

DOCKETED

Docket Number:	13-AFC-01
Project Title:	Alamitos Energy Center
TN #:	201564
Document Title:	Request for Agency Participation in the Review of Alamitos Energy Center
Description:	N/A
Filer:	Cenne Jackson
Organization:	California Energy Commission
Submitter Role:	Commission Staff
Submission Date:	1/15/2014 2:10:43 PM
Docketed Date:	1/15/2014

CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION

1516 NINTH STREET
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814-5512
www.energy.ca.gov



January 14, 2014

TO: AGENCY DISTRIBUTION LIST**REQUEST FOR AGENCY PARTICIPATION IN THE REVIEW OF THE ALAMITOS ENERGY CENTER (13-AFC-01)**

On December 27, 2013, AES Southland Development, LLC (AES-SD) submitted an Application for Certification (AFC) to the California Energy Commission to modernize the existing Alamitos Generating Station (AGS). The Alamitos Energy Center (AEC) would be located on approximately 63 acres of privately owned land. The proposed project site is bounded to the north by State Route 22; to the east by the San Gabriel River; to the south by 2nd Street; and to the west by N. Studebaker Rd., in the city of Long Beach, Los Angeles County, California. Existing Alamitos Generating Station Units 1–6 are currently in operation with a net generating capacity of 1,950 megawatts (MW). All six operating units and retired Unit 7 would be demolished as part of the proposed project. Construction and demolition activities at the project site are anticipated to last 139 months, from first quarter 2016 until third quarter 2027.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The AEC is a proposed natural gas-fired, fast starting, combined-cycle gas-turbine, air-cooled generating facility with a net generating capacity of 1,936 megawatts (MW) and gross generating capacity of 1,995 MW. The project would consist of four 3-on-1 combined-cycle gas-turbine power blocks of twelve natural gas-fired combustion-turbine generators, twelve heat recovery steam generators, four steam-turbine generators, four air-cooled condensers, and related ancillary equipment. The AEC is proposed to use air-cooled condensers for cooling, completely eliminating the existing ocean water once-through cooling system. The AEC is proposed to use potable water provided by the city of Long Beach Water Department (LBWD) for construction, operational process, and sanitary uses. This water would be supplied through existing onsite potable water lines.

The AEC would interconnect to the existing SCE 230-kilovolt (kV) switchyard adjacent to the northern side of the property. Natural gas would be supplied to the AEC via the existing offsite 30-inch-diameter, high-pressure pipeline owned and operated by SoCalGas that currently serves the AGS. Natural gas compressors, water treatment facilities, emergency services, and administration and maintenance buildings would be constructed within the existing site footprint. Storm water would be discharged into two retention basins and then ultimately to the San Gabriel River via existing storm water outfalls.

The AEC would include a new 1,000 linear foot process/sanitary wastewater pipeline to the first point of interconnection with the existing LBWD sewer system and would eliminate the current practice of treatment and discharge of process/sanitary

wastewater to the San Gabriel River. The project may also require upgrading approximately 4,000 linear feet of the existing offsite LBWD sewer line downstream of the first point of interconnection. Therefore, this possible offsite project-related improvement to the LBWD system will require analysis during the Energy Commission certification process.

The AEC would include the following principal design elements:

- twelve Mitsubishi Power Systems America (MPSA) 501DA combustion-turbine generators (CTG) with a nominal rating of approximately 119 MW each. The CTGs would be equipped with evaporative coolers on the inlet air system and dry low oxides of nitrogen (NO_x) combustors;
- four single-cylinder steam-turbine generators (STG) with a nominal rating of approximately 143 MW each;
- twelve heat recovery steam generators (HRSGs). Each HRSG would be equipped with a selective catalytic reduction (SCR) unit in the outlet ductwork for the control of NO_x emissions and an oxidation catalyst to control carbon monoxide (CO) and volatile organic compound (VOC) emissions;
- four air-cooled condensers and four closed-loop cooling fin fan coolers;
- four 230-kV interconnections to the existing SCE switchyard, which is adjacent to the site;
- direct connection to an existing SoCalGas 30-inch-diameter natural gas pipeline;
- demolition of AGS Units 1–6 and retired AGS Unit 7;
- demolition of ancillary facilities and selected existing warehouses;
- connection to existing onsite potable water line; and
- recontouring of two existing retention basins and the existing outfalls to the San Gabriel River.

ENERGY COMMISSION'S SITE CERTIFICATION PROCESS

The Energy Commission is responsible for reviewing and ultimately approving or denying all applications to construct and operate thermal electric power plants, 50 MW and greater, in California. The Energy Commission's facility certification process carefully examines public health and safety, environmental impacts, and engineering aspects of proposed power plants and all related facilities such as electric transmission lines and natural gas and water pipelines. The Energy Commission is the Lead Agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), and because the siting process is a certified regulatory program, the Energy Commission produces several environmental and decision documents rather than an environmental impact report. The issuance of a certificate by the Energy Commission is in lieu of any local or state permits, and federal permits to the extent permitted by federal law.

The first step in the review process is for Energy Commission staff to determine whether the AFC contains all the information required by Energy Commission regulations. When the AFC is deemed data adequate by the Energy Commission at a Business Meeting, a committee of two commissioners will be assigned to oversee the proceeding. At that time, the discovery and analysis phases begin and a detailed examination of the issues will occur.

Over the coming months, the Energy Commission will conduct a number of public workshops and hearings on the proposal to determine whether the project should be approved for construction and operation and if so, under what set of conditions. These workshops will provide the public as well as local, state and federal agencies, the opportunity to ask questions about, and provide input on, the proposed project. The Energy Commission will issue notices for these workshops and hearings at least 10 days prior to the meeting.

AGENCY PARTICAPATION

Your agency's participation is encouraged by assisting in the identification of project issues which present concerns to your agency. Your willingness to cooperate with the project applicant and our staff in the resolution of these issues is highly valued. Energy Commission technical staff will soon be contacting your agency staff to understand if there are issues or information that need to be identified. In the meantime, if you have any questions, please contact Keith Winstead, the Energy Commission's Project Manager, at (916) 654-5191, or by email at keith.winstead@energy.ca.gov.

Local agencies may seek reimbursement for reasonable costs incurred in responding to these requests. (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 20, section 1715).¹

Enclosed is a copy of the AFC in electronic format (CD). If you would like to have a printed copy of the AFC sent to you, if you have questions, or if you would like to participate in the Energy Commission's review of the proposed project, please contact Keith Winstead, Energy Commission Project Manager, at (916) 654-5191, or by e-mail at keith.winstead@energy.ca.gov. The status of the proposed project, copies of notices, a copy of the AFC, and other relevant documents are also available on the Energy Commission's Internet web site at <http://www.energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/alamitos/>. You can also receive e-mail notification of all project related activities and availability of reports by subscribing to the List Server at <http://www.energy.ca.gov/listservers/index.html>

¹ Please note that pursuant to Title 20, California Code of Regulations, section 1715 reimbursement is not available to state and federal agencies.

Sincerely,

Date: _____

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

Mailed to:
Agency List #MS-15C