

DOCKETED

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CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION

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September 5, 2014

Stephen O'Kane
AES Southland, LLC
690 Studebaker Road
Long Beach, CA 90803

Regarding: **ALAMITOS ENERGY CENTER (13-AFC-01)**
DATA REQUESTS SET 5 (Nos. 76-82)

Dear Mr. O'Kane,

Pursuant to Title 20, California Code of Regulations, section 1716, the California Energy Commission staff requests the information specified in the enclosed data requests. The information requested is necessary to: 1) more fully understand the project, and 2) assess whether the facility will be constructed and operated in compliance with applicable regulations. This set of Data Requests (Nos. 76-82) is being made in the technical area of Waste Management. Written responses to the enclosed data requests are due to the Energy Commission staff on or before October 6, 2014.

If you are unable to provide the information requested, need additional time, or object to providing the requested information, please send a written notice to the Committee and me within 20 days of receipt of this request. The notification must contain the reasons for the inability to provide the information or the grounds for any objections (see Title 20, California Code of Regulations, section 1716 (f)).

If you have any questions regarding the enclosed data requests, please call me at (916) 654-5191.

Sincerely,

Original signed by:
Keith Winstead, Siting Project Manager
Siting, Transmission and Environmental
Protection Division

Enclosure (Data Request Packet)
cc: Docket (13-AFC-01)

**ALAMITOS ENERGY CENTER
(13-AFC-01)**

Energy Commission Staff's Data Requests Set 5 (Nos. 76-82)

September 5, 2014

Technical Area: Waste Management
Author: Ellen Townsend-Hough

BACKGROUND

Two channels provide ocean water via the Alamitos Bay to the Alamitos Generating Station (AGS) power plant units for 'once-through cooling' (OTC). The northern channel provides cooling water to units 1 through 4 and the southern channel supplies units 5 and 6. The screens at the ocean intakes catch trash and debris to prevent it from entering the units. Pumping at the intakes also results in the circulation of ocean water through the Alamitos Bay Marina (Appendix 5.14A Page 25). If the intakes are shutdown as proposed, the ocean water circulation in the bay and removal of trash and debris from by AGS Alamitos Bay would not continue. Staff received a number of public comments April 29, 2014, and a phone call from a member of the Marine Advisory Council concerning the potential water quality impacts from uncollected trash in Alamitos Bay, and whether impacts might occur once OTC for power generation is terminated, circulation of ocean water in the Alamitos Bay changes, and trash is no longer removed. The city of Long Beach is currently commissioning a study to understand how the cooling water pumps could be re-purposed so that they continue to provide positive water quality benefits. Staff is evaluating whether there could be significant impacts from increased trash remaining in Alamitos Bay due to shutdown of the OTC cooling intakes.

The Los Angeles Department of Water and Power Haynes Generating Station (Haynes) could also be responsible for an amount of incidental trash and debris removal and disposal from Alamitos Bay. Haynes operates one cooling water intake structure to provide cooling water to the steam generating units. Water is withdrawn from Alamitos Bay through seven openings in a bulkhead wall in the northeast corner of the Long Beach Marina. Seven 8- foot diameter pipes (only six are typically used) lead under the San Gabriel River to a manmade canal extending 1.5 miles northeast to the station, where separate screen housings draw water from the canal. Screens are normally rotated and cleaned once every 8 hours. A high-pressure spray removes any debris from the screens including impinged fish, for disposal at a landfill.¹ Staff must evaluate whether there may be cumulative effects of lower to no trash removal from Alamitos Bay with the replacement of Alamitos Generating Station and the Haynes Generating Station units after they comply with the OTC policy.

DATA REQUEST

76. Please provide a clear description of how the AGS project pumps currently channel the trash and debris to the OTC intake screens and how the trash is handled, including where it is disposed.
77. Please describe the general composition of the trash and debris collected at the OTC intake screens.

¹ California's Coastal Power Plants: Alternative Cooling Systems Analysis: Section 7F, Los Angeles Department of Water and Power Haynes Generating Station.

78. Please provide an estimate of the annual volume of sea water that flows through the intake screens and the accompanying volume and mass of trash that was removed from the AGS OTC intake screen during project operation.
79. Please discuss how the composition and volume of trash from the OTC intake screens has varied and what the changes have been over recent years.
80. Please discuss whether there are any city/county programs currently operating that address debris removal, or any private activities that address Alamitos Bay trash and debris removal.
81. Please discuss what options may exist to clean up the trash and debris without using the existing AGS intake pumps and screens.

BACKGROUND

In an email dated August 15, 2014 (TN 202948) the applicant indicated the State Water Resources Control Board had evaluated potential environmental impacts from trash that would no longer be removed from Alamitos Bay once the OTC system for Alamitos Energy Center was eliminated. The applicant referenced the Water Quality Control Policy on the use of Coastal and Estuarine Waters for Power Plant Cooling, *Final Substitute Environmental Document*, as the source of information for this conclusion². The email stated that the document expressly found that the implementation of the state's once-through cooling policy would not have any significant "water quality" impacts at Alamitos Energy Center. After further review of the document and discussions with State Water Board staff, it appears that trash collection at the Alamitos intake screen and disposal may not have been adequately evaluated as possible impacts to Alamitos Bay.

DATA REQUEST

82. Please provide more detail on how the potential impact of debris from intake screens was specifically addressed in the EIR or any other State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) document developed for adoption of the rules.

² *Final Substitute Environmental Document*, State Water Resources Control Board, California Environmental Protection Agency, May 4, 2010, Section 4.9, Water Quality, p. 117. Available online at: http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/ocean/cwa316/docs/cwa316may2010/sed_final.pdf