

<b>DOCKETED</b>	
<b>Docket Number:</b>	08-AFC-10C
<b>Project Title:</b>	Lodi Energy Center Project
<b>TN #:</b>	256694
<b>Document Title:</b>	NCPA Lodi Energy Center Gas Turbine FX Upgrade
<b>Description:</b>	NCPA Lodi Energy Center FX Project Upgrade application for Confidential Designation. The NCPA written letter provides an explanation for requesting the Siemens Energy FX parts and submitted datasheet confidential to prevent upgrade information from becoming public record.
<b>Filer:</b>	Rafael Santana
<b>Organization:</b>	NCPA
<b>Submitter Role:</b>	Applicant
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<b>Docketed Date:</b>	6/5/2024

STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION  
APPLICATION FOR CONFIDENTIAL DESIGNATION (Title 20 Cal. Code. Regs., § 2505 *et seq.*)



1. Contact Information: (20 CCR 1208.1.)

Applicant Name: Northern California Power Agency, Rafael Santana  
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Proceeding Name: Lodi Energy Center FX Project Upgrade  
Docket Number: 08-AFC-10

2. Title, date, and description (including number of pages) of the information or data for which you request confidential designation. (20 CCR 1208.1.)

NCPA Lodi Energy Center FX Project upgrade, 5/21/2024, two pages, page one includes Siemens Energy document containing confidential information with regards to the FX upgrade. The Siemens Energy spec sheet provides our F4 gas turbine base data vs. FX upgraded data and the letter justifying the request for confidentiality.

3. Specify the part(s) of the information or data for which you request confidential designation. (If the data is in charts or spreadsheets, highlighting is sufficient.) (20 CCR § 2505(a)(1) (B.))

The Siemens Energy FX upgrade allows the existing LEC gas turbine to safely improve its thermal energy conversion process by taking advantage of advanced turbine hot section components such as newly design blades, seals, vanes and vanes carriers from stages 1 thru 4, the power output and efficiency gains are due to an increase in firing temperature and mass flow thru the gas turbine. These details are considered trade secrets.

4. State and justify the length of time the CEC should keep the information or data confidential. The term requested must be relevant to the stated basis for confidentiality. (20 CCR § 2505(a)(1)(C.))

The Siemens Energy FX document contains confidential data with regards to site conditions and gas turbine exhaust mass flow performance to achieve contract guarantees. For this reason, NCPA is requesting confidentiality as a competitor can gain access to this data in a public disclosure. The FX data can provide an advantage to a competitor by minimizing risk, research and development phase. Siemens has granted NCPA the confidential information for PCQ Submittal for siting and environmental review.

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5. State the provision(s) of the California Public Records Act or other law that allows the CEC to keep the information or data confidential and explain why the provision(s) apply to that material. (See Gov. Code, §§ 7920.000-7930.215.) (20 CCR § 2505 (a)(1)(D.))

Trade Secret

- Cal Gov Code § 7930.000
- Cal Gov Code § 7930.005
- Cal Gov Code § 7930.205
- Cal Evid Code § 1050

It is NCPA's understanding and belief that Siemens keeps its FX upgrade design, research and application of this technology confidential and only releases the information for use by customers under nondisclosure or similar agreements. It is NCPA's further understanding and belief based upon NCPA's conversations with Siemens that the FX upgrade information if released would provide a competitive advantage to another turbine manufacturer or retrofit entity, and based upon this understanding and belief, see page 2, response to Question 6, for an explanation of why the information constitutes a trade secret and thus should be treated as confidential by the CEC.

6. If the applicant believes that the information or data should not be disclosed because it contains trade secrets or its disclosure would otherwise cause a loss of a competitive advantage, the application also shall state: (20 CCR § 2505 (a)(1)(D.))

(a) The specific nature of that advantage.

