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| Docket Number: | 01-AFC-07C |
| Project Title: | 01-AFC-7C Russell City Energy Company |
| TN #: | 238943 |
| Document Title: | Order Approving Post Certification Petition for Modification |
| Description: | Resolution No. 21-0715-3 |
| Filer: | Liza Lopez |
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STATE OF CALIFORNIA
STATE ENERGY RESOURCES
CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

IN THE MATTER OF:

RUSSELL CITY ENERGY CENTER

Docket No. 01-AFC-07C

ORDER APPROVING POST CERTIFICATION
PETITION FOR MODIFICATION

On June 3, 2021, Russell City Energy Company, LLC (project owner) filed a post certification petition with the California Energy Commission (CEC) to modify the Russell City Energy Center (RCEC). The project owner is requesting temporary safety modifications to the steam turbine condenser, which would allow the facility to operate in simple-cycle mode. RCEC is a nominal 600 megawatt (MW) natural gas-fired, wet cooled, combined cycle electric generating facility that was certified by the CEC in September 2002 and began commercial operation in August 2013.

BACKGROUND

On Thursday, May 27, 2021, RCEC experienced a mechanical failure of the steam turbine generator that resulted in an explosion and fire. The steam turbine and generator experienced extensive damage. As a result, there will be an extended production outage for the entire facility until damaged equipment can be repaired or replaced. Estimates of the time required for resumption of combined-cycle mode operations requiring use of the steam turbine are up to a year, or more.

This petition for temporary safety modifications seeks to allow the facility to return to service at its simple-cycle generation capacity, provide frequency and voltage services, and support local and system grid reliability needs in the summer and fall of 2021. In simple-cycle mode, RCEC can provide approximately 300 to 350 MW of generation capacity and frequency and voltage support to the applicable resource area. The proposed temporary modification would also ensure that the facility can continue to provide Black Start service to the California Independent System Operator (CAISO).

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

CEC staff has reviewed the petition pursuant to Title 20, California Code of Regulations, section 1769 (Post Certification Amendments and Changes) and concluded in its staff analysis titled, *Statement of Staff Approval of Post Certification Change Russell City Energy Center*, that the temporary modifications to allow for operation in simple cycle mode would not result in a significant impact on the environment, or cause the project to not comply with applicable laws, ordinances, regulations, and standards. No changes to any Conditions of Certification are required as the facility will be operating within its existing license.

ENERGY COMMISSION FINDINGS

Based on the record, including staff's analysis, the Commission concludes that the proposed modifications will not result in any significant impacts to public health and safety, or to the environment. The Commission finds that:

- The petition meets all the filing criteria of Title 20, California Code of Regulations, section 1769 (a), concerning post-certification project modifications.
- The modifications will not change the findings in the Commission's Final Decision, pursuant to Title 20, California Code of Regulations, section 1748;
- The facility will remain in compliance with all applicable laws, ordinances, regulations, and standards, subject to the provisions of Public Resources Code section 25525;
- It is prudent for the CEC to exercise enhanced scrutiny over the facility given the circumstances that gave rise to the petition, and it is reasonable for the public to have access to safety audits conducted pertaining to the operation of the facility, including the circumstances that gave rise to the petition;
- The facility's operation in simple cycle mode is within the existing license and no changes to any Conditions of Certification are required;
- The City of Hayward Fire Department will continue to exercise its existing authorities under the RCEC Conditions of Certification, including, but not limited to, the Fire Department's roles under Conditions HAZ-1, HAZ-2, HAZ-7, WASTE-4, WASTE-8, WASTE-12, WORKER SAFETY-2, and WORKER SAFETY-3;
- The facility will return to combined cycle operations when repairs and testing are completed.

CONCLUSION AND ORDER

The CEC hereby approves the petition for modifications allowing for the facility to operate in simple cycle mode as set forth in staff analysis and adopts the draft order, with the following modifications:

Within thirty (30) days after approval of the Petition of the Temporary Safety Modifications, the Project Owner shall meet with California Energy Commission Staff and Hayward City Fire Department to discuss any needed modifications of their standard operating procedures for first responders to implement when responding to incidents on site, including establishing a process for reimbursement of reasonable expenses.

CERTIFICATION

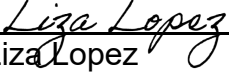
The undersigned Secretariat to the CEC does hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of an Order duly and regularly adopted at a meeting of the CEC held on July 15, 2021.

AYE: Hochschild, Douglas, McAllister, Monahan, Gunda

NAY: NONE

ABSENT: NONE

ABSTAIN: NONE



Liza Lopez
Secretariat