

DOCKETED

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Project Title:	01-AFC-7C Russell City Energy Company
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STATE OF CALIFORNIA

STATE ENERGY RESOURCES
CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

IN THE MATTER OF:

RUSSELL CITY ENERGY CENTER

Docket No. 01-AFC-07C

**[Second Revised Proposed] ORDER
APPROVING POST CERTIFICATION
PETITION FOR MODIFICATION**

On June 3, 2021, Russell City Energy Company, LLC (project owner) filed a post certification petition with the California Energy Commission (CEC) to modify the Russell City Energy Center (RCEC). The project owner is requesting temporary safety modifications to the steam turbine condenser, which would allow the facility to operate in simple-cycle mode. RCEC is a nominal 600 megawatt (MW) natural gas-fired, wet cooled, combined cycle electric generating facility that was certified by the CEC in September 2002 and began commercial operation in August 2013.

BACKGROUND

On Thursday, May 27, 2021, RCEC experienced a mechanical failure of the steam turbine generator that resulted in an explosion and fire. The steam turbine and generator experienced extensive damage. As a result, there will be an extended production outage for the entire facility until damaged equipment can be repaired or replaced. Estimates of the time required for resumption of combined-cycle mode operations requiring use of the steam turbine are up to a year, or more.

This petition for temporary safety modifications seeks to allow the facility to return to service at its simple-cycle generation capacity, provide frequency and voltage services, and support local and system grid reliability needs in the summer and fall of 2021. In simple-cycle mode, RCEC can provide approximately 300 to 350 MW of generation capacity and frequency and voltage support to the applicable resource area. The proposed temporary modification would also ensure that the facility can continue to provide Black Start service to the California Independent System Operator (CAISO).

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

CEC staff has reviewed the petition pursuant to Title 20, California Code of Regulations, section 1769 (Post Certification Amendments and Changes) and concluded in its staff analysis titled, *Statement of Staff Approval of Post Certification Change Russell City Energy Center*, that the temporary modifications to allow for operation in simple cycle mode would not result in a significant impact on the environment, or cause the project to not comply with applicable laws, ordinances, regulations, and standards. No changes to any Conditions of Certification are required as the facility will be operating within its existing license.

ENERGY COMMISSION FINDINGS

Based on the record, including staff's analysis, the Commission concludes that the proposed modifications will not result in any significant impacts to public health and safety, or to the environment. The Commission finds that:

- The petition meets all the filing criteria of Title 20, California Code of Regulations, section 1769 (a), concerning post-certification project modifications.
- The modifications will not change the findings in the Commission's Final Decision, pursuant to Title 20, California Code of Regulations, section 1748;
- The facility will remain in compliance with all applicable laws, ordinances, regulations, and standards, subject to the provisions of Public Resources Code section 25525;
- It is prudent for the CEC to exercise enhanced scrutiny over the facility given the circumstances that gave rise to the petition, and it is reasonable for the public to have access to safety audits conducted pertaining to the operation of the facility, including the circumstances that gave rise to the petition;
- The City of Hayward Fire Department will continue to exercise its existing authorities under the RCEC Conditions of Certification, including, but not limited to, the Fire Department's roles under Conditions HAZ-1, HAZ-2, HAZ-7, WASTE-4, WASTE-8, WASTE-12, WORKER SAFETY-2, and WORKER SAFETY-3;
- The facility's operation in simple-cycle mode is within the existing license and no changes to any Conditions of Certification are required;
- The facility will return to combined cycle operations when repairs and testing are completed.

CONCLUSION AND ORDER

~~The CEC hereby adopts approves the petition for modifications allowing for the facility to operate in simple-cycle mode as set forth in staff analysis and adopts staff's recommendations and approves the petition allowing for the facility to operate in simple cycle mode as set forth in staff analysis. the draft order, with the following modifications: The applicant must submit to the CEC a safety audit fully identifying the circumstances that gave rise to the petition. If the CEC determines that any of the information in the~~

~~audit should not be released under applicable law, the applicant must submit a public version of the report that omits only the confidential portion of the audit report. The applicant must, within 10 days of this Order, identify all additional safety measures it is taking and report back to the CEC on the status of the implementation of its safety measures on a monthly basis. The applicant must also allow the City of Hayward's Fire Department to periodically inspect the facility to ensure safety requirements are met, and shall be responsible for the associated costs of those inspections.~~

Within thirty (30) days after approval of the Petition of the Temporary Safety Modifications, the Project Owner shall meet with California Energy Commission Staff and Hayward City Fire Department to discuss any needed modifications of their standard operating procedures for first responders to implement when responding to incidents on site, including establishing a process for reimbursement of reasonable expenses.

CERTIFICATION

The undersigned Secretariat to the Commission does hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of an Order duly and regularly adopted at a meeting of the CEC held on July15, 2021.

AYE:

NAY:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

Liza Lopez
Secretariat

July 15, 2021 California Energy Commission Business Meeting, Item #3; Russell City Energy Center Petition for Temporary Safety Modifications (01-AFC-07C)

Russell City Energy Center Petition for Temporary Safety Modifications (TN 238126)

<https://ww2.energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/russellcity/>

Russell City Energy Center Petition for Temporary Safety Modifications Statement of Staff Approval of Post Certification Change (TN 238292)

<https://ww2.energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/russellcity/>