

DOCKETED

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Project Title:	High Desert Power Plant
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BEFORE THE ENERGY RESOURCES CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT
COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
1516 NINTH STREET, SACRAMENTO, CA 95814
1-800-822-6228 – WWW.ENERGY.CA.GOV

**PETITION TO AMEND THE
HIGH DESERT POWER PLANT**

Docket No. 97-AFC-01C

**NOTICE OF SEPTEMBER 20, 2016
COMMITTEE STATUS CONFERENCE/TECHNICAL EXPERT
DISCUSSION**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Energy Commission Committee¹ (Committee) assigned to conduct proceedings on the Project Owner's (Petitioner) Petition for Modification to Drought-Proof the High Desert Power Plant (Petition)² has scheduled a public Committee Status Conference to review and discuss the progress made in the proceeding and consider any then-pending motions or petitions on:

**TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2016
10:00 a.m.**

**California Energy Commission
Charles Imbrecht Hearing Room (Hearing Room B)
1516 Ninth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814
(See map below)
(Wheelchair accessible)**

You may participate in the Status Conference either in person, by telephone, and/or by computer via the "WebEx" conferencing system. Please see the "INSTRUCTIONS FOR USING WEBEX TELECONFERENCING USING YOUR COMPUTER AND/OR TELEPHONE" section attached to this notice.

Background

The High Desert Power Plant (HDPP) was certified by the Energy Commission on May 3, 2000, and began commercial operation in April 2003. The HDPP is an 830 Megawatt

¹ The Committee consists of Commissioner Karen Douglas, Presiding Member, and Commissioner Janea A. Scott, Associate Member. The full Commission made this Committee assignment at an Energy Commission Business Meeting on January 13, 2016.

² The Petition may be viewed at: <https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/getdocument.aspx?tn=206468>.

(MW) natural-gas-fired, combined-cycle electric generating facility located in the City of Victorville in San Bernardino County that uses water for cooling purposes. The HDPP's use of water has the potential to affect a unique location where faulting has lifted the bedrock base of the groundwater system to land surface and forces groundwater to discharge to the Mojave River channel. This area, known as the Transition Zone, contains a mesquite bosque that serves as habitat for a variety of species.

For a comprehensive review of the HDPP and the current petition, please see the "Committee Orders Regarding the Scope of Future Proceedings" filed July 12, 2016 (Scoping Order).³ Additional information on the HDPP, its water usage, and the current proceedings may also be found in the "Commission Adoption Order- Commission Decision Granting Interim Relief" (Interim Relief Decision).⁴

On June 1, 2016, the Committee filed a memo outlining its consultation with certain staff experts and counsel who had participated in previous HDPP proceedings (Technical Experts).⁵

On August 11, 2016, the Committee held a status conference (August Status Conference). The notice of the August Status Conference stated its purpose was to discuss the issues raised by the Scoping Order and the Interim Relief Decision, and included specific questions to be addressed.⁶ During the August Status Conference, Petitioner raised concerns for the first time about the Technical Experts. Petitioner subsequently filed additional information regarding its position about the use of the Technical Experts.⁷

Following the August Status Conference, the Committee issued a Memorandum stating that it would be providing notice of a Committee Conference to be focused on discussion by the parties' and the Committee's technical experts (Memorandum)⁸. The Memorandum sought input on available dates, as well as continued dialogue on the use of the Technical Experts. The parties have responded to the Memorandum.⁹

Purpose of the Committee Status Conference

The purpose of the Committee Status Conference is to allow the Committee, the parties, and the public the opportunity to discuss the parties' responses to the Memorandum and to continue the discussion on water use by the HDPP. Each party's technical expert should be available to discuss available models for use in assessing any potential impacts of the HDPP's use of various sources of water (adjudicated groundwater from the Mojave River Basin, reclaimed water, State Water Project water)

³ TN 212262.

⁴ TN 212052.

⁵ TN 211693.

⁶ TN 212263.

⁷ TN 212984.

⁸ TN 212860.

⁹ TN 212925, 212979, and 212984.

and determination of the amount of available banked groundwater based on method of banking (injection or percolation).

As allowed by California Code of Regulations, title 20, section 1207, the Status Conference may be conducted by the Hearing Officer without either Commissioner being present.

Notice of Closed Session Deliberations

At any time during the Status Conference, the Committee may adjourn to a closed session in accordance with California Government Code section 11126, subdivision (c)(3), which allows a state body, including a delegated committee, to hold a closed session to deliberate on a decision to be reached in a proceeding the state body was required by law to conduct.

Transcripts

Parties are responsible for identifying errors in the transcripts of the proceedings. Corrections to the transcripts must be filed within 30 days of the filing of a transcript.

Public Adviser and Public Participation

Members of the public are welcome to attend and offer oral or written comments at the Status Conference. It is not necessary to be an Intervenor to participate in the public process. Comments may be submitted electronically at:

<https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/Ecomment/Ecomment.aspx?docketnumber=97-AFC-01C>

Otherwise, written comments may be submitted by e-mailing them to docket@energy.ca.gov, or by U.S. Mail to:

California Energy Commission
Docket Unit
Docket No. 97-AFC-01C
1516 Ninth Street, MS-4
Sacramento, CA 95614

For all comments, please include the docket number and proceeding name, “**Docket No. 97-AFC-01C, High Desert Power Plant Project,**” in the subject line and on the cover page.

