

DOCKETED

Docket Number:	13-AFC-01
Project Title:	Alamitos Energy Center
TN #:	212289
Document Title:	Request for Comments on the Preliminary Staff Assessment for the Proposed Alamitos Energy Center
Description:	N/A
Filer:	Cenne Jackson
Organization:	California Energy Commission
Submitter Role:	Commission Staff
Submission Date:	7/14/2016 10:24:51 AM
Docketed Date:	7/14/2016

CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION

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



July 13, 2016

**REQUEST FOR COMMENTS ON THE PRELIMINARY
STAFF ASSESSMENT FOR THE PROPOSED
ALAMITOS ENERGY CENTER
(13-AFC-01)**

To: AGENCY DISTRIBUTION LIST

The enclosed Preliminary Staff Assessment (PSA) contains the California Energy Commission staff's preliminary evaluation of the proposed Alamitos Energy Center (AEC). The PSA was published on July 13, 2016, and is available for review on the Energy Commission's website at:

<https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/Lists/DocketLog.aspx?docketnumber=13-AFC-01>

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 PSA. The agency comment period for this PSA ends on August 12, 2016. If you wish to comment on the PSA, please submit comments by going to the Energy Commission's AEC webpage

<http://www.energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/alamitos/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. 13-AFC-01 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 (13-AFC-01) 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 ALAMITOS ENERGY CENTER PRELIMINARY STAFF ASSESSMENT

On October 26, 2015, AES Southland Development, LLC (AES) submitted a Supplemental Application for Certification (SAFC) (13-AFC-01) to the California Energy Commission for the Alamitos Energy Center AEC) project. The SAFC replaces the original Application for Certification (AFC) filed on December 27, 2013. The AEC would be constructed on the site of the Alamitos Generating Station (AGS), an existing and operating power plant in the city of Long Beach, California.

AEC as currently proposed, would be a nominal 1,040-megawatt (MW), natural-gas-fired, combined-cycle and simple-cycle, air-cooled electrical generating facility consisting of two power blocks to provide fast starting and stopping, reliable, flexible multistage generating resources. Power Block 1 would consist of two natural-gas-fired combustion turbine, 640-megawatt (MW), generators (CTG) in a combined-cycle configuration (collectively AEC CCGT), with two unfired heat recovery steam generators (HRSG), one steam turbine generator (STG), an air cooled condenser, an auxiliary boiler, and related ancillary equipment. Power Block 2 would consist of four natural gas-fired, simple-cycle CTGs with fin-fan coolers and ancillary facilities (collectively, AEC SCGT) for a nominal 400-MW.

Existing Alamitos Generating Station Units 1–6 are currently in operation with a net generating capacity of 1,950 megawatts. Although AES still intends to demolish all six operating units, the demolition is not part of the proposed AEC project, but would take place through a Memorandum of Understanding with the city of Long Beach after the AEC begins commercial operation. Demolition is expected to occur after 2020. Demolition of retired Unit 7 remains part of the proposed AEC project. Construction activities at the project site are anticipated to last 56 months, from first quarter 2017 until third quarter 2021.

The existing AGS facilities utilizing once-through cooling are not under the Commission's jurisdiction and are not directly part of the proposed project before the Commission. Regardless whether the AEC facility is licensed or constructed, these older units are scheduled to be shut down by 2020 under the State Water Board phase out of once-through-cooling. The demolition of the older units will be considered as part of the staff's cumulative impacts analysis.

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:

<https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/Lists/DocketLog.aspx?docketnumber=13-AFC-01>

If you have questions about this request for comments, the project or the PSA, please Keith Winstead, Energy Commission Project Manager, at (916) 654-5191 or email at Keith.Winstead@energy.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Date: July 13, 2016

Originally Signed By _____
MICHAEL D. LEWIS, Division Chief
Siting, Transmission & Environmental
Protection Division

Mailed to Agency list - 7503