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Description:	Request for Committee Status Conference Regarding Siting Case Impact of Applicant's Withdrawal from ISO Cluster Study 9
Filer:	Mike Monasmith
Organization:	California Energy Commission
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Memorandum

Date: May 5, 2017
Telephone: (916) 654-4894

To: Karen Douglas, Commissioner and Presiding Member
Janea A. Scott, Commissioner and Associate Member
Susan Cochran, Hearing Officer

From: California Energy Commission
1516 Ninth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814-5512

Mike Monasmith / Galen Lemei
Project Manager Staff Counsel

Subject: Request for Committee Status Conference Regarding Siting
Case Impact of Applicant's Withdrawal from ISO Cluster Study 9

Staff hereby requests a Committee Status Conference to discuss the schedule for publishing its Preliminary Staff Assessment (PSA). This request is made in light of recent information sent by the Applicant in its Status Report # 9, filed May 1, 2017 indicating that "the Applicant had withdrawn its position in [California ISO] Cluster Study 9, and had filed for inclusion in Cluster Study 10 on May 1, 2017."

Impact of Applicant Withdrawal from ISO Cluster Study 9:

As was made clear during the data adequacy phase of this proceeding, review of the Mission Rock AFC required certain steps be taken in relation to the California ISO (i.e. application for interconnection and associated proof of payment). Likewise, completion of TSE staff's testimony on Mission Rock requires an understanding of downstream transmission impacts that can only be made with certainty based on the results of a Phase I cluster study. For these reasons, applicant's data adequacy determination in the winter/spring of 2016 was held up in part due to staff's requirement that a copy of the California ISO's acknowledgement that the project owner had submitted an interconnection request, and that proof be demonstrated that the owner had paid the interconnection request deposit fee for the Mission Rock Energy Center project. As was reported by the applicant on April 29, 2016, Calpine applied for interconnection with the California ISO on April 25, 2016, and became part of the Cluster 9 Phase I study agreement process. Results of the California ISO Queue Cluster 9 Phase I Report were filed under confidential cover with the Energy Commission on February 10, 2017.

Now that the applicant has removed itself from the Cluster 9 study group, staff will now have to wait for the results of the Cluster 10 study group, which will not be available until late January or early February of 2018. Consequently, staff cannot complete its assessment of the project until this information is available.

Preliminary Staff Assessment (PSA) Status:

As was indicated in its Status Report #9, staff remains fully engaged in the analysis component of the proceeding and is progressing on the PSA sections. At the last Status Conference, staff identified receipt of the Preliminary Determination of Compliance (PDOC) from the Ventura County Air Pollution Control District (VCAPCD) as the primary impediment to completing the PSA. The VCAPCD recently informed staff that it should expect the PDOC no earlier than July 1, 2017, two months later than the date VCAPCD had originally projected. Despite this new PDOC release date, staff has continued working to complete its assessment, and had anticipated completing review of the PSA sections that do not rely on information from the PDOC by June 1, 2017.

However, potential ramifications of the Applicant's withdrawal from California ISO Cluster 9 need clarification to determine whether potential reassessment of the schedule for completing the PSA is required.