

Walnut Energy Center (2002-AFC-4)
Request to Amend Air Quality Condition of Certification AQ-71
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Amendment Request

Walnut Energy Center Authority (WECA) is requesting that an apparent transcription error found in Walnut Energy Center (WEC) Condition of Certification AQ-71 be corrected.

Background

The WEC is a nominal 250-megawatt, natural gas-fired, combined-cycle generating facility consisting on two General Electric Frame 7E combustion turbines and located near the City of Turlock, in Stanislaus County. The WEC facility was granted a Commission Decision on February 18, 2004, started construction on March 15, 2004 and is expected to be on-line on February 28, 2006. The WECA was beginning commissioning procedures when they noticed the transcription error in Condition of Certification AQ-71. The San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District (SJVAPCD) received the same request from WECA. SJVAPCD issued its revised Authority to Construct permit on January 31, 2006.

Laws Ordinances Regulations and Statutes

No laws, ordinances, regulations or standards will affect the petitioned amendment requests.

Analysis

Staff must base any recommended modification to existing Conditions of Certification in part on information that was not available during the original licensing procedures.

The emission limits for SO_x and PM₁₀ in Condition of Certification AQ-71 have clearly been switched. This supposition is supported by a review of the Final Staff Assessment dated August 29, 2003 wherein several references are made to these emission limits in the supporting analysis. It is clear to staff that this is a transcription error and should be corrected as an administrative change as there is no new evidence to present.

Conclusions and Recommendations

Staff has analyzed the proposed changes and concludes that there are no new or additional significant impacts associated with approval of the petition. Staff concludes that the proposed changes (below) are to correct a simple transcription error. Staff concludes that the proposed language retains the intent of the original Commission Decision and Conditions of Certification. Staff recommends the following modifications to Condition of Certification AQ-71.

Proposed Modifications to the Air Quality Conditions of Certification

AQ-71 Only one of the turbines under permits N-2246-3 and N-2246-4 shall be operated at any one time without abatement and only during commissioning. Combined emission rates from permit units N-2246-3 and N-2246-4, during the commissioning period, shall not exceed any of the following limits: NO_x (as NO₂) – 227.8 lb/hr or 3,055.4 lb/day; CO – 309.0 lb/hr or 4,878.8 lb/day; VOC (as methane) – 33.0 lb/hr or 491 lb/day; SO_x – ~~336.0 lb/day~~ **47.8 lb/day**; PM₁₀ – 47.8 lb/day **336.0 lb/day**. [District Rule 2201]

Verification: The project owner shall provide emissions data to demonstrate compliance with this condition, and that data shall be submitted to the CEC CPM as part of the monthly commissioning status report noted in the verification of Condition **AQ-69**.