

Memorandum

Date: February 26, 2004
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To: John L. Geesman, Presiding Member
Arthur H. Rosenfeld, Ph.D., Associate Member

From: California Energy Commission -- Bob Eller, Project Manager
1516 Ninth Street
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Subject: **ROSEVILLE ENERGY PARK (03-AFC-1) STATUS REPORT #1**

Pursuant to the Committee's February 2, 2004 Scheduling Order, the following is staff's status report on the proposed Roseville Energy Park. Staff's first status report focuses on the data responses received from the applicant on February 6, the project schedule, and an update to the issues staff identified in its January 16 Issue Identification Report.

CURRENT DATA REQUESTS/DATA RESPONSES

Staff submitted 71 data requests on January 7, 2004, requesting additional information in the technical areas of air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, efficiency, hazardous materials management, land use, noise, socioeconomics, soil and water resources, transmission system engineering, visual resources, and waste management.

On February 6, 2004, applicant provided responses to these data requests. However, the applicant did not provide responses to data request #55 (Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan), #57 (Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasure Plan), #70 (Phase I Environmental Site Assessment) and #71 (Pesticide Assessment). On February 20, 2004, the applicant provided a response to data request #55. While staff understands that responses to data requests #57, #70 and #71 are being prepared, the applicant has not yet informed us of their proposed filing date.

We are evaluating the responses provided to determine the need for either additional data requests or a data response workshop to clarify the information provided by the applicant. Pursuant to the Committee's schedule, staff expects to release second round data requests on March 1, 2004. Staff reserves the right to ask for additional information when the responses to the first round data requests are complete.

No data requests have been filed by intervenors to this proceeding.

ISSUES

In our January 16, 2004 Issue Identification Report (IIR), staff identified potential major issues in the areas of air quality and land use.

AIR QUALITY

Staff's IIR identified concerns with the type and availability of offsets available to mitigate the air quality impacts of the proposed project. On February 23, 2004, the applicant provided, under confidential cover, an updated emission reduction credit (ERC) table for the proposed project. Staff is unable to determine whether the new information alleviates the concerns raised in the IIR since the new ERC table does not provide information regarding the ERC number, the nature, or the source of the proposed credits.

Staff will continue to work with the applicant to resolve the concerns expressed in our IIR. We will update the Committee in our regular status reports regarding any progress towards resolution of this issue, and will provide a complete analysis of the project's air quality impacts in our Preliminary Staff Assessment.

In addition, the Application for Certification for the Roseville Energy Park identifies two proposed turbine configurations for the project, either a General Electric or an Alstrom gas turbine. Further, in response to data request 2, the applicant states that they wish to permit both turbine models. This will require staff, and ultimately the Committee, to analyze the impacts of two different turbines, and to devise Conditions of Certification for each turbine. This will add a degree of complexity to both staff's analysis and the Committee's review. Staff believes that it can meet the Committee's proposed schedule for this proceeding if the air district provides a draft Determination of Compliance for both turbines in a timely manner.

LAND USE

Staff's IIR identified land use concerns regarding the potential impacts of the project to schools proposed as part of the West Roseville Specific Plan/Land Use Plan dated March 14, 2003. The IIR cites the December 19, 2003 school site field review issued by the California Department of Education (CDE) which indicated potential safety issues related to traffic, power line locations, and hazardous pipeline (gas pipeline) locations.

In response to data request #41, the applicant indicated that they have met with CDE and discussed the school sites proposed in the West Roseville Specific Plan. The response concludes, "The REP site, with natural gas Alternative A (preferred alternative) would be consistent with the state's school siting guidelines." The applicant has verbally informed staff they will remove the other gas pipeline alternatives from the project description in an upcoming filing.

Staff will continue to work with the applicant and CDE to resolve this issue and will provide its analysis of the land use impacts of the proposed project in the Preliminary Staff Assessment.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

As noted above, staff is awaiting information originally requested in our January 7, 2004 data requests. Staff plans to meet the Committee's proposed schedule for the release of the PSA in mid-May. However, it is critical that the outstanding data requests are responded to in a timely manner and the draft Determination of Compliance from the air district is completed by April 15, 2004.