

Memorandum

Date : September 1, 2000

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To : William Keese, Presiding Member
Michal Moore, Associate Member

From : California Energy Commission - **Kae C. Lewis**
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Sacramento, CA 95814-5512

Subject : **CONTRA COSTA POWER PLANT UNIT 8 STATUS REPORT #2 – Sept. 1, 2000**

On June 29, staff submitted a first set of data requests to Southern Energy Delta (Applicant) concerning the Contra Costa Power Plant (CCPP) Unit 8 Project. On August 18, the Applicant submitted their data response materials. The filing was nearly complete; the Applicant expects to send additional materials to complete the data response filing by September 15. The staff believes that additional information will be necessary in several areas including cultural resources, traffic, soil and water resources, and visual resources. A second set of data requests from the staff will be submitted to the Applicant during the week of September 4. The second round of data responses will be due in early October.

Data requests from an intervenor, Joe Hawkins, to the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD), Energy Commission staff and other agencies, were filed on July 14. The Energy Commission staff submitted responses to Mr. Hawkins' data requests on August 14, 2000.

Significant Issues: At the Informational Hearing on June 12, significant issues were identified in these technical areas: air quality, biological resources, environmental justice, transmission system engineering, water resources and visual resources. Staff data requests are principally in these areas.

Probably the most significant issues identified thus far are concerned with *air quality* and *public health*. The *air quality* key issues will be the acquisition of emission reduction credits, especially the geographic source of these offsets, and the results of cumulative air quality impact analysis. The Applicant submitted data on August 18 (under confidential cover) concerning their emission reduction credits (ERCs).

Significant issues are also identified in *biological* and *water resources* which overlap for this project. The cooling water system for the existing Contra Costa Power Plant has critical impacts on the aquatic resources of the San Joaquin River. The Applicant has submitted their ongoing Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP), Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG), and the Application for Renewal of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit with the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (CVRWQCB). There will be a workshop on September 14 in Sacramento to discuss specific biological issues. Attendees will include representatives from the US Fish and

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Wildlife Service (USFWS), CDFG, and the US National Marine Fisheries. The CVRWQCB has also been invited.

Community Interest: As mentioned in the first status report, community interest in this project has been at a high level. Workshops covering the significant issues are being planned for the community prior to the Preliminary Staff Assessment.

Schedule: On June 20, the Project Committee filed a scheduling order for the CCPP Unit 8 project which directs that the Preliminary Staff Assessment (PSA) be filed by October 27, 2000. A number of documents from other agencies, which are critical to the AFC process for CCPP Unit 8, have been filed or are close to completion. The Detailed Facilities Study (DFS) for transmission interconnection was completed by Pacific Gas and Electric and submitted to staff on July 18. The CAL-ISO expects to render its decision for preliminary approval before the end of September. The BAAQMD is expecting to issue the Preliminary Determination of Compliance (PDOC) on time in mid-September. Because the Applicant received a time extension for the first set of data requests, however, the second set of data requests is being issued closer to the PSA filing date than would be preferred. Although it is too early to tell, this may result in the filing of a PSA in late October with incomplete analyses.

cc: Contra Costa Proof of Service
Dick Wocasek, Bay Area AQMD
Peter Mackin, CAL-ISO
Greg Vaughn, Central Valley RWQCB
Habib Amin, Contra Costa County Health Services
Michael Thabault, US Fish and Wildlife Service
Jim Starr, California Department of Fish and Game
Michael E. Aceitumo, US National Marine Fisheries Service