

**DOCKETED**

<b>Docket Number:</b>	85-AFC-05C
<b>Project Title:</b>	Compliance - Application for Certification of the (BAF) American I Cogeneration Project AFC
<b>TN #:</b>	227290
<b>Document Title:</b>	Petition for Modification to Remove Engineering Condition of Certification-1 (COC-1)
<b>Description:</b>	Staff Analysis of Petition for Modification to Remove Engineering Condition of Certification-1 (COC-1)
<b>Filer:</b>	Anwar Ali
<b>Organization:</b>	California Energy Commission
<b>Submitter Role:</b>	Commission Staff
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**CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION**

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



**DATE:** March 7, 2019

**TO:** Interested Parties

**FROM:** Anwar Ali, Compliance Project Manager

**SUBJECT: King City Cogeneration (85-AFC-05C)  
Staff Analysis of Petition for Modification to Remove Engineering  
Condition of Certification-1**

On December 21, 2018, Calpine King City CoGen, LLC, filed a petition for modification with the California Energy Commission (Energy Commission) requesting removal of the Engineering Condition of Certification-1 (COC-1) from the Final Decision for the King City Cogeneration facility.

The 130-megawatt Basic American Foods' American 1 Cogeneration Project (Basic) was certified by the Energy Commission in June 1987, and began commercial operation in 1989. In the mid-1990s, Calpine acquired the cogeneration unit of the Basic and renamed it as King City Cogeneration (KCC). The KCC facility continues to provide steam to the Rava International, formerly known as Basic. The KCC facility is located in King City, Monterey County, California.

The petition for modification was based on the Senate Bill 110 (Stats. 1999, ch. 581), which eliminated the requirement that the Energy Commission perform an Integrated Assessment of Need. The proposed modification would remove the requirement that the facility operate as a gas-fired cogeneration system and produce thermal energy for a steam host in addition to electrical energy. The proposed modification is necessary to accommodate the facility's intended operations in 2019 when its contract with its thermal host ends. The KCC would still be available to meet reliability and system needs without requiring the facility to provide thermal energy to a steam host.

Because this condition of certification is no longer applicable or necessary to ensure KCC's compliance with laws, ordinances, regulations, and standards (LORS), the petition for modification requests removal of this condition.

Energy Commission staff has reviewed the petition pursuant to Title 20, California Code of Regulations, section 1769(a) (Change In Project Design, Operation, or Performance Requirements) and has concluded that removal of COC-1 would not result in a significant impact on the environment, or cause the project to not comply with applicable laws, ordinances, regulations, and standards. Staff intends to recommend approval of the petition at the April 10, 2019 Business Meeting of the Energy Commission.

The Energy Commission's webpage for this facility, [http://www.energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/pre1999\\_page/index.php?xkm=ajdkha2385duhkasd190dsasjd5598fhajkhs](http://www.energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/pre1999_page/index.php?xkm=ajdkha2385duhkasd190dsasjd5598fhajkhs), has a link to the petition and the Staff Analysis on the right side of the webpage in the box labeled "Compliance Proceeding." Click on the "Documents for this Proceeding (Docket Log)" option. If approved, the Energy Commission's Order approving this petition will also be available from the same webpage.

This letter has been mailed to the Commission's list of interested parties and property owners adjacent to the facility site. It has also been e-mailed to the Siting listserv. The listserv is an automated Energy Commission e-mail system by which information about this facility is e-mailed to parties who have subscribed. To subscribe, go to the Commission's webpage for this facility, cited above, scroll down the right side of the project's webpage to the box labeled "Subscribe," and provide the requested contact information.

Any person may comment on the Staff Analysis. Those who wish to comment on the analysis are asked to submit their comments by March 29, 2019. To use the Energy Commission's electronic commenting feature, go to the Energy Commission's webpage for this facility, cited above, click on the "Submit e-Comment" link, and follow the instructions in the on-line form. Be sure to include the facility name in your comments. Once submitted, the Energy Commission Dockets Unit reviews and approves your comments, and you will receive an e-mail with a link to them.

Written comments may also be mailed or hand-delivered to:

California Energy Commission  
Dockets Unit, MS-4  
Docket No. **85-AFC-05C**  
1516 Ninth Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814-5512

All comments and materials filed with and approved by the Dockets Unit will be added to the facility Docket Log and become publically accessible on the Energy Commission's webpage for the facility.

If you have questions about this notice, please contact Anwar Ali, Compliance Project Manager, at (916) 651-8891, or by fax to (916) 654-3882, or via e-mail at [anwar.ali@energy.ca.gov](mailto:anwar.ali@energy.ca.gov).

For information on participating in the Energy Commission's review of the petition, call Alana Mathews, Public Adviser, at (916) 654-4489 or (800) 822-6228 (toll-free in California) or send your e-mail to [publicadviser@energy.ca.gov](mailto:publicadviser@energy.ca.gov).

