

DOCKETED

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October 22, 2021

Drew Bohan
Executive Director
California Energy Commission
1516 Ninth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Russell City Energy Center (01-AFC-07C): Application for Confidential Designation

Dear Mr. Bohan:

Pursuant to Sections 2501 et seq., of Title 20 of the California Code of Regulations, the Russell City Energy Company, LLC hereby submits this Application for Confidential Designation for the draft Executive Summary of the *Investigation Report: Calpine Russell City Steam Turbine/Generator Event and Calpine Russell City Energy Center Restoration Recommendations* for the Russell City Energy Center.

Please feel free to contact me at 916-447-2166 or sgn@eslawfirm.com should you have any questions or require additional information. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Samantha G. Neumyer".

Samantha G. Neumyer
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1. *Specifically indicate those parts of the record which should be kept confidential.*

Russell City Energy Company, LLC (“Applicant”) seeks confidential designation for the draft Executive Summary of the *Investigation Report: Calpine Russell City Steam Turbine/Generator Event* (Attachment A) and *Calpine Russell City Energy Center Restoration Recommendations* (Attachment B) prepared on behalf of the Russell City Energy Center. These documents have been identified as containing information similar to critical energy infrastructure information (“CEII”) as defined in Title 18, section 388.113 of the Code of Federal Regulations and/or critical infrastructure information as defined in Title 6 of the United States Code, section 131(3). These documents also contain potential trade secret and confidential business information.

2. *State the length of time the record should be kept confidential, and provide justification for the length of time.*

The documents should be kept confidential for the operating life of the facility.

3. *Cite and discuss (i) the provisions of the Public Records Act or other law which allow the commission to keep the record confidential and (ii) the public interest in nondisclosure of the record.*

First, the Public Records Act protects from disclosure “[r]ecords, the disclosure of which is exempted or prohibited pursuant to federal or state law.” (Gov’t Code § 6254(k).) The Public Records Act provides a specific exclusion from disclosure where “...on the facts of the particular case the public interest served by not disclosing the record clearly outweighs the public interest served by disclosure of the record.” (Gov’t Code § 6255(a).)

The public interest served by not disclosing the documents identified above in Section (1) clearly outweighs the public interest served by disclosure. The documents included in Section (1) include information that could be defined as CEII by FERC. CEII includes “specific engineering, vulnerability, or detailed design information about proposed or existing critical infrastructure” that:

- Relates details about the production, generation, transportation, transmission, or distribution of energy;
- Could be useful to a person in planning an attack on critical infrastructure;
- Is exempt from mandatory disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. 552; and
- Does not simply give the general location of the critical infrastructure. (18 C.F.R. § 388.113(c)(2)).

The documents identified above do not simply give the general location of the critical infrastructure. They contain details about the production and generation of energy and could be useful to a person planning an attack on critical infrastructure through the provision of engineering and potential vulnerability information about existing critical infrastructure. Information designated by FERC as CEII is exempt from mandatory disclosure under the federal Freedom of Information Act (“FOIA”), and “shall not be made available by any Federal, State,

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political subdivision or tribal authority pursuant to any Federal, State, political subdivision, or tribal law requiring public disclosure of information or records.” (18 C.F.R. § 388.113(c)(1)).

Similarly, the documents contain information meeting the definition of “critical infrastructure information.” Title 6, section 131 of the U.S. Code defines “critical infrastructure information” as “information not customarily in the public domain and related to the security of critical infrastructure or protected systems,” such as information relating to the “ability of any critical infrastructure or protected system to resist such interference, compromise, or incapacitation,” including security testing, risk evaluation, risk management planning, or risk audit, or information relating to “any planned or past operational problem or solution regarding critical infrastructure or protected systems, including repair, recovery, reconstruction, insurance, or continuity, to the extent it is related to such interference, compromise, or incapacitation.” Section 131 also defines the term “protected systems” to include “any service, physical or computer-based system, process, or procure that directly or indirectly affects the viability of a facility of critical structure.” The documents contain information not customarily in the public domain and are related to the security of critical infrastructure or protected systems.

Second, the Public Records Act broadly exempts corporate proprietary information, including trade secrets from public disclosure. (Gov’t Code §§ 6254.7(d), 6254.15.) Trade secrets include “any formula, plan, ... production data, or compilation of information ..., which is known only to certain individuals within a commercial concern who are using it to fabricate, produce, or compound an article of trade or a service ... and which gives its user an opportunity to obtain a business advantage over competitors who do not know or use it.” (Gov’t Code §§ 6254.7(d), 6254.15.) The documents identified in Section 1 relate to the specific technologies and generating processes employed at the Russell City Energy Center, including the design and location of certain facility components and other commercially valuable information related to the facility’s operations and potential improvements. Such information constitutes trade secrets as the Applicant uses such information for asset operations and protection purposes. The information has independent economic value from not being generally known to the public or to the Applicant’s competitors.

Third, nondisclosure of the documents will protect against potential misuse of the information for illicit purposes, such as vandalism, tampering, or other third-party imposed damages. The public interest in preventing such acts clearly outweighs the public interest served by disclosure of the limited information for which the Applicant is seeking confidential designation.

4. *State whether the information may be disclosed if it is aggregated with other information or masked to conceal certain portions, and if so the degree of aggregation or masking required.*

The Applicant considered whether it would be possible to aggregate or mask the Information. It may be possible to aggregate the information or redact certain portions of the Information. However, the Applicant requests that the CEC consult with the Applicant to make this determination based on the potential production of materials subject to the Application.

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5. *State whether and how the information is kept confidential by the applicant and whether it has ever been disclosed to a person other than an employee of the applicant, and if so under what circumstances.*

The documents are accessible only to employees or consultants providing essential services to the Russell City Energy Center. The documents have been disclosed to certain regulatory agencies, such as the California Public Utilities Commission and CEC, that have regulatory oversight over either the information or the Russell City Energy Center.

I certify under penalty of perjury that the information contained in this Application for Confidential Designation is true, correct, and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief. I am authorized to make this Application and Certification on behalf of the Applicants.

Dated: October 22, 2021

By: 

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