

<b>DOCKETED</b>	
<b>Docket Number:</b>	23-OPT-01
<b>Project Title:</b>	Fountain Wind Project
<b>TN #:</b>	255058
<b>Document Title:</b>	ROC - Data Requests_ Questions on Information Provided in Applicant's Wildfire Technical Report Submitted December 2023
<b>Description:</b>	Report of Conversation
<b>Filer:</b>	Marichka Haws
<b>Organization:</b>	California Energy Commission
<b>Submitter Role:</b>	Commission Staff
<b>Submission Date:</b>	3/13/2024 4:55:36 PM
<b>Docketed Date:</b>	3/13/2024



*Siting, Transmission and Environmental Protection Division*

**FILE:** n/a

**PROJECT TITLE:** Fountain Wind Project

**Docket:** 23-OPT-01

<b>TECHNICAL AREA(s): Hazards, Hazardous Materials, and Wildfire</b>			
<input type="checkbox"/> Telephone	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Email	<input type="checkbox"/> Meeting Location:	
<b>NAME(s):</b> Aurie C. Patterson, P.G.	<b>DATE:</b> 02/21/2024 and 2/22/2024	<b>TIME:</b>	
<b>WITH:</b> Caitlin Barns, Stantec			
<b>SUBJECT:</b> Data Requests/Questions on Information provided in Applicant’s Wildfire Technical Report submitted December 2023			

**COMMENTS:** The following questions were submitted by email on Wednesday, February 21, 2024, to the Applicant regarding information in the wildfire technical report prepared by PYROANALYSIS LLC and submitted by the Applicant in December 2023, titled “Impacts on Fire Behavior and Aerial Firefighting” (TN 253505). The responses to the questions were received by email from the Applicant’s consultant on February 22, 2024.

1. The Report notes and shows on two figures (Figures 10 and 13) that there will be a 10,000-gallon dip tank on the project site; located in the southwest portion of the project on the figures. However, the Applicant’s data responses for the post-Scoping data requests (TN 254379) indicate that at least 3 tanks of a minimum of 5000-gallons would be located onsite.

Questions: Is the 10,000-gallon dip tank in the figures in addition to the three 5000-gallon tanks or was the wrong tank size and location used for the analysis/report? Are the 3 tanks referred to in the data responses for operation and fire suppression? How will they be used for fire suppression? Will these tanks be used as dip tanks for aerial firefighting?

Response: The 10,000-gallon dip tank displayed in Figures 10 and 13 is an existing 10,000-gallon dip tank that was installed by the property owner and will remain to be owned, maintained, and operated by the property owner. The three tanks referred to in the data responses are simply water tanks that are proposed as both construction and operational fire suppression resources. These tanks would be on standby for use by site workers or CAL FIRE. These are not currently considered to be dip tanks, however, per TN 254350 the final number of water tanks that will be installed, and the final locations of the tanks, are subject to CAL FIRE recommendation. Each would have a capacity of at least 5,000 gallons.



- 2. On Figure 13 of the Report (Fire Attack Aerial Information), the figure and the legend include a buffer around each of the turbines that is listed in the legend as being a Turbine Site 561' Buffer. A buffer of 561 feet does not coincide with any buffer distances mentioned in the Report, the planned 2.5-acre (186 ft radius) vegetation clearance buffer around the turbines, nor CAL FIRE's required minimum setback distances from structures of 500 feet horizontally or vertically.

Question: Please clarify where the 561-foot buffer distance comes from. Additionally, it is unclear what this buffer represents on the map as it is not discussed in the text. Please identify what the buffer represents as related to Fire Attack Aerial Information.

Response: The 561' buffer depicted in Figure 13 is measured at the center point of the turbine and reflects a 261' total blade span plus the 300' buffer. Per the aviation subject matter experts who authored the report, pilots and air attack officers will determine the appropriate safe operating distance from aerial hazards based on several factors, including topography around the hazard that will affect approach and departure, weather, visibility, etc. Every aerial hazard has its own unique set of factors; therefore, each aerial hazard will have its own unique safety buffer. Without any specific safety distances used by the aerial firefighting community, the aviation subject matter experts with Pyroanalysis provided the 561' setback recommendation by buffering the turbine blade length of 261 ft. by a distance of 300 ft., as they believe a 300 ft. setback an appropriate recommendation for air tankers based on best practices and practical experience. Additionally, helicopters could operate closer if conditions allow.

<p><b>cc:</b> Leonidas Payne, Project Manager</p>	<p><b>Signed:</b></p> <p>ACP</p> <p><b>Name:</b> Aurie C. Patterson, P.G. - Hazards, Hazardous Materials, and Wildfire Staff</p>
---------------------------------------------------	----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------