

## DOCKETED

<b>Docket Number:</b>	08-AFC-09C
<b>Project Title:</b>	Palmdale Energy Project (Formerly Palmdale Hybrid Power Plant) - Compliance
<b>TN #:</b>	210849
<b>Document Title:</b>	Public Participation in the Review of the Preliminary Staff Assessment
<b>Description:</b>	Notice of Availability for public review of the Preliminary Staff Assessment (PSA) for the Palmdale Energy Project (PEP), dated March, 24, 2016
<b>Filer:</b>	Eric Veerkamp
<b>Organization:</b>	California Energy Commission
<b>Submitter Role:</b>	Commission Staff
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**CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION**

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SACRAMENTO, CA 95814-5512  
www.energy.ca.gov



March 24, 2016

**TO: MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN THE REVIEW OF THE PRELIMINARY  
STAFF ASSESSMENT FOR THE PALMDALE ENERGY PROJECT  
AMENDMENT (08-AFC-9C)**

This notice is to inform you that the California Energy Commission (Energy Commission) staff (staff) has prepared a Preliminary Staff Assessment (PSA) for the Palmdale Energy Project (PEP), formerly the Palmdale Hybrid Power Project (PHPP). The PSA contains the staff's independent environmental, public health and engineering evaluation of the proposed amendment. The PSA is now available for public review and comment. Staff's preliminary conclusions are summarized in this notice.

**Project Description (Summary of the PEP Petition to Amend)**

The proposed site for the PEP project is located approximately 60 miles north of downtown Los Angeles and in the northernmost portion of the city of Palmdale. The site address is 950 East Avenue M, located west of the northwest corner of US Plant 42 and east of the intersection of Sierra Highway and East Avenue M.

The project owner proposes the following modifications;

- Replacement of the General Electric gas turbines with new Siemens SGT6-5000Fs to meet pending need for "Flexible Resources" to support integration of renewable energy;
- A new steam turbine;
- A new auxiliary boiler;
- Elimination of the solar components of the approved project;
- Elimination of brine concentrator/crystallizer systems;
- Replacement of the wet cooling towers with an air cooled condenser;
- Reduction of the site from 333 acres to 50 acres;
- Reduction of the construction laydown and parking area from 50 acres to 20 acres;

- Reorientation of the power block with the heat recovery steam generator stacks now on the east and the combustion turbine inlets to the west;
- Relocation of the site access road approximately 900 feet further east on East Avenue M to the western edge of the site property line;
- Relocation of the point where the 230 kiloVolt (kV) transmission line turns south to the generating facility from East Avenue M to a point approximately 1,800 feet further west on East Avenue M;
- Addition of three 230 kV transmission line towers along the south side of East Avenue M north of the project site and extension of the generation tie-line westerly approximately 1,800 feet along the south side of East Avenue M;
- Addition of waste stream consisting of combustion turbine inlet evaporative cooler blow down, water treatment system reject, and plant drains;
- Reduction in the length of the approved project sewer pipeline which will now interconnect with an existing city of Palmdale sewer pipeline along the south side of East Avenue M;
- Change in the water steam cycle chemistry control system from a phosphate based system to an all volatile system; and
- Possible change from a CO<sub>2</sub> based fire suppression system for some components to an FM200 based system.

### **Summary of the California Energy Commission Staff's Preliminary Conclusions**

Based upon the information provided and analyses completed to date, **Summary Table 1** below illustrates staff's preliminary assessment of the petition to amend. Please review the PSA for a detailed discussion of the significance of staff's conclusions. These preliminary conclusions are subject to change in the FSA depending upon additional information and comments received.

**Summary Table 1  
Environmental and Engineering Assessment**

Technical Area	Complies with LORS	Impacts Mitigated	Additional Information Required
Air Quality/Greenhouse Gases	Unknown	Unknown	Undetermined
Biological Resources	Yes	Yes	No
Cultural Resources	Unknown	Unknown	Yes
Efficiency	Yes	Yes	No
Facility Design	Yes	Yes	No
Geological and Paleontological Resources	Yes	Yes	No
Hazardous Materials	Yes	Yes	No
Land Use	Yes	Yes	No
Noise and Vibration	Yes	Yes	No
Public Health	Yes	Yes	No
Reliability	Yes	Yes	No
Socioeconomics	Yes	Yes	No
Soil and Water Resources	Unknown	Unknown	Yes
Traffic and Transportation	Yes	Yes	No
Transmission Line Safety and Nuisance	Yes	Yes	No
Transmission System Engineering	Yes	Yes	No
Visual Resources	Yes	Yes	No
Waste Management	Yes	Yes	No
Worker Safety and Fire Protection	Yes	Yes	No
Alternatives	NA	NA	No

\* Staff's analysis of the proposed amendment is presently inconclusive for Cultural Resources, Soil and Water Resources, and Transmission System Engineering. Insufficient data was available to staff at the time the PSA was prepared to conduct a reliable analysis of potential impacts on these technical areas. Currently staff is reviewing additional information provided by the petitioner and has yet to determine if all information is complete.

