publicly available in your library for those who may wish to be informed about this energy project under review by the California Energy Commission and that it, along with the Notice of Availability, be placed in a conspicuous and accessible location.

We request that you not allow the Notice of Availability, the PSA, or any of its contents to be removed from the library for a period of one year. To increase accessibility of the document, we ask, if possible, that you cross reference it as a general reference work under the title and author categories, as well as under such subjects as “Energy Commission,” “electricity energy/generation,” “power plant siting,” or any other relevant subject.

The enclosed PSA contains Energy Commission staff’s preliminary engineering and environmental evaluation of the proposed project. The 844-megawatt (MW) electric power project would be located on 30 acres of the Huntington Beach Generating Station at 21730 Newland Street, just north of the intersection of the Pacific Coast Highway (Highway 1) and Newland Street, Orange County.

The Energy Commission’s siting process encourages input from the public as well as local, state and federal agencies and tribes. To facilitate public participation in our review process, the Energy Commission distributes copies of staff documents such as the PSA to public libraries in communities near the proposed project, and in major cities throughout the state.

Thank you for your cooperation. If you have any questions about this project or the PSA, please contact John Heiser, Energy Commission Project Manager, at (916) 653-8236 or e-mail at [John.Heiser@energy.ca.gov](mailto:John.Heiser@energy.ca.gov).

Sincerely,

Date: June 24, 2016

Originally Signed by \_\_\_\_\_  
CHRIS DAVIS  
Siting Office Manager  
Siting, Transmission, & Environmental Protection Division

Enclosure: Preliminary Staff Assessment  
Mailed to Library List # 7439

**CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION**

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



June 24, 2016

**REQUEST FOR COMMENTS ON THE PRELIMINARY  
STAFF ASSESSMENT FOR THE PROPOSED  
HUNTINGTON BEACH ENERGY PROJECT PETITION TO AMEND  
(12-AFC-02C)**

To: AGENCY DISTRIBUTION LIST

The enclosed Preliminary Staff Assessment (PSA) contains the California Energy Commission staff's preliminary evaluation of the proposed Huntington Beach Energy Project (HBEP) Petition to Amend (PTA) (12-AFC-02C). The PSA was published on June 24, 2016 and is available for review on the Energy Commission's website at: <https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/Lists/DocketLog.aspx?docketnumber=12-AFC-02C>

The PSA is not a 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 laws, ordinances, regulations, and standards (LORS). The PSA will serve as a precursor to the Final Staff Assessment (FSA).

During the 30-day public comment period on the PSA, staff will notice a public workshop indicating the location, time and date. After the conclusion of the workshop and the 30-day public comment period, staff will then prepare its FSA. The FSA will address comments received on the PSA and will serve as staff's formal testimony in evidentiary hearings to be held by the Energy Commission Committee assigned to hear this case. The Committee will hold evidentiary hearings and will consider the recommendations presented by the staff, applicant, intervenors, government agencies, tribes, and the public, prior to proposing its decision. The Energy Commission will make the final decision, including findings, after the Committee's publication of its proposed decision.

The Energy Commission encourages agency participation in the review of PTA. The agency comment period for this PSA ends on July 24, 2016. If you wish to comment 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](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-02C 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-02C) 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.

### **SUMMARY OF THE PROPOSED HUNTINGTON BEACH ENERGY PROJECT AMENDMENT**

On September 4, 2015, AES Huntington Beach Energy, LLC, submitted a petition to amend the final decision (12-AFC-02), which was approved on October 29, 2014. The requested amendment to the HBEP Final Decision from the Energy Commission is the result of the selection by Southern California Edison of the revised AES project in the 2013 Local Capacity Requirements Request for offers to provide 644 MW of nominal capacity, with different technology than that permitted in the HBEP Final Decision.

The amendment request is to amend the decision and license (12-AFC-02C) by allowing for the replacement of the existing operating Huntington Beach Generating Station (HBGS) with the previous proposal of a 939- MW power plant consisting of two independently operating, three-on-one, combined-cycle gas turbine power blocks. The amended proposal would total 844 MW. Construction and demolition activities at the project site are anticipated to take approximately 10 years, lasting through the fourth quarter of 2025. The PTA indicates a construction schedule for the various phases of activities with the combined-cycle, gas turbine (CCGT) phase I, power block 1, consisting of a natural gas-fired, combined-cycle, air-cooled, 644-MW electrical generating facility to begin in the second quarter of 2017. Commercial operation of power block 1 is anticipated to begin during the second quarter of 2020. Existing units 3 and 4 would then be demolished. Construction of the SCGT phase 2, power block 2, would begin with adding two 100-MW simple-cycle gas turbines. Construction for power block 2 is scheduled to begin during the first quarter of 2022 with commercial operation during the first quarter of 2024. Existing units 1 & 2 would then be demolished. No new offsite linear facilities are proposed as part of this project.

The HBGS, is located on 30 acres in Huntington Beach, California at 21730 Newland Street, just north of the intersection of the Pacific Coast Highway (Highway 1) and Newland Street, Orange County.

### **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**

Staff concludes that with implementation of staff's recommended mitigation measures described in the conditions of certification, the project would not cause a significant adverse impact to the environment, public health and safety, or to environmental justice communities, and would comply with all applicable laws, ordinances, regulations, and standards (LORS).

## **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/](http://www.energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/huntington_beach_energy/)

If you have questions about this request for comments, the project or the PSA, please contact John Heiser, Project Manager, at (916) 653-8236 or [John.Heiser@energy.ca.gov](mailto:John.Heiser@energy.ca.gov).

Sincerely,

Date: June 24, 2016

**Originally Signed by**  
Chris Davis, Manager  
Siting Office

Mailed to Agency list - 7438