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**BEFORE THE ENERGY RESOURCES CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT
COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

Application for Certification for the
Willow Pass Generating Station

Docket No. 08-AFC-6

**NRG WILLOW PASS LLC
RESPONSE TO ENERGY COMMISSION STAFF'S
MOTION TO TERMINATE PROCEEDING**

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July 15, 2015

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In accordance with Section 1716.5 of the regulations of the California Energy Commission (“Commission”), NRG Willow Pass LLC (“Willow Pass”) hereby responds to Energy Commission Staff’s motion to terminate this application for certification proceeding (“Motion”). The Motion was filed on June 30, 2015. On June 30, 2015, Willow Pass also filed its own request for an additional twelve month suspension of the proceeding. The suspension of this proceeding had previously been extended for a twelve month period concluding on June 30, 2015 per the Order Extending Suspension of Proceedings dated June 10, 2014 (“Suspension Order”).

Willow Pass respectfully requests that the Commission deny the Motion and approve Willow Pass’s request to extend the suspension by one last period of twelve months. If Willow Pass has not moved to resume the processing of this application for certification proceeding by June 30, 2016, Willow Pass will not oppose any future motion by Energy Commission Staff to terminate this proceeding as of July 1, 2016.

Willow Pass does not repeat here the bases for the additional twelve month suspension identified in its request made on June 30, 2015. However, those arguments apply equally in opposition to the Motion. Instead, Willow Pass notes that the California Public Utilities Commission (“CPUC”) has not ordered procurement in the Greater Bay Area load pocket since a decision adopted in 2008. The combination of the retirement of the Pittsburg Generating Station in 2017 due to once-through cooling regulations and the termination of a project that was

expected to provide over 600 MWs of capacity may create an urgent need for new capacity in this region.

Willow Pass suggests that there is some possibility that any emerging need for new gas-fired generation in the Greater Bay Area will become more apparent during the course of the next twelve months. Willow Pass is located in the Greater Bay Area load pocket. Extending the suspension for another twelve months will allow Willow Pass to quickly respond in the event a procurement opportunity arises, because a pending application for certification can be permitted more quickly than starting a new application for certification. If the conditions for such a procurement opportunity have not presented themselves within the next twelve months, then Willow Pass would not oppose a renewed motion to terminate the proceeding.

July 15, 2015

Respectfully submitted,

Original Signed by
Sean P. Beatty
Regional General Counsel, West
NRG Energy, Inc.