

DOCKETED

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July 15, 2016

VIA ELECTRONIC DOCKETING

The Honorable Andrew McAllister, Presiding Member	Hearing Adviser Susan Cochran
The Honorable Karen Douglas, Associate Member	California Energy Commission
California Energy Commission	1516 Ninth Street
1516 Ninth Street	Sacramento, CA 95814
Sacramento, CA 95814	

**Re: Huntington Beach Energy Project (12-AFC-02C)
Project Owner's Response to the Committee's Amended Scheduling Order**

Dear Commissioners and Hearing Officer Cochran:

Project Owner AES Huntington Beach Energy, LLC ("Project Owner" or "AES") submits this response to the Siting Committee's July 8, 2016 Amended Committee Scheduling Order. As explained, in order to remain on schedule AES must receive final approval by the Commission before the end of 2016. To that end, below is a modified schedule that will ensure timely approval of the project.

AES is confident that the schedule proposed below is feasible. The pending Petition to Amend is for a technology change to a project that very recently underwent a rigorous and lengthy review by the Commission. Further, there are no significant impacts associated with the amended project. Based on AES' review of the Preliminary Staff Assessment ("PSA") and the discussions at the recent PSA Workshop, AES does not anticipate any significant areas of dispute warranting a lengthy hearing and decision phase.

As summarized in Project Owner's June 30 Status Report (Status Report #6; TN# 212044), at the Committee's June 22 Status Conference, the Parties discussed the schedule for the proceeding. Project Owner appreciates the short timelines for filing opening and rebuttal testimony after receipt of the FSA. As previously noted, while the Parties are not aware of the date on which SCAQMD will release the Final Determination of Compliance ("FDOC"), Project Owner requests that Staff be required to issue the FSA by August 22 as set forth in the Scheduling Order regardless of receipt of the FDOC by August 8. Project Owner also requests that the same short timelines incorporated into the schedule for the FSA through Evidentiary Hearing phase carry through to the end of the schedule to ensure that a decision on the PTA is made in 2016. As such, Project Owner proposes the following revisions to certain dates in the Amended Committee Scheduling Order (as shown in **bold underline** and ~~strikethrough~~) to ensure that the project remains on schedule as necessary for electrical reliability in the West LA Basin:

Prehearing Conference
Evidentiary Hearings

September 9, 2016
September 16, 2016



Committee files PMPD	Late October 2016 <u>Three weeks after close of the Evidentiary Hearing (October 7, 2016)</u>
Committee Conference on PMPD	Mid November 2016 <u>Two weeks after PMPD publication (October 21, 2016)</u>
Close of Public Comment Period on PMPD	Late November 2016 <u>30 days from PMPD publication (November 7, 2016)</u>
Committee files Errata or RPMPD (if necessary)	TBD
Energy Commission Final Decision	December 2016 or January 2017 Business Meeting <u>November 2016</u>

Project Owner appreciates the Committee and Staff pursuing an aggressive schedule and looks forward to receiving a further revised Scheduling Order that contemplates Final Decision in 2016.

Very truly yours,

Stephen O'Kane
Vice-President