

Memorandum

Date : October 10, 2000
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To : Robert A. Laurie, Presiding Member
Robert Pernell, Associate Member

From : California Energy Commission - Eileen Allen
1516 Ninth Street Siting Project Manager
Sacramento, CA 95814-5512

Subject : OTAY MESA GENERATING PROJECT STATUS REPORT 10
--October 10, 2000

Schedule

Energy Commission staff plans to file Part 1 of its Final Staff Assessment (FSA) on October 13, 2000. Part 1 will contain all technical sections except Air Quality and Traffic and Transportation. Staff plans to file Part 2 of its FSA on October 27, 2000.

Potential Issues

Air Quality

Staff held a publicly noticed conference call on September 20, 2000, regarding the applicant's proposal for PM10 mitigation. Three public interest groups¹ and one of the intervenors² submitted written comments on PM10. They plan to participate in the Evidentiary Hearings. The discussion was continued in a September 28, 2000 conference call. Staff is reviewing a comprehensive PM10 mitigation proposal which the applicant filed on October 10, 2000.

The San Diego Air Pollution Control District (District) issued an FDOC on September 18, 2000, which stated that it did not contain the federally required Prevention of Significant Deterioration (PSD) analysis. The PSD will be issued after the Committee's Evidentiary Hearings, and after the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) has issued its Biological Opinion in coordination with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The Commission's legal staff has reached an agreement with USEPA on this approach.

Biological Resources

The USFWS plans to file its Biological Opinion in late October or early November, 2000.

Local Infrastructure Needs

With the concurrence of Caltrans and San Diego County, staff suggested in a July 25, 2000 public workshop, that since there were no immediate plans to improve the skewed intersection of State Route 905 and Old Otay Mesa Road, that the applicant study an alternative route. On September 6, 2000, the applicant filed its traffic study on an alternative route that would bypass the skewed intersection. Staff noted in its September 13, 2000 Status Report 9, that it was not aware of any issues associated with using the alternative route. Since then staff has received comments from the City of San

¹ The public interest groups were the American Lung Association of San Diego, the Environmental Health Coalition, and AARP (American Association of Retired Persons).

² The intervenor was Holly Duncan.

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Diego and Caltrans District 11 that raise concerns about it. There are still no immediate, specific plans to improve the skewed intersection.

Staff has noticed a public workshop scheduled for October 18, 2000, to discuss the options for improving the intersection, or a feasible alternative route that bypasses the intersection. Staff is preparing letters to the department heads at the three agencies involved, (i.e., Caltrans District 11, San Diego County's Department of Planning and Land Use, and the City of San Diego's Planning and Development Review Department) asking them to attend this workshop. The letters emphasize the need for a traffic engineering solution in order for the project to be able to move to the Presiding Member's Proposed Decision phase.

Gas Pipeline Capacity

Staff has completed its multidisciplinary gas study, and its conclusions are being incorporated in the FSA sections for Reliability and Efficiency. The complete study, and a related analysis of air quality implications of the District's Rule 69 and potential natural gas curtailments in the San Diego area, will be included in the FSA as appendices to the main document.

cc: Otay Mesa Generating Project Proof of Service List
Stella Caldwell, San Diego County Department of Planning and Land Use
George Ream, San Diego County Public Works Department
Arthur Carbonell, San Diego Air Pollution Control District
Michael Lake, San Diego Air Pollution Control District
Gjon Hazard, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Kim Marsden, California Department of Fish and Game
Chris Gallenstein, California Air Resources Board
David Wampler, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Gerardo Rios, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Kristen Aliotti, Office of California-Mexico Affairs, Trade & Commerce Agency
Larry Tobias, California Independent System Operator
Paul Clanon, California Public Utilities Commission
Richard Myers, California Public Utilities Commission
John Myers, San Diego Mayor Susan Golding's Office
Brice Bossler, San Diego County Supervisor Greg Cox's Office