

DOCKETED

Docket Number:	00-AFC-01C
Project Title:	Contra Costa Power Plant Project Compliance
TN #:	203918
Document Title:	Notice of Determination - Petition to Modify the Project Description for the PG&E Gateway Generating Station
Description:	N/A
Filer:	Joe Douglas
Organization:	California Energy Commission
Submitter Role:	Energy Commission
Submission Date:	3/19/2015 8:31:37 AM
Docketed Date:	3/19/2015

CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION

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**NOTICE OF DETERMINATION
PETITION TO MODIFY THE PROJECT DESCRIPTION
FOR THE PG&E GATEWAY GENERATING STATION
(00-AFC-1C)**

On December 5, 2014, Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E) filed a petition with the California Energy Commission (Energy Commission) requesting to modify the Final Decision for the Gateway Generating Station (GGS) project. The combined-cycle, natural gas-fired, 530-megawatt facility was certified by the Energy Commission in its Decision on May 30, 2001, and began commercial operation on January 4, 2009. The facility is located east of the City of Antioch, in Contra Costa County, California.

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED MODIFICATION

The modification proposed in the petition would allow GGS to install a fixed hydrogen tube bank at the south side of the facility. The tube bank will be secured to a concrete pad in the same location where the mobile tube trailers are currently in use. The module will be connected to the existing supply piping.

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 GGS.

The Energy Commission's webpage for this facility, <http://www.energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/gateway/>, 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 REVIEW AND DETERMINATION

Staff’s conclusions for each technical or environmental area are summarized in the following table.

Summary of Staff Responses to Petition

TECHNICAL / ENVIRONMENTAL AREAS REVIEWED	STAFF RESPONSE			Revised Conditions of Certification Recommended
	Technical Area Not Affected	No Significant Environmental Impact* (SAPM)	Process As Amendment	
Air Quality	X		N/A	N/A
Alternatives	X		N/A	N/A
Biological Resources	X		N/A	N/A
Cultural Resources	X		N/A	N/A
Facility Design	X		N/A	N/A
Geological Resources		X	N/A	N/A
Hazardous Materials Management		X	N/A	N/A
Land Use	X		N/A	N/A
Noise & Vibration	X		N/A	N/A
Paleontological Resources	X		N/A	N/A
Public Health	X		N/A	N/A
Socioeconomics	X		N/A	N/A
Soil & Water Resources	X		N/A	N/A
Traffic & Transportation		X	N/A	N/A
Transmission Line Safety & Nuisance	X		N/A	N/A
Transmission System Engineering	X		N/A	N/A
Visual Resources		X	N/A	N/A
Waste Management	X		N/A	N/A
Worker Safety & Fire Protection		X	N/A	N/A

*There is no possibility that the proposed modifications would have a significant effect on the environment, and the modifications would not result in a change in or deletion of a condition adopted by the Commission in the Final Decision, or make changes that would cause project noncompliance with any applicable laws, ordinances, regulations, or standards (20 Cal. Code Regs., § 1769 (a)(2)).

Energy Commission technical staff reviewed the petition for potential environmental effects and consistency with applicable laws, ordinances, regulations, and standards (LORS). Staff has determined that the technical or environmental areas of Air Quality, Alternatives, Biological Resources, Cultural Resources, Facility Design, Land Use, Noise and Vibration, Paleontological Resources, Public Health, Socioeconomics, Soils and Water Resources, Transmission Line Safety & Nuisance, Transmission System Engineering, and Waste Management are not affected by the proposed changes, and no revisions or new conditions

of certification are needed to ensure the project remains in compliance with all applicable LORS and existing conditions of certification for these areas.

For the technical areas of Geological Resources, Hazardous Materials Management, Traffic and Transportation, Visual Resources, and Worker Safety and Fire Protection, staff has determined the project would continue to comply with applicable LORS and would not change any conditions of certification. Staff notes the following for these technical areas:

- **Geological Resources.** The proposed modifications would provide greater stability than the current hydrogen trailer mounted system. With the implementation of existing conditions of certification the proposed modification would not have a significant effect on the environment and would continue to comply with all applicable LORS and there would be no significant impacts beyond those in the original Energy Commission decision.
- **Hazardous Materials Management.** With the implementation of existing conditions of certification **HAZ-1** (Hazardous Materials List), the proposed modification would not have a significant effect on the environment and would continue to comply with all applicable LORS. No extremely hazardous or regulated hazardous materials will be used on site specifically for installation or continued operation of the hydrogen tube bank, and none of these materials pose significant potential for off-site impacts.
- **Traffic and Transportation.** With the implementation of existing conditions of certification, the proposed modification would not have a significant effect on the environment and would continue to comply with all applicable LORS. The proposed modification will eliminate any inconsistency in specifications of hydrogen delivery trailers and allow for more routine delivery from local sources.
- **Visual Resources.** The proposed modification will be lower than the existing temporary structure, and will reduce the visual impacts in comparison to the current trailers. With the implementation of existing conditions of certification the proposed modification would not have a significant effect on the environment and would continue to comply with all applicable LORS and there would be no significant impacts beyond those in the original Energy Commission decision.
- **Worker Safety and Fire Protection.** With the implementation of existing conditions of certification, the proposed installation and continued operation of the permanent fixed hydrogen tubes would not have a significant effect on the environment and would continue to comply with all applicable LORS. The short duration for the installation of the hydrogen tube construction activities shall comply with worker safety and fire safety measures contained in health and safety plans utilized for construction of the main facility. The plant has an existing **hydrogen safety plan** for operations and a **hydrogen delivery safety plan** (obtained from the delivery company) already in place per Condition of Certification **WORKER SAFETY-1** (Project Construction Injury and Illness Prevention Program). These plans detail the current and continued safe handling and usage of hydrogen at the project, and include the steps required for safe transfer of truck-delivered bulk hydrogen into the on-site hydrogen storage tanks.

Section 1769(a)(2) of Title 20, California Code of Regulations, states, “(w)here staff determines that there is no possibility that the modifications may have a significant effect on the environment, and if the modifications will not result in a change or deletion of a condition adopted by the commission in the final decision or make changes that would cause the project not to comply with any applicable laws, ordinances, regulations, or standards, no commission approval is required....”

Pursuant to that section, Energy Commission staff has determined for this petition that approval by the full Commission is not required and the proposed modifications meet the criteria for approval at the staff level because:

- The modification[s] will not have any significant effect on the environment;
- Existing conditions of certification are sufficient to cover the proposed modification[s] without changes to, or deletions of, any conditions of certification; and
- The project as modified will maintain full compliance with applicable LORS.

This Notice of Determination 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 file an objection to staff’s determination within 14 days of the date of this Notice on the grounds that the project modification does not meet the criteria set forth in section 1769(a)(2). Absent any relevant objections, the amendment petition will be approved 14 days after this Notice is docketed. To use the Energy Commission’s electronic commenting feature to object to staff’s determination, 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. 00-AFC-1C
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 be publicly accessible on the Energy Commission's webpage for the facility.

If you have questions about this Notice, please contact Joseph Douglas, Compliance Project Manager, at (916) 653-4677, or by fax to (916) 654-3882, or via e-mail at joseph.douglas@energy.ca.gov.

For information on participating in the Energy Commission's review of the petition, please 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: 3/18/2015

Original Signed By Christine Stora

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