

CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION

1516 NINTH STREET
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814-5512
www.energy.ca.gov

DOCKET	
08-AFC-6	
DATE	JUL 14 2008
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July 14, 2008

Dear Librarian:

**DOCUMENT HANDLING FOR THE WILLOW PASS GENERATING STATION,
APPLICATION FOR CERTIFICATION (08-AFC-6)**

On June 30, 2008, the California Energy Commission received an Application for Certification (AFC) from Mirant Willow Pass, LLC to construct and operate the Willow Pass Generating Station (Willow Pass). The proposed project would be a dry-cooled, natural gas-fired electric power facility located on a 26-acre brown-field site within the existing Pittsburg Power Plant in Contra Costa County, California. Willow Pass would consist of two, Siemens Flex Plant 10 generating units operated in combined-cycle mode. The generating units would produce approximately 550-megawatts (MW).

The proposed power plant is under the Energy Commission's siting authority. The power plant certification process examines engineering, environmental, public health, and safety aspects of power plant proposals and provides analyses required by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). When issuing a license, the Energy Commission is the lead state agency under CEQA, and the documents it prepares are functionally equivalent to an Environmental Impact Report.

The Energy Commission's siting process is open to the public and incorporates the input of the public as well as local, state, and federal agencies. To facilitate public participation in our process, the Energy commission has sent copies of the AFC to libraries in the project area, and to libraries in Los Angeles, Sacramento, San Francisco, San Diego, Fresno, and Eureka.

Please make the enclosed AFC available for those who may wish to be informed about the proposed project. We request that you not allow the AFC or any of its contents to be removed from the library. To increase accessibility of the document, we ask, if possible, that you cross reference it as a general reference work under the title and author categories, as well as under the subjects as "Energy Commission", "electricity", "energy/generation", "power plant siting", or any other relevant subject.

Thank you for your cooperation. If you have any questions, please contact Michelle Woods, Energy Commission Project Manager, at (916) 654-3836 or by email at mwoods@energy.state.ca.us

Sincerely,

Eileen Allen, Manager
Energy Facilities Siting and Compliance Office

Enclosure

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July 14, 2008

To: MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN THE REVIEW OF THE WILLOW PASS GENERATING STATION, APPLICATION FOR CERTIFICATION (08-AFC-6)

On June 30, 2008, the California Energy Commission received an Application for Certification (AFC) from Mirant Willow Pass, LLC to construct and operate the Willow Pass Generating Station (Willow Pass). The proposed project would be a dry-cooled, natural gas-fired electric power facility located on 26-acre brown-field site within the existing Pittsburg Power Plant in Contra Costa County, California. Willow Pass would consist of two, Siemens Flex Plant 10 generating units operated in combined-cycle mode. The generating units would produce approximately 550-megawatts (MW).

Mirant Willow Pass, LLC's objectives for the proposed project are to construct and operate a new generating facility at an existing brown-field site, increase the reliability of the regional electricity grid, and produce quick-start electricity during times when renewable generation is not available.

Located in the City of Pittsburg, within Contra Costa County, California, the proposed project would be situated two miles west of the city center, within the Pittsburg Power Plant. The Pittsburg Power Plant site is currently occupied by seven generating units, four of which are still in operation. The proposed project would be located on a separate 26-acre parcel adjacent to existing generating units. The proposed project would occupy the southern 23.5 acres of the 26-acre parcel. The northern 2.5-acre portion of the parcel is bordered by the Suisun Bay.

The proposed project would use dry cooling technology to minimize water consumption. The project would use recycled water supplied by the Delta Diablo Sanitation District for plant process needs, including power augmentation and combustion turbine inler air evaporative cooling, and landscape irrigation. Two water pipelines, approximately five miles in length, would be constructed to bring recycled water from, and return process wastewater to Delta Diablo Sanitation District Water Treatment Plant. Potable water for domestic and sanitary uses would be supplied by the City of Pittsburg via a connection to an existing water line on the Pittsburg Power Plant property. Sanitary waste would be conveyed to Delta Diablo Sanitation District via existing sewer lines. There would be no withdrawals or discharges of process water to Suisun Bay. Mirant Willow Pass, LLC estimates that the proposed project would use 781 acre-feet of water per year.

The proposed project would burn pipeline quality natural gas delivered by PG&E via an onsite pipeline that is approximately 2,700 feet long. The pipeline would connect to the existing gas transmission line upstream of the Pittsburg Power Plant metering station.

One single-circuit 230-kV transmission line would be required to deliver the project electrical output to the PG&E transmission grid. The 230-kV circuit line from the project switch yard to the PG&E switchyard, adjacent to the Willow Pass site, would use six, 85 to 150 foot tall steel pole structures constructed of weathered or galvanized steel. One of these structures would be a new 150-foot transmission tower located within the PG&E switchyard. The five remaining structures would consist of double circuit poles within the Willow Pass site. The transmission line interconnection would be approximately 1,600 feet in length.

If approved, Willow Pass would begin construction in the fall of 2009, with commercial operation commencing in the summer of 2012.

Energy Commission's Facility Certification Process

The Energy Commission is responsible for reviewing and ultimately approving or denying applications for all thermal electric power plants, 50MW and greater, proposed for construction in California. The Energy Commission's facility certification process carefully examines public health and safety, environmental impacts and engineering aspects of proposed power plants and all related facilities such as electric transmission lines and natural gas and water pipelines. The Energy Commission is the lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), but it produces several environmental and decision documents rather than an Environmental Impact Report.

As part of our review process, the staff of the Energy Commission works closely with local, state and federal agencies to ensure that all laws, ordinances, regulations and standards are addressed in the final decision of the California Energy Commission. The first step in the review process is for the Energy Commission staff to determine whether or not the AFC contains all the information required by our regulations. When the AFC is deemed data adequate, we will begin the data discovery and issue analysis phases. At that time a detailed examination of the issues will occur.

Public Participation

Over the coming months, the Energy Commission will conduct a number of public workshops and hearings to determine whether the proposed project should be approved for construction and operation and under what set of conditions. The workshops will provide the public as well as local, state and federal agencies the opportunity to participate in reviewing the proposed project. The Energy Commission will issue notices for these workshops and hearings at least ten days prior to the meeting. If you are not currently receiving these notices and want to be placed on the mailing list, please contact Maria Sergoyan, Project Secretary, at (916) 651- 9410, or by email at msergoya@energy.state.ca.us.

If you desire information about participating in the Energy Commission's review of the proposed project, please contact Elena Miller the Energy Commission's Public Adviser

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at (916) 654-4489, or toll free in California at (800) 822-6228, or by email atpao@energy.state.ca.us. Technical or project schedule questions should be directed to Michelle Woods, Energy Commission Project Manager, at (916) 654-3836, or by email at mwoods@energy.state.ca.us

Note: Please retain this letter behind the front cover of the AFC. Thank You.