News media inquiries should be directed to the Energy Commission Media Office at (916) 654-4989, or by e-mail to [mediaoffice@energy.ca.gov](mailto:mediaoffice@energy.ca.gov).

Mail List: 719

Listserv: King City Cogeneration

**KING CITY COGENERATION PROJECT (85-AFC-05C)**  
**Petition for Modification to Remove Engineering Condition of Certification**  
**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Anwar Ali, Ph.D.

## **INTRODUCTION**

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On December 21, 2018, Calpine King City CoGen, LLC (Calpine), filed a petition for modification with the California Energy Commission (Energy Commission) requesting removal of the Engineering Condition of Certification-1 (COC-1) from the 1987 Final Decision for the King City Cogeneration (KCC) facility.

The 130-megawatt Basic American Foods' American 1 Cogeneration Project (Basic) was certified by the Energy Commission in June 1987, and began commercial operation in 1989. In mid-1990s, Calpine acquired the cogeneration unit of the Basic and renamed it as King City Cogeneration (KCC). The KCC facility continues to provide steam to the Rava International, formerly known as Basic. The KCC facility is located in the King City, Monterey County, California.

The petition for modification was necessary because the Senate Bill 110 (Stats. 1999, ch. 581) repealed the requirement that the Energy Commission perform an Integrated Assessment of Need. Because this condition of certification is no longer applicable or necessary to ensure KCC's compliance with laws, ordinances, regulations, and standards (LORS), the petition for modification requests removal of this outdated condition.

The purpose of the Energy Commission's review process is to assess whether the proposed amendment would have a significant impact on the environment or cause the project to not comply with applicable laws, ordinances, regulations, and standards (LORS) (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 20, § 1769).

Energy Commission staff has completed its review of all materials received. The Staff Analysis below is staff's assessment of the project owner's proposal to remove COC-1.

## **PROJECT LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION**

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The 130-megawatt natural gas-fired power plant was certified by the Energy Commission in June 1987 and began commercial operation in November 1989. The facility is located in the King City in Monterey County, California.

The project uses groundwater from onsite wells for all industrial purposes including evaporative cooling and steam generation for the steam host. Wastewater consisting primarily of blowdown from the cooling towers, as well as wastewater from the food processing plant (Rava International), is discharged to the King City's Industrial Publicly-Owned Treatment Works for treatment and disposal.

## **DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED MODIFICATIONS**

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Calpine is requesting to remove COC-1. This condition is in the Cogeneration Criteria in the Engineering Analysis section of the June 1987 Final Commission Decision and reads as follows:

Over the lifetime of the project, Basic American Foods (Basic) shall operate the facility as a cogeneration system in accordance with the definition of cogeneration contained in Public Record Code Section 25134(a)(b) and Title 18 CFR, § 292.205(a)(1) and (a)(2)(i)(B).

The proposed modification would remove the requirement that the facility operate as a cogeneration system producing thermal energy for a steam host in addition to electrical energy. The requirement to operate as a cogeneration facility was imposed at a time when provisions of the Warren-Alquist Act (former Pub. Resources Code, §§ 25523 (f) and 25524 (a)) required the Energy Commission to conduct an “integrated assessment of need” prior to certifying a facility. The California State Legislature removed these provisions in 1999.

The proposed modification clarifies that the KCC may still be available to meet reliability and system needs without requiring the facility to provide thermal energy to a steam host.

## **NECESSITY FOR THE PROPOSED MODIFICATIONS**

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The proposed modification would remove the restriction that the facility operates as a cogeneration system. This would affect the findings in the 1987 Final Commission Decision stating that the facility would operate within the statutory definition of “cogeneration”. The proposed change in the Final Commission Decision is necessary because subsequent to the permitting of the KCC, the Legislature amended the Warren-Alquist Act removing the requirement that the Energy Commission conduct an Integrated Assessment of Need for Commission certified facilities. Further, this condition was intended to reflect the facility’s requirement to operate under the power purchase agreement as a cogeneration facility, which has since terminated.

With the Legislature’s repeal of the Integrated Assessment of Need and the expiration of the power purchase agreement that was the subject of the Final Commission Decision, COC-1 is no longer necessary. The proposed modification is consistent with the current requirements regarding cogeneration facilities and is necessary to accommodate the facility’s intended operations in 2019 when its contract with its thermal host ends.

## **STAFF’S ASSESSMENT OF THE PROPOSED AMENDMENT**

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Energy Commission technical staff reviewed the petition for potential environmental effects and consistency with applicable LORS. Staff’s conclusions in each technical area are summarized in the following **Executive Summary Table 1**.

