Walnut Energy Center Authority (WECA), the owner/operator of the Walnut Energy Center (WEC) Project, has requested to modify the minimum distances between sulfuric acid tanks and stored flammable materials from 100 feet to 50 feet to be consistent with staff’s recommendations and Commission decisions regarding required separation in more recent siting cases. The storage tank will actually be 85 feet from any stored flammable materials on site.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

The Energy Commission staff reviewed the petition and finds that it complies with the requirements of Title 20, Section 1769(a) of the California Code of Regulations and recommends approval of WECA’s petition to modify the WEC Project and amend the related Condition of Certification-Haz-5. Hazardous Materials Management is the only technical area impacted by this petition.

**COMMISSION FINDINGS**

Based on staff’s analysis, the Commission concludes that the proposed changes will not result in any significant impact to public health and safety or the environment. The Commission finds that:

- The petition meets all the filing criteria of Title 20, section 1769(a) of the California Code of Regulations concerning post-certification project modifications.
- The modification will not change the findings in the Commission’s Final Decision pursuant to Title 20, section 1755;
- The project will remain in compliance with all applicable laws, ordinances, regulations, and standards, subject to the provisions of Public Resources Code section 25525;
- The change will be beneficial to the project owner and avoids the need to redesign aspects of the balance of plant to change minimum separation distances between a sulfuric acid storage tank and a diesel fuel tank;
The change is based on information that was not available to the parties prior to Energy Commission certification because when the project was certified, staff initially took a very conservative position in a 100 foot separation. Staff now recommends the use of 50 feet as the minimum separation distance in new cases.

CONCLUSION AND ORDER

The California Energy Commission hereby adopts Staff’s recommendations and approves the following changes to the WEC Project Decision. New language is shown as **bold** and *double underlined* and deleted language is shown in *strikeout*:

HAZ-5: The project owner shall ensure that no flammable material is stored within 50 100 feet of the sulfuric acid tank.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Date: June 22, 2005

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
ENERGY RESOURCES CONSERVATION
AND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

/Original Signed/
JOE DESMOND, Chairman