

DOCKETED

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Project Title:	Colusa Generating Station - Compliance
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Document Title:	Notice of Determination, Colusa Fin fan cooler and deck grating
Description:	NOD for Staff Approved Modification (SAPM) for fin fan cooler and deck grating improvements
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CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION

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**NOTICE OF DETERMINATION
PETITION TO MODIFY THE PROJECT DESCRIPTION FOR THE
COLUSA GENERATING STATION (CGS)
(06-AFC-9C)**

On February 6, 2015, Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E) filed two petitions with the California Energy Commission (Energy Commission) requesting to modify the Final Decision for the Colusa Generating Station. One petition requested the installation of additional turbine deck grating, to expand the existing deck area around the steam turbine and its associated generator (Energy Commission docket number 203611), and the second petition is requesting to install dry cooling fin fan units to dry cool the heat recovery steam generator (HRSG) effluent (Energy Commission docket number 203610). For ease of review, both petitions were combined and analyzed concurrently, since they requested minor modifications and were submitted on the same date and time.

The combined-cycle, natural gas-fired, electricity-generating 660-megawatt facility was certified by the Energy Commission in its Decision on April 23, 2008, and began commercial operation on December 22, 2010. The facility is located in an unincorporated area of Colusa County, California, approximately 6 miles north of the community of Maxwell and 4 miles west of Interstate 5.

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED MODIFICATION

The proposed modifications would expand the existing usable deck grating area by approximately 400 sq. ft. for work crews to access the area around the steam turbine and its associated generator, and the installation of the dry cooling fin fan units would reduce the temperature of effluent water from the HRSG blow down tanks. The petitions are available on the Energy Commission's CGS webpage at <http://www.energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/colusa/>.

ENERGY COMMISSION STAFF REVIEW AND DETERMINATION

Energy Commission technical staff reviewed the petitions for potential environmental effects and consistency with applicable laws, ordinances, regulations, and standards (LORS). Staff has determined that the technical or environmental areas of Efficiency, Public Health, Reliability, Transmission Line Safety and Nuisance, and Transmission System Engineering are not affected by the proposed changes. Staff's conclusions for each technical or environmental area are summarized in the table below.

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
Biological Resources		X	N/A	N/A
Cultural Resources		X	N/A	N/A
Efficiency	X		N/A	N/A
Facility Design		X	N/A	N/A
Geological Hazards		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
Geology and Paleontology		X	N/A	N/A
Public Health	X		N/A	N/A
Reliability	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

*SAPM = Staff Approved Project Modification. No formal amendment is necessary requiring approval by the full Commission if staff determines that 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 (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 20, § 1769 (a)(2)).

For the technical areas of Air Quality, Biological Resources, Cultural Resources, Facility Design, Geological Hazards, Hazardous Materials Management, Land Use, Noise and Vibration, Geology and Paleontology, Socioeconomics, Soil and Water Resources, Traffic and Transportation, Visual Resources, Waste Management, and Worker Safety and Fire Protection, staff has determined the modifications would continue to comply with applicable LORS and the existing conditions of certification in the Final Decision are sufficient to

ensure the proposed modifications would not have a significant effect on the environment. Staff notes the following for these technical areas:

- **Air Quality.** Continued implementation of Conditions of Certification **AQSC-2** (Air Quality Construction Mitigation Plan), **AQSC-3** (Construction Fugitive Dust Control), **AQSC-4** (Dust Plume Response Requirement), **AQSC-5** (Diesel Fueled Engines Control), **AQ-6**, and **AQ-12** will mitigate short-term fugitive dust and engine emissions to a less-than-significant level.
- **Biological Resources.** Construction of the fin fan cooler and turbine deck grating would have no direct effect on biological resources as these activities are occurring in the developed areas of the power plant site. Implementation of existing Conditions of Certification **BIO-5** (Worker Environmental Awareness Program (WEAP)), **BIO-13** (Impact Avoidance Mitigation Measures), and **BIO-14** (Mitigation Management to Avoid Harassment or Harm) would mitigate any potential indirect impacts (e.g., lighting, trash, wildlife entrapments) on biological resources to less than significant.
- **Cultural Resources.** The proposed steam turbine grating would be added directly to a non-historic-age structure above the ground surface, therefore this modification has no potential to impact cultural resources. However, the proposed fin fan cooler construction would come into contact with natural, undisturbed soils with the potential to contain buried archaeological materials, as demonstrated by five previous construction-related archaeological discoveries within approximately 600 feet of the proposed fin fan cooler location. With the implementation of existing conditions of certification, including **CUL-6** (monitoring for cultural resources) and **CUL-7** (cultural resources discovery protocols), the construction of the fin fan cooler would not have a significant effect on cultural resources.
- **Facility Design.** The Energy Commission's designated chief building official will oversee the construction and ensure continued compliance with all applicable codes including structural, electrical, mechanical, etc. as applicable.
- **Geological Hazards.** The deck grating and fin fan cooler are proposed to be constructed within the boundaries of the property that was analyzed during licensing of the existing power plant. Staff has reviewed the modifications proposed in the petitions to amend, including both the deck grating and the fin fan cooler, to determine if the proposed changes would be subject to geologic hazards that were not originally analyzed by the Energy Commission when it approved the project. Based on staff's review, the proposed modifications will not be subject to or contribute to geologic hazards different from those analyzed in the Commission Decision. Therefore, with the continued implementation of existing conditions of certification, specifically **GEN-1** (related to facility design and code compliance), **GEN-5** (related to code compliance and document review) and **CIVIL-1** (related to soils and geotechnical investigations), the proposed modifications would not be subject to or contribute to geologic hazards different from those described in the Commission Decision. The Energy Commission's designated chief building official will oversee the construction and ensure compliance

with all applicable codes including structural, electrical, mechanical, etc. as well as soils, drainage, and geological investigations, as applicable.