**Executive Summary Table 1  
Summary of Impacts for Each Technical Area**

Technical Areas Reviewed	Technical Area Not Affected	CEQA			Conforms with applicable LORS	Revised or New Conditions of Certification requested or recommended
		Potentially significant impact	Less than significant impact with mitigation	Less than significant impact		
Air Quality				X	X	
Biological Resources	X			N/A*	X	
Cultural Resources	X			N/A	X	
Efficiency				X	X	
Facility Design	X			N/A	X	
Geological and Paleontological Resources	X			N/A	X	
Hazardous Materials Management	X			N/A	X	
Land Use	X			N/A	X	
Noise and Vibration	X			N/A	X	
Public Health	X			N/A	X	
Reliability	X			N/A	X	
Socioeconomics	X			N/A	X	
Soil and Water Resources				X	X	
Traffic and Transportation	X			N/A	X	
Transmission Line Safety & Nuisance	X			N/A	X	
Transmission System Engineering	X			N/A	X	
Visual Resources	X			N/A	X	
Waste Management	X			N/A	X	
Worker Safety and Fire Protection	X			N/A	X	

\*Not applicable.

Staff has determined that the following technical or environmental areas are not affected by the proposed modification to remove Engineering Condition of Certification-1: Biological Resources, Cultural Resources, Facility Design, Geological and Paleontological Resources, Hazardous Materials Management, Land Use, Noise and Vibration, Public Health, Reliability, Socioeconomics, Traffic and Transportation,

Transmission Line Safety and Nuisance, Transmission System Engineering, Visual Resources, Waste Management, and Worker Safety and Fire Protection.

The technical areas affected by the proposal to remove Engineering Condition of Certification-1 are Air Quality, Efficiency, and Soil and Water Resources. For these technical areas, staff concludes that removal of the condition of certification would not result in a significant impact on the environment or cause the project to not comply with applicable LORS. Staff notes the following for these areas:

**AIR QUALITY** – The facility can operate in compliance with the air quality conditions of certification with or without a thermal host. The KCC operates under the oversight of the Monterey Bay Unified Air Pollution Control District [Monterey Bay Air Resources District (MBARD)]. Staff understands no changes to MBARD issued documents are required to accommodate operation without a thermal host. In addition, there are no proposed changes to the Air Quality Conditions of Certification.

**EFFICIENCY** – The facility has been designed and built to operate with or without a steam host receiving thermal energy. The petition has not proposed any physical changes to the facility. The existing lines and equipment that direct steam to the host will be simply closed. The facility would comply with the existing conditions of certification and applicable LORS.

## **SOIL & WATER RESOURCES**

**Water Supply:** There would be no change in the water supply by eliminating Engineering Condition of Certification-1. By eliminating the condition of certification, there would be no requirement to deliver steam to the host and thus no requirement to use groundwater for steam production. There are no conditions of certification that place limits on groundwater use and the anticipated decrease in use would be beneficial.

**Water Quality:** Any KCC wastewater streams generated as a result of steam boiler operation and delivery to the host are recycled to the KCC cooling towers for use. Blowdown from the cooling towers is discharged along with wastewater from the steam host to the Industrial Publicly-Owned Treatment Works. There would be no change in the method of wastewater disposal by eliminating Engineering Condition of Certification-1. If groundwater use for delivery to the steam host decreases then wastewater generated from its use would also decrease. Decreases in this wastewater stream, which is recycled to the cooling towers, would have to be made up using groundwater, likely offsetting some of the savings realized by the termination of steam generation for the steam host. Staff concludes that there would be no significant change in the wastewater discharge from KCC; therefore, it would not result in a significant impact.

**Drainage:** The modification would not result in a change in volume or method used to manage storm water at the project.



## **STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONCLUSIONS**

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Staff concludes that the following required findings, mandated by Title 20, California Code of Regulations, section 1769 (a)(4), can be made, and staff recommends approval of the petition by the Energy Commission:

- The removal of the condition of certification would not cause a significant impact on the environment;
- The project would remain in compliance with all applicable laws, ordinances, regulations, and standards;
- The anticipated decrease in groundwater use would be beneficial to the project owner and the public; and
- There have been substantial changes in circumstances since certification of the facility due to amendments to the Warren-Alquist Act that removed the requirement that the Energy Commission conduct an Integrated Assessment of Need prior to certifying a facility. The proposed modification would remove an obsolete requirement that the facility produce thermal energy for a steam host in addition to electrical energy.

## **REFERENCES**

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CEC 1987 -- California Energy Commission Decision on the Application for Certification for Basic American Foods' American 1 Cogeneration Project (King City Cogeneration Facility) (85-AFC-5), June 1987.

KCC 2018-- Calpine, Petition for Modification to Remove Engineering Condition of Certification-1, December 2018, Docket No. 85-AFC-05C (TN #: 226169)