

## CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION

1516 NINTH STREET  
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814-5512

**NOTICE OF INSIGNIFICANT PROJECT CHANGE**  
**(Modification to the Design of the Natural Gas Pipeline Reinforcement)**  
**GILROY ENERGY CENTER PROJECT**  
**(01-EP-08)**  
**MONTEREY COUNTY**

<b>DOCKET</b> 01-EP-8
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DATE <b>MAR 05 2003</b>
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REC'D <b>MAR 05 2003</b>
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The Gilroy Energy Center project (GEC) is a nominal 135-megawatt simple cycle peaking power plant located adjacent to and on the same site as the Gilroy Foods Cogeneration Plant owned by Calpine. The GEC project is within the City of Gilroy in the County of Monterey. The project was certified on May 15, 2001. On October 31, 2001 the Commission extended the on-line date of the project from September 30 to December 14, 2001. The GEC is comprised of three 45 MW gas turbine generators.

The Calpine Corporation, project owner/operator, submitted a petition to the Energy Commission staff on February 07, 2003, seeking approval to modify a short section of the 1.7 mile 16-inch Natural Gas Pipeline Reinforcement to the Gilroy Energy Center. The 1.7 mile 16-inch Natural Gas Pipeline Reinforcement Project was authorized by the Commission on November 19, 2001. Installation of the 1.7 mile 16-inch natural gas pipeline is complete except for an approximate 1400-foot section along SH152, which is the subject of this modification. The requested change would not alter any conditions of certification nor add any new conditions.

**PURPOSE OF THE PROJECT MODIFICATION:** The modification is to avoid potential impacts to two walnut trees that are designated by the County of Santa Clara as Heritage Trees. These trees occur within the SH 152 right-of-way.

**DESCRIPTION OF REQUESTED CHANGE:** The modification will connect the recently approved and installed 16-inch pipeline near the intersection of Frazier Lake Road and SH 152 to two existing 6- and 8-inch pipelines. A 500-foot section of the 16-inch pipeline already installed along the right-of-way of SH 152 west of the Heritage Walnut Trees will be capped and filled with nitrogen. The tie-in will be within the PG&E pipeline right-of-way on Frazier Lake Road. In addition to avoiding any potential impacts on the two Heritage walnut trees the proposed modification will take advantage of existing infrastructure.

Pursuant to section 1769, Title 20, California Code of Regulations, Energy Commission approval for the change is not required if Energy Commission staff determines that the change does not (1) affect a condition of certification, (2) cause a significant effect on the environment, or (3) cause the project to be out of compliance with any applicable laws, ordinances, regulations, or standards.

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Energy Commission staff has determined that the proposed change meets the above criteria because the pipeline modification will not:

- affect or cause any changes to the conditions of certification contained in the Commission Decision for Gilroy Energy Center;
- cause a significant effect on the environment because this design change avoids the Heritage Walnut Trees; and
- prevent compliance with the applicable laws, ordinances, regulations or standards required for the safe operation of the facility.

Any person may file a written objection to staff's determination on the grounds that the project modification does not meet the criteria set forth in Section 1769(a)(2). All objections must be sent either by U.S. mail or other document delivery service to Donna Stone, Compliance Project Manager, at the address above, or by fax at (916) 654-3882. If no substantive objection is received by 5:00 P.M. on March 19, 2003, the requested project change will be approved.

Date: 3/5/03

  
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ROGER E. JOHNSON, Office Manager  
Systems Assessment & Facilities Siting Division

Mail Lists # 7132, #7133, #7134