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CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION

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**NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY
FINAL STAFF ASSESSMENT PART 1 FOR THE
ALAMITOS ENERGY CENTER
SUPPLEMENTAL APPLICATION FOR CERTIFICATION
(13-AFC-01)**

To: AGENCY DISTRIBUTION LIST

This notice is to inform you of the availability of the Final Staff Assessment (FSA) Part 1 for the proposed Alamitos Energy Center (AEC). Enclosed please find a CD that includes the FSA Part 1. The FSA Part 2 will be provided following staff review and incorporation of updated conditions based on the Final Determination of Compliance when it is received from the South Coast Air Quality Management District. The FSA Part 2 will include staff's Air Quality and Public Health analysis. The FSA Part 1 and Part 2 will contain the California Energy Commission staff's final engineering, environmental, and safety evaluation of the proposed AEC

The FSA will serve as staff's formal testimony in evidentiary hearings to be held by the Energy Commission's Committee assigned to hear this case. The Committee will hold evidentiary hearings to consider the recommendations presented by staff, applicant, interveners, government agencies, and the public prior to proposing its decision. In the last step, the full Energy Commission will issue the final decision.

SUMMARY OF THE PROPOSED ALAMITOS ENERGY CENTER

On October 26, 2015, AES Southland Development, LLC, (AES) submitted a Supplemental Application for Certification (SAFC) (13-AFC-01) to the California Energy Commission for the Alamitos Energy Center (AEC) project. The SAFC replaces the original Application for Certification (AFC) filed on December 27, 2013. The AEC would be constructed on the site of the Alamitos Generating Station (AGS), an existing and operating power plant in the city of Long Beach, California.

AEC as currently proposed, would be a nominal 1,040-megawatt (MW), natural gas-fired, combined-cycle and simple-cycle, air-cooled electrical generating facility consisting of two power blocks to provide fast-starting and stopping, reliable, flexible, multistage generating resources. Power Block 1 would consist of two natural gas-fired combustion turbine, 640-megawatt (MW), generators (CTG) in a combined-cycle configuration (collectively AEC CCGT), with two unfired heat recovery steam generators (HRSG), one steam turbine generator (STG), an air-cooled condenser, an auxiliary boiler, and related ancillary equipment. Power Block 2 would consist of four natural gas-fired, simple-cycle CTGs with fin-fan coolers and ancillary facilities (collectively, AEC SCGT) for a nominal 400 MW.

Existing Alamitos Generating Station Units 1–6 are currently in operation with a net generating capacity of 1,950 megawatts. Although AES still intends to demolish all six operating units, the demolition is not part of the proposed AEC project, but would take place through a memorandum of understanding with the city of Long Beach after the AEC begins commercial operation. Demolition is expected to occur after 2020. Demolition of retired Unit 7 remains part of the proposed AEC project. Construction activities at the project site are anticipated to last 56 months, from first quarter 2017 until third quarter 2021.

The existing AGS facilities utilizing once-through cooling are not under the Commission's jurisdiction and are not directly part of the proposed project before the Commission. Regardless whether the AEC facility is licensed or constructed, these older units are scheduled to be shut down by 2020 under the State Water Board phase out of once-through cooling. The demolition of the older units will be considered as part of the staff's cumulative impacts analysis.

ENERGY COMMISSION'S SITE CERTIFICATION PROCESS

The Energy Commission is responsible for reviewing and ultimately approving or denying all applications to construct and operate thermal electric power plants, 50 MW and greater, 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 has a certified regulatory program and is the lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

SUMMARY OF STAFF'S PRELIMINARY CONCLUSIONS

Staff concludes that with implementation of staff's recommended mitigation measures described in the conditions of certification, the project would not cause a significant adverse impact to the environment, public health and safety, or to environmental justice communities, and would comply with all applicable laws, ordinances, regulations, and standards (LORS).

AVAILABILITY OF THE PRELIMINARY STAFF ASSESSMENT

The status of the project, copies of notices and other relevant documents are available on the Energy Commission's web site:

<http://www.energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/alamitos/index.html>.

If you have questions about this request for comments, the project or the PSA, please Keith Winstead, Energy Commission Project Manager, at (916) 654-5191 or email at Keith.Winstead@energy.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Date: September 23, 2016

Original Signed by Chris Davis for
Michael D. Lewis, Deputy Director
Siting, Transmission and
Environmental Protection Division