The Energy Commission encourages public participation in the review of the PSA. The 30-day public comment period for this PSA will continue until 5:00 pm on April 22, 2016.

Staff is planning to hold a public workshop during April 2016. The workshop will be a forum to discuss the PSA with all stakeholders who are interested. Public comment will also be taken at the workshop. In the near future, the Energy Commission will issue public notices of the workshop date, time and location. If you wish to be notified of this workshop, please subscribe to the List Serve as described below.

If you wish to provide comments on the document, please submit comments by going to the Energy Commission's PEP webpage at:

<http://www.energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/palmdale/> and click on the "Submit e-Comment" link. Please provide your full name, any organization name, an e-mail address, reference Docket No. 08-AFC-9C, in the subject line, and preferably put your comment in an attached document (.doc, .docx, or .pdf format). After entering characters to ensure that responses are generated by a human user and not a computer, click on the "Agree & Submit Your Comment" button, to submit the comment to the Energy

Commission Dockets Unit. If you wish to mail written comments on the project amendment, please submit them to the Energy Commission Dockets Unit. Please include the Docket No. 08-AFC-9C for the PEP in the subject line or first paragraph of your comments and mail or hand-deliver them to:

California Energy Commission  
Dockets Unit, MS-4  
1516 Ninth Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814-5512

All written comments and materials filed with the Dockets Unit will become a part of the public record of the proceeding. Additionally, comments will be posted on the PEP webpage at: <http://www.energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/palmdale/index.html>.

### **List Serve**

If you would like to be notified of upcoming workshops or other documents being docketed for this project you can subscribe to the List Serve for this project by going to <http://www.energy.ca.gov/listservers/index.html> and entering your first and last name, e-mail address and selecting “**Palmdale Energy Project**” located under the heading **Construction On Hold**.

### **Energy Commission Licensing Authority**

The Energy Commission is responsible for reviewing and ultimately approving or denying all applications for construction and operation of thermal electric power plants, 50 megawatts (MW) and greater, proposed for construction in California. The Energy Commission's facility certification process carefully examines public health and safety, environmental impacts and engineering aspects of proposed power plants and all related facilities, such as electric transmission lines and natural gas and water pipelines. The Energy Commission is the lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and through its certified regulatory program produces Preliminary and Final Staff Assessments (PSAs and FSAs) rather than Draft and Final Environmental Impact Reports.

### **Availability Of The Preliminary Staff Assessment**

A copy of the PSA is available on the project web site at:  
<https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/Lists/DocketLog.aspx?docketnumber=08-AFC-09C>

Copies of the PSA have also been sent to those public agencies that would normally have jurisdiction except for the Energy Commission's exclusive authority to certify sites and related facilities.

Copies of the PSA are also available at the Energy Commission's Library in Sacramento, the California State Library in Sacramento, and at public libraries in Eureka, Fresno, San Francisco, Los Angeles, and San Diego. Additionally, copies of the PSA were mailed to the following public libraries:

Beale Memorial Library 701 Truxtun Ave, Bakersfield, CA 93301	Barstow Branch Library 04 E Buena Vista St, Barstow, CA 92311
California City Branch Library 9507 California City Blvd. California City, CA 93505	Palmdale City Library 700 E Palmdale Blvd, Palmdale, CA 93550
Sylmar Branch Library 14561 Polk St Sylmar, CA 91342	UCLA University Research Library 280 Charles E Young Dr. N, Los Angeles, CA 90095
Wanda Kirk Rosamond Library 3611 Rosamond Blvd Rosamond, CA 93560	

### **Public Resources, Contact Information and Additional Sources for Information**

If you desire information on how to participate in the Energy Commission's review of the proposed project, please contact the Energy Commission's Public Adviser, Alana Mathews, at (916) 653-5898 or toll free in California at (800) 822-6228, or by e-mail at [publicadviser@energy.ca.gov](mailto:publicadviser@energy.ca.gov). The Public Adviser's Office webpage is: [http://www.energy.ca.gov/public\\_adviser/](http://www.energy.ca.gov/public_adviser/)

To request special accommodations for those persons with disabilities, contact Lourdes Quiroz at [lquiroz@energy.ca.gov](mailto:lquiroz@energy.ca.gov) or by telephone (916) 654-5146.

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](mailto:mediaoffice@energy.ca.gov).

For additional information about this project, contact Eric Veerkamp, Energy Commission Compliance Project Manager, at (916) 654-4295 or e-mail at [eric.veerkamp@energy.ca.gov](mailto:eric.veerkamp@energy.ca.gov).

Sincerely,

Date: March 24, 2016

<< Signature on file >>  


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CHRISTINE ROOT  
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