

## DOCKETED

<b>Docket Number:</b>	99-AFC-08C
<b>Project Title:</b>	Blythe Energy Project Compliance & Blythe Transmission Line Modification
<b>TN #:</b>	203427
<b>Document Title:</b>	Notice of Receipt - Turndown Upgrades
<b>Description:</b>	N/A
<b>Filer:</b>	Mary Dyas
<b>Organization:</b>	California Energy Commission
<b>Submitter Role:</b>	Commission Staff
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<b>Docketed Date:</b>	12/10/2014

**CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION**

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



**NOTICE OF RECEIPT  
PETITION TO AMEND  
THE CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION DECISION FOR THE  
BLYTHE ENERGY PROJECT (99-AFC-8C)**

On November 25, 2014, the Blythe Energy, Inc (Blythe Energy) filed a petition with the California Energy Commission (Energy Commission) requesting to modify the Final Decision for the Blythe Energy Project (BEP). The combined-cycle, natural gas-fired, 520-megawatt facility was certified by the Energy Commission in its Decision on March 21, 2001, and began commercial operation in July 2003. The facility is located in the City of Blythe, in Riverside County.

**DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED MODIFICATION**

BEP is composed of two Siemens F Class V84.3A(2) gas turbines with duct-fired heat recovery steam generators, a single condensing steam turbine, two wet cooling towers, and associated plant equipment. Since the BEP commenced commercial operation in 2003, Siemens has developed performance improvements for these gas turbines in the form of a turndown upgrade that will allow the gas turbines to be operated down to minimum loads below 45 percent, compared with the minimum load of 60 percent evaluated during the original permitting process. As currently designed, the turbines are unable to operate at a minimum load lower than 60 percent. With the lowered load capability the turbines would use less fuel and emit less pollutants during minimum load operation.

The turbine upgrades include minor hardware and software changes, and will therefore constitute a change in the design, performance, and operation of the gas turbines as certified. However, since the minimum gas turbine load is not limited by any conditions of certification, and no increases in emissions or other environmental impacts will result from this modification, the proposed change will not require any changes to any conditions. Implementation of the upgrade will improve plant efficiency and lower overall plant emissions, and will have no additional impacts beyond those identified in the Commission Final Decision for the BEP.

**ENERGY COMMISSION AMENDMENT REVIEW PROCEDURES**

The Energy Commission's webpage for this facility, <http://www.energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/blythe/>, has a link to the amendment petition on the right side of the webpage in the box labeled "Compliance Proceeding." Click on the "Documents for this Proceeding (Docket Log)" option.

Energy Commission staff is currently reviewing the petition. The purpose of the Energy Commission's review process is to assess the impacts of this proposal on environmental quality and on public health and safety. The review process includes an evaluation of the consistency of the proposed changes with the Energy Commission's Decision and a determination on whether the facility, as modified, would remain in compliance with applicable laws, ordinances, regulations, and standards (20 Cal. Code of Regs., § 1769). Upon completion of its review, the staff will provide written notice of its intent to either process the proposed changes as a Staff Approved Project Modification or schedule it for consideration by the Energy Commission at a regularly scheduled Business Meeting.

This Notice of Receipt has been mailed to the Commission's facility mail list of interested parties and property owners adjacent to the facility site. It has also been e-mailed to the facility listserv. The listserv is an automated Energy Commission e-mail system by which information about this facility is e-mailed to parties who have subscribed. To subscribe, go to the Commission's webpage for this facility, cited above, scroll down the right side of the project's webpage to the box labeled "Subscribe," and provide the requested contact information.

Any person may comment on the petition. To use the Energy Commission's electronic commenting feature, go to the Energy Commission's webpage for this facility, cited above, click on the "Submit e-Comment" link, and follow the instructions in the on-line form. Be sure to include the facility name in your comments. Once submitted, the Energy Commission Dockets Unit reviews and approves your comments, and you will receive an e-mail with a link to them.

Written comments may also be mailed or hand-delivered to:

California Energy Commission  
Dockets Unit, MS-4  
Docket No. 99-AFC-8C  
1516 Ninth Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814-5512

All comments and materials filed with and approved by the Dockets Unit will be added to the facility Docket Log and become publicly accessible on the Energy Commission's webpage for the facility.

If you have questions about this Notice, please contact Mary Dyas, Compliance Project Manager, at (916) 651-8891, or by fax to (916) 654-3882, or via e-mail at [mary.dyas@energy.ca.gov](mailto:mary.dyas@energy.ca.gov).

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For information on participating in the Energy Commission's review of the petition, call the Public Adviser at (800) 822-6228 (toll-free in California) or send your e-mail to [publicadviser@energy.ca.gov](mailto:publicadviser@energy.ca.gov). News media inquiries should be directed to the Energy Commission Media Office at (916) 654-4989, or by e-mail to [mediaoffice@energy.ca.gov](mailto:mediaoffice@energy.ca.gov).

Date: 12/9/14

  
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Roger E. Johnson, Deputy Director  
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