

DOCKETED	
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Project Title:	Power Source Disclosure Program - 2017 Confidential Documents
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CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION

1516 NINTH STREET
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814-5512



July 18, 2018

Marcie A. Miller, Vice President
Shell Energy North America (US), L.P.
4445 Eastgate Mall, Suite 100
San Diego, CA 92121

RE: **Application for Confidential Designation for Power Source Disclosure
Annual Report
Docket No. 18-PSDP-01**

Dear Ms. Miller:

The California Energy Commission is in receipt of an Application for Confidentiality submitted on behalf of Shell Energy North America (US), L.P. (Applicant). The application seeks confidential designation for specified data contained in Applicant's Annual Report under the Power Source Disclosure program (PSDP). The application states that confidentiality is sought for market sensitive information that constitutes a trade secret contained in PSDP Schedules 1 and 2.

The application states that confidential information contained in the Annual Report may be disclosed if it is aggregated with all other Energy Service Providers on a statewide basis. The information has not been previously disclosed to the public.

A properly filed Application for Confidentiality shall be granted under the California Code of Regulations, title 20, section 2505(a)(3)(A), "if the applicant makes a reasonable claim that the Public Records Act or other provision of law authorizes the [Energy] Commission to keep the record confidential." The California Public Records Act allows for the non-disclosure of trade secrets. (Gov. Code, § 6254(k); Evid. Code, § 1060.) California courts have traditionally used the following definition of trade secret:

A trade secret may consist of any formula, pattern, device or compilation of information which is used in one's business, and which gives him an opportunity to obtain an advantage over competitors who do not know or use it. . . .

(*Uribe v. Howe* (1971) 19 Cal.App.3d 194, 207, citing the Restatement of Torts, vol. 4, § 757, comment b, p.5.)

California Code of Regulations, title 20, section 2505(a)(1)(D), states that if an applicant for confidential designation believes that the record should not be disclosed because it contains trade secrets, or its disclosure would otherwise cause loss of a competitive

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advantage, an application shall state: 1) the specific nature of the advantage; 2) how the advantage would be lost; 3) the value of the information to an applicant; and 4) the ease or difficulty with which the information could be legitimately acquired or duplicated by others.

The application addresses these elements. Public disclosure of this information could competitively harm Applicant because the information reflects Applicant's total historical retail load in the service territories of the California investor-owned electric utilities for the year 2017. Public disclosure of this information would reveal Applicant's "net short" portion in the immediate past period, including its Renewables Portfolio Standard (RPS) net short position, thereby placing Applicant at a competitive disadvantage in the wholesale and retail electricity markets. The information cannot be legitimately acquired or duplicated by others.

The application is clear that confidentiality is being sought for trade secret information reported as megawatt hours related to energy retail sales information. Applicant has made a reasonable claim that the law allows the California Energy Commission to keep all reported megawatt hours contained in the Annual Report from public disclosure. However, information reported under the PSDP as percentages of retail sales, as opposed to megawatt hours, does not qualify as a trade secret warranting protection from public disclosure. Reported percentages do not pose a risk of disclosing historical retail sales or purchases information that would divest Applicant of a competitive advantage.

Applicant requests that the information be kept confidential until December 31, 2019. I have determined that December 31, 2018, or one year from the end of the reporting period, is the appropriate time to keep confidential all reported megawatt hours contained in the Annual Report because it represents the amount of time the information is expected to retain validity and market value, and because any lesser period of time would undermine existing confidentiality protection of the same or substantially similar data held by the California Public Utilities Commission. However, the information may be released earlier if applicant-specific information is aggregated with information from all other Energy Service Providers on a statewide level.

For the reasons stated above, the request for confidential designation for the reported megawatt hours contained in the Annual Report is granted. The information will remain confidential until December 31, 2018.

Be advised that persons may petition to inspect or copy records that I have designated as confidential. The procedures and criteria for filing, reviewing, and acting upon such petitions are set forth in the California Code of Regulations, title 20, section 2506.

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If Applicant seeks confidential designation for future PSDP annual reports that are substantially similar to information deemed confidential by way of this letter, Applicant may follow the simplified process set forth in California Code of Regulations, title 20, section 2505(a)(4).

If you have any questions concerning this matter, please contact Jennifer Martin-Gallardo, Senior Attorney, at (916) 651-3748.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in green ink, appearing to read 'Drew Bohan', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Drew Bohan
Executive Director

cc: Docket Unit
Camille Remy-Obad, Renewable Energy Office
Jennifer Martin-Gallardo, Senior Attorney