- **Hazardous Materials Management.** No extremely hazardous or regulated hazardous materials would be used on site as part of the proposed modifications. The project owner shall continue to implement Condition of Certification **HAZ-1** (identifying hazardous materials used) and continue to report hazardous materials on site. With the implementation of existing Conditions of Certification, the proposed modifications would not have a significant effect on the environment and would continue to comply with all applicable LORS.
- **Land Use.** The proposed modifications would be consistent with applicable development standards in the Colusa County zoning code for industrial zoned property.
- **Noise and Vibration.** Any potential increase in operational noise would not result in significant changes to the potential noise impacts that were presented in the Commission Decision. Short-term construction noise is consistent with the industrial activity; **NOISE-1** (noise complaint process) shall remain in place for reporting and resolving noise complaints.
- **Geology and Paleontology.** The deck grating and fin fan cooler are proposed to be constructed within the boundaries of the property analyzed during licensing of the existing power plant. The Commission Decision indicated the site does not contain geological or mineralogical resources. While slight, there is a potential for the site to contain paleontological resources. The deck grating will be added onto an existing elevated structure and will not involve ground disturbance. The fin fan cooler is proposed to be constructed on disturbed soils previously cleared for paleontological resources. Construction excavation is not anticipated to extend to depths likely to encounter fossil bearing native soils. Therefore, with the continued implementation of existing conditions of certification, specifically Conditions of Certification **PAL-1** through **PAL-7** (governing construction activities, discovery and treatment and handling of paleontological resources), the proposed modifications would not have a significant effect on geological or paleontological resources.
- **Socioeconomics.** Given the very small construction workforce (up to 15 workers), the proposed modifications would have no negative socioeconomics effects. Condition of Certification **SOCIO-1**, which was required to maximize local financial benefits would apply to the proposed modifications. Under **SOCIO-1**, the project owner shall, where possible, purchase materials/supplies in Colusa and Glenn counties.
- **Soil and Water Resources.** With the implementation of existing conditions of certification, specifically **SOIL & WATER-1** (construction activity storm water discharge and pollution prevention), the proposed modifications would not have a significant effect on the environment.

- **Traffic and Transportation.** Given the short duration of construction activities (six to 12 weeks) and the limited number of vehicle trips (maximum of 21 daily trips if the fin fan cooler and turbine deck grating activities overlap), the proposed modifications would not have a significant effect on the local roads providing access to the site (Delevan, McDermott, and Dirks roads).
- **Visual Resources.** The project modifications would essentially be unnoticed by local viewers and would not have a visual impact on the surrounding area. The fin fan cooler would be about 16 feet tall and would be smaller than an adjacent warehouse (20 feet tall) and water tanks (30 feet tall). The additional turbine grating would be installed at the 41-foot elevation on the HRSG (itself about 88 feet tall). Conditions of Certification **VIS-1** (surface treatment of project structures and buildings) and **VIS-2** (permanent exterior lighting) would apply.
- **Waste Management.** In accordance with **WASTE-5**, which calls for an Operational Waste Management Plan, any construction waste generated by this short duration construction project shall comply with the existing Construction Waste Management Plan.
- **Worker Safety and Fire Protection.** The short duration construction activities shall comply with worker safety and fire safety measures contained in health and safety plans utilized for construction of the main plant, reference specifically **WORKER SAFETY-1**.

Section 1769(a)(2), 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 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 is being provided to interested parties and property owners adjacent to the facility site. This Notice has been mailed to the CGS mail list and sent electronically to the CGS listserv.

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, this petition will be approved 14 days after this notice is docketed. An objection to staff's determination may be submitted using the Energy Commission's e-commenting feature, as follows: Go to the Energy Commission's CGS webpage and click on the "Submit e-Comment" link. Provide contact information—a full name, e-mail address, comment Title, and either a comment or an attached document are required. The comment Title should be "[Your Name]'s Comments re CGS fin fan cooler and deck grating." Type your comments into the "Comment Text" field, or upload a document with your comments. The maximum upload file size is 10MB, and only .doc, .docx, or .pdf attachments will be accepted. Enter the CAPTCHA that is used to prevent spamming. Then click on the "Agree and Submit your Comments" button to submit your comments to the Energy Commission Dockets Unit for review. When your comments are approved and docketed, you will receive an e-mail with a link to them on the facility webpage.

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

California Energy Commission
Dockets Unit, MS-4
Docket No. 06-AFC-9C
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 publically accessible on the Energy Commission's webpage for the facility.

If you have questions about this Notice, please contact Eric Veerkamp, Compliance Project Manager, at (916) 654-4611, or by fax to (916) 654-3882, or via e-mail at eric.veerkamp@energy.ca.gov.

For information on participating in the Energy Commission's review of the CGS (fin fan cooler and deck grating) petition, please contact the Energy Commission's Public Adviser at (916) 654-4489, or at (800) 822-6228 (toll-free in California). The Public Adviser's Office can also be contacted via e-mail at publicadviser@energy.ca.gov. News media inquiries should be directed to the Energy Commission Media Office at (916) 654-4989, or by e-mail at mediaoffice@energy.ca.gov.

Date: _____

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