PLEASE NOTE: Your written and oral comments, attachments, and associated contact information (e.g., your address, phone, e-mail, etc.) become part of the viewable public record. Additionally, this information may become available via internet search engines such as Google and Yahoo.

The Energy Commission’s Public Adviser’s Office is available to assist the public with understanding the proceedings and to facilitate meaningful participation. If you would like information on how to participate in this proceeding, please contact the Public

Adviser, Alana Mathews, at publicadviser@energy.ca.gov or (916) 654-4489, or toll free at (800) 822-6228.

If you have a disability and need assistance to participate in the Status Conference, contact Poneh Jones at least five days prior to the Committee Status Conference at (916) 654-4425, or by e-mail at poneh.jones@energy.ca.gov

Contact Information

Questions of a legal or procedural nature should be directed to Susan Cochran, Hearing Officer, by e-mail at susan.cochran@energy.ca.gov or (916) 654-3965.

Technical questions concerning the project should be addressed to Joseph Douglas, Staff Project Manager, by e-mail at joseph.douglas@energy.ca.gov or (916) 653-4677.

Media inquiries should be sent to the Media and Public Communications Office at mediaoffice@energy.ca.gov or (916) 654-4989.

Information regarding the status of the project, as well as notices and other relevant documents pertaining to this proceeding, may be viewed on the Energy Commission's web page at <http://www.energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/highdesert/index.html>.

Dated: September 9, 2016, at Sacramento, California

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY:

KAREN DOUGLAS
Commissioner and Presiding Member
High Desert Amendment Committee

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY:

JANEA A. SCOTT
Commissioner and Associate Member
High Desert Amendment Committee

**INSTRUCTIONS FOR USING WEBEX TELECONFERENCING
USING YOUR COMPUTER AND/OR TELEPHONE**

EVENT	DATE and TIME	MEETING NUMBER
Status Conference	Tuesday, September 20, 2016 10:00 a.m.	929 697 097

Using Your Computer:

1. Go to <https://energy.webex.com> and enter the above meeting number.
2. When prompted, enter your name and e-mail address.
3. After a moment, an Audio Conference Box will offer you a choice of audio connections:
 - a) To have WebEx call you back: Type your area code and phone number into the drop down box and click "Call Me" (Click on "Use Phone" if you do not see the drop down box.)
 - b) To call into the teleconference from your phone (if, for example, your phone is an extension or you are an international caller): Use the drop-down box to select "I will Call in" and follow the on-screen directions. Click "All global call-in numbers" if you need to look up an international call-in number.
 - c) To listen and talk over your computer: If you have the needed equipment and your computer is configured, click the "Call Using Computer" button. (You may need to click "Use Computer for Audio" to make the button visible.)

Telephone Only:

1. Call 1 (866) 469-3239 (toll-free in the U.S. and Canada. International Callers can select a global call-in number at <https://energy.webex.com/energy/globalcallin.php>.)
2. When prompted enter the meeting number above.

Please be aware that WebEx audio and on-screen activity may be recorded. WebEx Technical Support is available at 1 (866) 229-3239.

High Desert Power Plant Project (97-AFC-01C)
Status Conference Agenda
Tuesday, September 20, 2016, at 10:00 a.m.

California Energy Commission
Charles Imbrecht Hearing Room (Hearing Room B)
1516 Ninth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814
(See Map Below)

1. Call to Order
2. Closed Session¹⁰

Committee closed session consideration of the following item:

PETITION FOR MODIFICATION TO DROUGHT-PROOF THE HIGH DESERT POWER PLANT.

Deliberation on matters submitted to the Committee including, but not limited to, pending motions and scheduling.

3. Status Conference:
 - a. Discuss comments regarding participation of the former staff experts and counsel as Committee technical experts
 - b. Technical discussion regarding potential impacts to the Transition Zone from the HDPP's use of water
 - c. Case progress and schedule
4. Hearing on Any Pending Motions
5. Public Comment

Members of the public and other interested persons and entities may speak up to three minutes on a matter appearing on this agenda.

¹⁰ The Committee may adjourn to closed session in accordance with Government Code section 11126, subdivision (c)(3), which allows a state body, including a delegated committee, to hold a closed session to deliberate on a decision to be reached in a proceeding the state body was required by law to conduct.

6. Closed Session (if necessary)¹¹

Committee closed session consideration of the following item:

PETITION FOR MODIFICATION TO DROUGHT-PROOF THE HIGH DESERT POWER PLANT.

Deliberation on matters submitted to the Committee including, but not limited to, pending motions and scheduling.

7. Adjourn

Agency Contact: Susan Cochran, Hearing Officer, phone: (916) 654-3965, or e-mail: susan.cochran@energy.ca.gov.

¹¹ The Committee may adjourn to closed session in accordance with Government Code section 11126, subdivision (c)(3), which allows a state body, including a delegated committee, to hold a closed session to deliberate on a decision to be reached in a proceeding the state body was required by law to conduct.

**Status Conference at the California Energy Commission
Charles Imbrecht Hearing Room (Hearing Room B)
1516 Ninth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814**

