

DOCKETED

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Project Title:	Blythe Energy Project Compliance & Blythe Transmission Line Modification
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Document Title:	Blythe I - AQ Notice of Receipt 02-23-2015
Description:	Petition to Amend The California Energy Commission Decision for the Blythe Energy Project
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CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION

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

On February 12, 2015, 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

The purpose of this proposed amendment is to reduce allowable annual NO_x, CO, and PM₁₀ emissions from BEP so that the potentials to emit for all criteria pollutants from the facility are below 100 tons per year, consistent with actual facility performance. In addition, a new annual average NO_x emission concentration limit is being proposed for the gas turbines, making the short-term limit more consistent with the new annual limit as well as making the new annual limit more enforceable. With the reductions in annual emissions limits, the site will no longer be considered a major stationary source under federal Prevention of Significant Deterioration (PSD) regulations. While no changes to the gas turbines will be required to comply with the proposed new long-term limits for CO and PM₁₀, BEP may need to increase ammonia injection slightly under some ambient conditions (the plant would still remain in compliance with the ammonia slip limit specified in Condition of Certification **AQ-5**) and, if necessary, add additional catalyst material to the selective catalytic reduction systems to ensure compliance with the new, lower NO_x limits.

The proposed amendment will have no additional impacts beyond those identified in the Commission Decision for the BEP. No increases in emissions or other environmental impacts will result from the proposed changes. In fact, implementation of the amendment will ensure that NO_x, CO, and PM₁₀ emissions from the plant are maintained at levels lower than originally licensed and will require the plant to continuously comply with the new lower limits. Emissions from the BEP project will remain well below those evaluated in the original licensing proceeding. No change in annual fuel consumption will result from this amendment, and therefore there would be no change in greenhouse gas emissions as a result of the proposed amendment.

The amendment proposed by this petition would modify Conditions of Certification **AQ-5** and **AQ-7** to make them consistent with the proposed changes to the Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District permits. Furthermore, the proposed amendment would not

result in any environmental impacts or inconsistency with any Laws, Ordinances, Regulations, or Standards.

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).

This Notice of Receipt has been mailed to the Energy 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 Energy 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.

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. 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.

Date: _____ Original signed by Roger E. Johnson _____
ROGER E. JOHNSON, Deputy Director
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