

DOCKETED

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CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION

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November 20, 2013

Stephen O’Kane
AES Southland, LLC
690 Studebaker Road
Long Beach, CA 90803

Regarding: **REDONDO BEACH ENERGY PROJECT (12-AFC-03)
DATA REQUEST SET 1R (SET 1 Nos. 26-28 Revised)**

Dear Mr. O’Kane,

Pursuant to Section 1716(f) of the Energy Commission’s regulations, AES Southland Development L.L.C. (Applicant) filed a Notice of Objection on November 4, 2013 to Data Requests (DRs), Nos. 26-28 issued by the Energy Commission Staff (Staff) on October 15, 2013 as part of its Data Requests, Set 1. The Applicant objects to Data Requests Nos. 26-28 on the grounds the requested information is not reasonably available to the Applicant, and the production of which would impose burdens that outweigh value the information might produce. The Applicant claims the burden of conducting three additional 25 hour ambient noise measurements at locations that are neither under the ownership or control of the Applicant outweighs the limited values of the information that might be produced and given the similarities in distance, orientation, and proximity to a similarly size roadway, additional monitoring in the area called for in Data Request 28 is unwarranted.

CLARIFICATION OF STAFF’S JUSTIFICATION FOR DATA REQUESTS NOS. 26-28

BACKGROUND

In its objection to Staff’s Data Requests (DRs) 26-28, the Applicant states that the noise measurements presented in the Application For Certification (AFC) for the monitoring locations to the west and south of the project site also represent the existing ambient noise environments at the noise-sensitive receptors located to the east and north of the project site, those described in DRs 26-28. Staff believes that the noise environments in the already monitored locations west and south of the project site differ from those proposed monitoring locations north and east of the site. The data in the AFC do not appropriately represent the residential communities to the north and east of the project site. Note that the proposed project is located to the east and north of the existing site. In order to complete its noise analysis and to determine the project’s noise impacts at all of the project’s noise sensitive receptors, Staff needs additional ambient noise level measurements.

The minimum monitoring required for Staff to conduct its noise analysis would be monitoring at one location to the north and one location to the east of the project site. To provide flexibility in conducting the surveys, Staff is willing to combine DRs 26 and 27; the measurements can alternatively be taken near only one of the locations described in DRs 26 and 27 (i.e.; any location between the single-family and multi-family residences described in these DRs).

Currently, the monitoring described in DRs 26-28 consists of 25-hour continuous measurements. To provide further flexibility, at the discretion of the Applicant, this monitoring can consist of the above 25-hour continuous measurements or, alternatively, a set of shorter-term measurements. If the Applicant chooses to conduct the shorter-term survey, it needs to consist of one set of continuous measurements from 10 p.m. to 7 a.m. and two 15-minute (at the minimum) daytime measurements, taken once in mid-late morning and another in early-late afternoon. In addition, the Applicant does not need to calculate the four quietest consecutive hours of the nighttime, as requested in DRs 26R, 27R and 28R.

The ambient noise data collected at the two measurement locations to the west and south of the project site show that the operational activities of the existing AES Redondo Beach Generating Station (AES RBGS) do not necessarily relate to the changes in the ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the project site (AFC Table 5.7A). Therefore, to provide even more flexibility in conducting the requested surveys, these surveys can be conducted with or without AES RBGS in operation.

Below are the revised data requests incorporating the above changes to the original DRs Nos. 26, 27 and 28.

DATA REQUESTS 26R and 28R REVISED BY STAFF

Staff has combined DRs 26 and 27 into one data request referred to as DR 26R and has eliminated DR 27. Staff has also revised DR 28 and has referred to it as DR 28R. See below.

DATA REQUESTS

26R. Please perform, either a set of 25-hour continuous ambient noise measurements, or a set of shorter-term ambient noise measurements, at or near the residential areas in Hermosa Beach located north of the of the AES Redondo Beach Generating Station (AES RBGS) along Herondo Street. The location of this survey can be anywhere along Herondo Street between the multifamily residences located immediately northeast of the intersection of Valley Drive and Herondo Street and the single family residences located between Hermosa Avenue and Monterey Blvd. The shorter-term measurement alternative must consist of one set of continuous measurements from 10 p.m. to 7 a.m. and two 15-minute (at the minimum) daytime measurements, taken once in mid-late morning and another in early-late afternoon. Please provide the results of these measurements in terms of L_{eq} , L_{10} , L_{50} , L_{90} , L_{min} and L_{max} . This survey can be conducted with or without AES RBGS in operation.

27. Deleted.

28R. Please perform, either the 25-hour continuous ambient noise measurements, or a set of shorter-term ambient noise measurements, at or near the residential areas in Redondo Beach east of North Catalina Avenue bounded by Beryl Street, North Elena Avenue, and North Broadway (AFC Figure 2.1-1) and provide the results in terms of L_{eq} , L_{10} , L_{50} , L_{90} , L_{min} and L_{max} . The shorter-term measurement alternative must consist of one set of continuous measurements from 10 p.m. to 7 a.m. and two 15-minute (at the minimum) daytime measurements, taken once in mid-late morning and another in early-late afternoon. This survey can be conducted with or without AES RBGS in operation.

Written responses to the enclosed data requests are due to the Staff on or before December 20, 2013. If you are unable to provide the information requested, need additional time, or object to providing the requested information, please send a written notice to the Committee and me within 20 days of receipt of this notice. The notification must contain the reasons for the inability to provide the information or the grounds for any objections (see Title 20, California Code of Regulations, section 1716(f)).

If you have any questions regarding the enclosed data requests, please call me at (916) 654-4063.

Sincerely,



Patricia Kelly, Siting Project Manager
Siting, Transmission and Environmental
Protection Division