

DOCKETED

Docket Number:	12-AFC-02
Project Title:	Huntington Beach Energy Project
TN #:	201094
Document Title:	CEC Staff Status Report #7
Description:	N/A
Filer:	Diane Scott
Organization:	California Energy Commission
Submitter Role:	Commission Staff
Submission Date:	11/1/2013 12:04:16 PM
Docketed Date:	11/1/2013

Memorandum

Date: November 1, 2013
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To: Commissioner Andrew McAllister, Presiding Member
Commissioner Karen Douglas, Associate Member
Susan Cochran, Hearing Officer

From: California Energy Commission - Felicia Miller
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Subject: **HUNTINGTON BEACH ENERGY PROJECT (12-AFC-2)
STAFF STATUS REPORT #7**

This status report is being submitted as a response to the Committee Order dated 7/31/13, which directed the parties to submit status reports to the Committee on the first of each month commencing 9/1/13 to discuss with the Committee whether or not case development is progressing satisfactorily, and bring potential schedule delays and other relevant matters to the Committee's attention.

UPDATE ON PRELIMINARY STAFF ASSESSMENT PUBLICATION (PSA)

PSA Part A

Staff published the PSA Part A on 10/10/13. Part A included the following technical sections: Biological Resources, Cultural Resources, Efficiency, Compliance Conditions, Geology and Paleontology, Hazardous Materials, Land Use, Noise and Vibration, Reliability, Socioeconomics, Soils and Water Resources, Traffic and Transportation, Transmission Line Safety and Nuisance, Transmission System Engineering, Visual Resources, Waste Management and Worker Safety and Fire Protection.

The applicant has indicated they will file their PSA comments by 11/8/13. A workshop to discuss the PSA will be during the week of 11/18/13 at the Huntington Beach Central Library located at 7111 Talbert Avenue in Huntington Beach.

PSA Part B

Staff is dependent on a Preliminary Determination of Compliance (PDOC) from the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) in order to complete their analysis on Air Quality and Public Health, as the PDOC includes the air district's analysis and conditions required for issuance of a permit. SCAQMD has indicated they intend to publish the PDOC by late November 2013. Once staff has received the PDOC, staff will publish the PSA Part B within 45 days. Part B would include Air Quality, Public Health and Alternatives sections.

Air Quality and Public Health Analyses

Staff received correspondence from the applicant on 10/18/13 that was submitted to the SCAQMD. The response was to the District's tentative approval of the methodology for performing the cumulative 1-hour nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) national air quality impact assessment and the Class II visibility impact area analysis for the HBEP. The submittal included a draft air quality impact assessment and addressed comments from the SCAQMD.

Alternatives Analysis

On 9/30/13, the applicant provided information regarding potential alternative cooling water sources for the existing Huntington Beach Generation Station that staff requested in order to evaluate the No Project Alternative scenarios. With this information, staff is currently working on finalizing the alternatives analysis that will be included in PSA Part B.

VISUAL ENHANCEMENT

On 10/21/13, the City of Huntington Beach hosted a City Council Study Session. During the session, the City and AES presented visual enhancement plans, which included several treatment and screening concepts. In a conversation with the City, the City reports that the visual treatment options were well received by the public and council, and reports they will continue to work with AES on exploring additional design options, as well as a mutually acceptable visual enhancement plan. The applicant has indicated they will provide staff with architectural simulations in their comments to the PSA. The final visual enhancement plan will be used by staff to assess compliance with applicable laws, ordinances, regulations and standards to restore and enhance visual resources in the Coastal Zone. Staff anticipates discussion of visual screening at the upcoming PSA workshop. In addition, the City has indicated they will work with AES on a variance process to address the height of the HBEP, as the proposed project exceeds the City's height restrictions.