

DOCKETED

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CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION

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March 18, 2014

**REQUEST FOR COMMENTS ON THE PRELIMINARY
STAFF ASSESSMENT PART A FOR THE PROPOSED
HUNTINGTON BEACH ENERGY PROJECT (12-AFC-02)**

To: AGENCY DISTRIBUTION LIST

The enclosed Preliminary Staff Assessment (PSA) Part B contains the California Energy Commission staff's preliminary evaluation of the proposed Huntington Beach Energy Project (HBEP) Application for Certification (12-AFC-02). Part B provides staff's analyses in the areas of Alternatives, Air Quality and Public Health. The PSA Part B is available for review on the Energy Commission's web site at:

http://docketpublic.energy.ca.gov/PublicDocuments/12-AFC-02/TN201839_20140307T162512_Preliminary_Staff_Assessment_Part_B.pdf

This PSA is not a decision document for these proceedings, nor does it contain findings of the Energy Commission related to environmental impacts or the project's compliance with local, state, and federal LORS. The PSA will serve as a precursor to the Final Staff Assessment (FSA). After allowing for a public comment period on this PSA, staff will prepare and publish a FSA that will address comments received and serve as staff's formal testimony in evidentiary hearings to be held by the Energy Commission Committee assigned to hear this case. The Committee will hold evidentiary hearings and will consider the recommendations presented by the staff, applicant, intervenors, government agencies, and the public, prior to proposing its decision. The Energy Commission will make the final decision, including findings, after the Committee's publication of its proposed decision.

The California Energy Commission encourages agency participation in the review of the HBEP's Application for Certification (AFC). The agency comment period for this PSA Part B ends on April 7, 2014. If you wish to provide comments on the PSA, please submit comments by going to the Energy Commission's HBEP webpage

http://www.energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/huntington_beach_energy/index.html and click on the "Submit e-Comment" link. Please provide your full name, any organization name, an e-mail address, a reference to Docket No. 12-AFC-02 in the subject line, and preferably put your comment in an attached document (.doc, .docx, or .pdf format). After entering characters to ensure that responses are generated by a human user and not a computer, click on the "Agree & Submit Your Comment" button to submit the comment to the Energy Commission Dockets Unit.

If you wish to mail written comments on the project, please submit them to the Energy Commission Dockets Unit. Please include the docket number (12-AFC-02) for the HBEP in the subject line or first paragraph of your comments and mail or hand-deliver them to:

California Energy Commission
Dockets Unit, MS-4
1516 Ninth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814-5512

All written comments and materials filed with the Dockets Unit will become a part of the public record of the proceeding. Additionally, comments may be posted on the HBEP webpage of the Energy Commission's website.

Following a 30-day comment period and a public workshop on the PSA Part B, staff will prepare a Final Staff Assessment (FSA) which will serve as staff's formal testimony in evidentiary hearings to be held by the Energy Commission's Committee assigned to hear this case. The Committee will hold evidentiary hearings to consider the recommendations presented by staff, applicant, interveners, government agencies, and the public, prior to proposing its decision. In the last step, the full Energy Commission will issue the final decision.

SUMMARY OF THE PROPOSED HUNTINGTON BEACH ENERGY PROJECT

On June 27, 2012 AES Southland Corporation submitted an Application for Certification (AFC) to the California Energy Commission seeking permission to construct and operate a power generation facility, the Huntington Beach Energy Project (HBEP), located in the city of Huntington Beach, just north of the intersection of the Pacific Coast Highway and Newland Street. The project would be located entirely within the footprint of the existing Huntington Beach Generating Station, an operating power plant.

The proposed HBEP is a natural-gas fired, combined-cycle, air-cooled, 939-megawatt (MW) electrical generating facility that would replace the AES Huntington Beach Generating Station. The HBEP would consist of two independently operating, three-on-one, combined-cycle gas turbine power blocks. Each power block would consist of three-gas-fired combustion turbine generators (CTG), three supplemental-fired heat recovery steam generators (HRSG), one steam turbine generator (STG), an air-cooled condenser, and related ancillary equipment. Other equipment and facilities that would be constructed and shared by both power blocks include natural gas compressors, water treatment facilities, emergency services, and administration and maintenance buildings.

SUMMARY OF STAFF'S PRELIMINARY CONCLUSIONS – PSA Parts A and B

Staff concludes that with implementation of staff's recommended mitigation measures described in the conditions of certification, the HBEP would comply with all applicable laws, ordinances, regulations, and standards (LORS) with possible exceptions in the areas of land use and visual resources. Staff remains concerned with mitigating impacts from construction-based particulate matter pollution because construction of the new facility would take place for 90 months and overlap with existing plant operation.

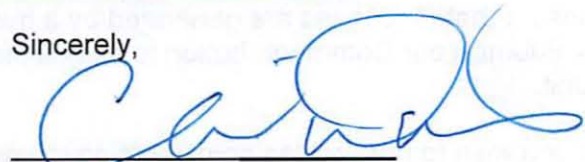
AVAILABILITY OF PROJECT INFORMATION

The status of the project, copies of notices and other relevant documents are available on the Energy Commission's web site:

http://www.energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/huntington_beach_energy/index.html

Date: 3/18/14

Sincerely,



Chris Davis, Manager
Siting Office

Enclosure:
Preliminary Staff Assessment – Part B (12-AFC-02)

Mailed to Agency list - 7438