

DOCKETED

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CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION

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November 8, 2013

Honorable Mike Thompson
Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
231 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

RE: Bottle Rock Geothermal Power Plant Proposed Amendment to Compliance
Conditions of Certification Relating to Financial Assurance (79-AFC-4C)

Dear Congressman Thompson:

Thank you for your letter regarding the California Energy Commission's review of the Bottle Rock Geothermal Power Plant Amendment. As one of the principal decision makers on the project, Chair Weisenmiller is unable to engage in communication about the project outside the hearing process; therefore, he asked me to respond to you on his behalf. Also at his request, I have docketed your letter in this amendment proceeding.

You have requested that the Energy Commission consider the commitment that investors have made to the Bottle Rock Geothermal facility and amend the \$4.13 million dollar decommissioning bond requirement that the staff has recommended. Staff's initial recommendation regard BRP's bond requirement was to reduce the amount of the original \$5 million dollar bond to \$4.13 million dollars based on a review of several previously prepared closure estimates. A workshop was held on October 4, 2013, during which the project owner asserted that the only relevant closure estimate was the most recent one which was submitted on July 29, 2013. Staff agreed to revisit its initial recommendation, and based on its updated analysis filed a response to comments on October 28, 2013 which recommended that the bond requirement be further reduced to \$2,698,750. The staff will be presenting its revised recommendation at the Committee Hearing November 18, 2013 in Cobb, California.

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The Energy Commission appreciates your support for renewable energy development in California. Please feel free to contact me at (916) 654-5100 or Roger.Johnson@energy.ca.gov, should you have additional questions.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Roger E. Johnson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Roger E. Johnson
Deputy Director
Siting, Transmission and
Environmental Protection Division

Sent by e-mail to:

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