

DOCKETED

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Project Title:	Blythe Energy Project Compliance & Blythe Transmission Line Modification
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Document Title:	Notice of Receipt - 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
BLYTE ENERGY PROJECT (99-AFC-8C)

On August 11, 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 hourly and annual particulate matter (PM10) mass emission limits, reduce the annual natural gas fuel sulfur content limit, and reduce the annual sulfur dioxide (SO₂) mass emission limit from the overly conservative emission limits required within the license to more accurately reflect potential emissions from the facility.

The proposed reductions in permitted annual PM10 mass emissions at BEP will be used to offset the PM10 emissions increases from AltaGas' proposed Sonoran Energy Project, formerly the Blythe Energy Project Phase II (SEP, 02-AFC-01C). Under Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District regulations, the reductions in PM10 can only be used to offset emissions increases that occur simultaneously, as part of the same permitting action by the District. The PM10 reductions that are being proposed in this petition to amend could not be included in the February 2015 petition to amend for BEP because the air permit application for SEP had not yet been filed. Now that the air permit application for SEP has been filed, the District will process both the BEP and SEP amendments simultaneously and this BEP petition for emissions reductions is timely.

The proposed changes will reduce the facility potential to emit for SO₂ and PM10 as well as reported annual emissions from BEP, but will not have any effect on actual emissions. 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 existing Air Quality Conditions of Certification **AQ-T2**, **AQ-T4**, **AQ-T6** and **AQ-T7** to make them consistent with the proposed changes to the Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District permits. However, 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). After the staff has completed its independent review and analysis of this petition to amend, it will publish its assessment for public review and comment.

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.

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: 8/26/15

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