The Siemens Energy FX upgrade consists of replacing the turbine hot section vanes, seals, blades and vane carriers. The data sheet contains information with regards to the F4 Gas Turbine Performance and Site Conditions to obtain our increase in efficiency and power output vs other manufacturers that don't offer this type of turbine upgrade.

(b) How the advantage would be lost.

A Siemens Energy competitor can acquire our data, deconstruct the data and use software to start modeling components behavior. Once the model has the correct parameters, the competitor can reverse engineer the FX upgrade. The competitor will have several parameters available to them, such as; mass flow, fuel flow, site conditions, emissions and possibly firing temperature from these conditions. Based on the acquired FX data, the competitor's risk, research and development costs will be substantially lessened. This will allow a competitor(s) to bring similar performance to market at a discounted rate which could possibly lead to a loss of future revenue and advantage.

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- (c) The value of the information to the applicant.

NCPA sees a lot of value in the Siemens Energy FX proposal because of the following benefits; Increase in unit reliability, efficiency gains, increase in power output and ultimately, the FX upgrade will allow LEC to burn H2 without a detrimental loss in power output as firing temperature is slightly lowered vs. that of a standard gas turbine without the FX upgrade. H2 burns at a higher flame temperature than natural gas which is a detriment to standard hot gas components resulting in a substantial loss in power output, efficiency and plant reliability without the FX upgrade.

- (d) The ease or difficulty with which the information could be legitimately acquired or duplicated by others.

A gas turbine manufacturer and/or third-party competitor can easily acquire the FX data if these numbers are made public via public records act. As a public record, it will ease access to turbine manufacturer's researching for competitor's data. The collected data can be used by turbine manufacturers developing similar technology to boost hot section component(s) performance and could possibly undercut Siemens Energy R&D efforts for the FX upgraded components.

7. State whether the information or data can be disclosed if it is aggregated with other information or masked to conceal certain portions. State the degree of aggregation or masking required. If the data cannot be disclosed even if aggregated or masked, explain why. (20 CCR § 2505(a)(1)(E.))

A gas turbine manufacturer and/or third-party competitor can easily acquire the FX data if the information is disclosed. The FX data cannot be aggregated as it is specific to the existing turbine and changes in performance after the FX upgrade is installed. Certain data can be made public such as; Unit emissions, electrical output, heat rate input (MMBtu/hr.).

8. State how the information or data is kept confidential by the applicant and whether it has ever been disclosed to a person other than an employee of the applicant. If it has, explain the circumstances under which disclosure occurred. (20 CCR § 2505(a)(1)(F.))

Siemens, the gas turbine manufacturer and NCPA have a long-term service agreement to conduct all the maintenance necessary with our turbine including but not limited to; HGP, Majors, Generator inspections, studies, upgrades thru 2040. The data is given only to key personnel involved with the FX project upgrade to prevent misuse or unlawful distribution of the data supplied by the OEM. NCPA is bound by a nondisclosure agreement with Siemens to keep the designated information confidential. NCPA retains this information in confidential, limited access files on NCPA's network.

9. At the signature line, include a certification stating: "I certify under penalty of perjury that the information contained in this application for confidential designation is true, correct, and complete to the best of my knowledge." (20 CCR § 2505(a)(1)(G.))

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10. State whether the applicant is a company, firm, partnership, trust, corporation, or other business entity, or an organization, or association and state that the person preparing the request is authorized to make the application and certification on behalf of the entity, organization, or association. (20 CCR § 2505(a)(1)(G.))

Northern California Power Agency (NCPA), is a California Joint Action Agency established in 1968 by a consortium of 16 locally owned electric utilities that provide reliable and affordable electricity to over 700,000 Californians. NCPA operates and maintains the Lodi Energy Center.

The person signing this request is authorized to make the application and certification on behalf of NCPA.

I certify under penalty of perjury that the information contained in this Application for Confidential Designation is true, correct, and complete to the best of my knowledge.

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA POWER AGENCY

  
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Rafael Santana, Plant Manager, CT Facilities

6/4/24  
Date