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

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APPLICATION FOR CERTIFICATION FOR THE PUENTE POWER PROJECT

Docket No. 15-AFC-01

#### COMMITTEE SCHEDULING ORDER

## **Background**

On April 15, 2015, NRG Oxnard Energy Center, LLC (NRG-OEC) submitted an Application for Certification (AFC) to the California Energy Commission seeking permission to construct and operate a 262-megawatt (MW) natural-gas-fired power generation facility, the Puente Power Project (P3 or Project). The Project would be located at 393 North Harbor Boulevard in the city of Oxnard, entirely within the footprint of the existing Mandalay Generating Station (MGS), an operating power plant.

The proposed Project would replace two aging gas-fired steam-generating units (Units 1 and 2) at the existing MGS, with a new General Electric (GE) Frame 7HA.01 natural-gas-fired, combustion turbine generator (CTG) and associated auxiliaries. Construction laydown and parking areas would be within the existing MGS site. P3 would upgrade and repurpose existing MGS maintenance and warehouse structures, transmission interconnections, and ancillary systems to the extent feasible. No off-site linear developments are currently proposed as part of the Project. If P3 is approved and developed, MGS Units 1 and 2 would be retired by the completion of the facility testing of P3. However, MGS Units 1 and 2 would not be removed from the site.

The Energy Commission designated a committee of two Commissioners (Committee) to conduct proceedings on the AFC. The Committee held a public Site Visit and Environmental Scoping Meeting/Informational Hearing at the Oxnard Performing Arts Center in Oxnard, California, on August 27, 2015, to discuss the review process and to identify issues that could affect the schedule. Pursuant to California Code of Regulations, title 20, section 1709.7(c), the attached Committee Schedule is based on the Energy Commission Staff's (Staff) proposed schedule and related discussions at the Informational Hearing.

#### Schedule and Issues Identification

The schedule contains a list of events that must occur in order to complete the certification process. This initial schedule covers the period up to publication of the Final Staff Assessment (FSA) with the balance of the schedule to be determined thereafter by the Committee. The Committee encourages the parties to consider this schedule an

outer boundary and make their best efforts to complete the milestones ahead of these dates. Some deadlines may be contingent upon reviews to be conducted by federal, state, and local agencies. NRG-OEC must provide sufficient review time for the responsible agencies to meet the deadlines specified in the schedule.

Staff identified technical issues in the areas of air quality and greenhouse gases, alternatives, biological resources, land use, and soil and water resources. Resolution of these issues, and others that may arise during the review process, shall be addressed during the data exchange process and in public meetings with the parties and interested governmental agencies. Given the complexities involved in resolving these issues, the parties are on notice that the Committee may modify the schedule at any time upon either its own motion or that of a party. (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 20, § 1709.7(c).)

## Status Reports

The attached schedule requires periodic status reports to be submitted by all parties to determine whether case development is progressing satisfactorily and to bring potential schedule delays or other relevant matters to the Committee's attention. The burden is on NRG-OEC to produce the necessary data according to the schedule. If there are delays, the Committee may adopt a performance approach resulting in a commensurate lengthening of the schedule.

Parties must file (docket) and serve documents using the e-filing system on the California Energy Commission's website. Click on the "Submit e-Filing" link in the "Original Proceeding" box at: <a href="http://www.energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/puente/index.html">http://www.energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/puente/index.html</a>.

If, for any reason, the PSA is delayed beyond December 22, 2015, the parties are **ORDERED** to provide status reports on the 15th day of every month thereafter until directed otherwise by the Committee.

#### **Public Adviser and Public Participation**

The Energy Commission invites members of the public and other interested parties to participate either on an informal basis or by intervening in the proceeding. Both types of participation allow written and oral comments. At the informal participation level, written and oral comments are considered by the Commissioners and are part of the record, but are not part of the formal evidentiary record. Intervenors have the right to introduce evidence into the evidentiary record and cross-examine the other parties' witnesses.

The Energy Commission Public Adviser's Office is available to assist the public in participating in the application review process. For information on how to participate, contact Alana Mathews, Public Adviser, at (916) 654-4489 or 1-800-822-6228, or e-mail at <a href="mailto:publicadviser@energy.ca.gov">publicadviser@energy.ca.gov</a>.

If you have a disability and need assistance to participate, contact Lourdes Quiroz at (916) 654-5146, or e-mail at <a href="lou.quiroz@energy.ca.gov">lou.quiroz@energy.ca.gov</a>.

## Information

Questions of a legal or procedural nature should be directed to Raoul Renaud, Hearing Adviser, at (916) 651-2020, or e-mail at raoul.renaud@energy.ca.gov.

Technical questions concerning the project should be addressed to Jon Hilliard, Staff Project Manager, at (916) 654-3936, or e-mail at <u>jon.hilliard@energy.ca.gov</u>.

Media inquiries should be directed to the Office of Media and Public Communications at (916) 654-4989, or e-mail at <a href="mediaoffice@energy.ca.gov">mediaoffice@energy.ca.gov</a>.

Information concerning the status of the project, as well as notices and other relevant documents, may be viewed on the Energy Commission's Internet web page at <a href="http://www.energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/puente/">http://www.energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/puente/</a>.

Dated: September 23, 2015, at Sacramento, California.

Original signed by
JANEA A. SCOTT
Commissioner and Presiding Member
Puente Power Project AFC Committee

Original signed by
KAREN DOUGLAS
Commissioner and Associate Member
Puente Power Project AFC Committee

Mailed to List: 7507

# **COMMITTEE SCHEDULE - PUENTE POWER PROJECT**

# 15-AFC-01

	ACTIVITY	Calendar Day
1	Application for Certification submitted	4-15-15
2	Staff Issues Data Request (Round 1)	7-17-15
3	Staff Files Issues Identification Report	8-10-15
4	Applicant files Data Responses (Round 1)	8-17-15/ 9-29-15
5	Informational Hearing and Site Visit	8-27-15
6	Data Response and Issue Resolution Workshop	9-29/30-15
7	Staff Files Data Requests (Round 2, if necessary)	10-7-15
8	Parties file Status Reports	10-29-15
9	Applicant Provides Data Responses (Round 2, if necessary)	11-6-15
10	Data Response and Issue Resolution Workshop (if necessary)	11-12-15
11	VCAPCD Issues Preliminary Determination of Compliance (PDOC)	11-24-15
12	Applicant submits Supplemental Information resulting from Workshops (if any supplemental information required)	11-24-15
13	Parties file Status Reports	12-10-15
14	Staff Files Preliminary Staff Assessment (PSA)	12-22-15
15	Preliminary Staff Assessment Workshop(s)	1-25/26-16
16	VCAPCD Issues Final Determination of Compliance (FDOC)	1-25-16
17	Parties file Status reports	1-28-16
17	Comments on PSA are Due	2-15-16
18	Staff files Final Staff Assessment (FSA)	3-10-16
19	Prehearing Conference/Evidentiary Hearing	TBD