

CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION1516 NINTH STREET
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814-5512**DOCKET****99-AFC-8C**

DATE DEC 10 2008

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**NOTICE OF INSIGNIFICANT PROJECT CHANGE
REQUEST FOR APPROVAL
FOR THE BLYTHE ENERGY PROJECT TRANSMISSION LINE MODIFICATIONS
(99-AFC-8C)**

On December 1, 2008, the California Energy Commission received a petition from Blythe Energy, LLC to modify the Blythe Energy Project Transmission Line (BEPTL). The BEPTL project was certified by the Energy Commission on October 11, 2006, and is expected to begin construction in February, 2009. The BEPTL project would be located entirely within Riverside County, between the Blythe Energy Center project and Metropolitan Water District's Julian Hinds Substation near Hayfield.

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED MODIFICATIONS

The project owner is seeking approval for the following proposed insignificant changes in response to recently available information:

1. A change in structure support for 17 structures by adding guy wires to safely support the conductor load;
2. Expansion of the Desert Center and Julian Hinds laydown yards; and
3. Minor communication system changes in the SCE system at the Blythe Energy Power Plant, Julian Hinds substation, and the California Capacitor Station.

ENERGY COMMISSION AND BLM STAFF REVIEW AND DETERMINATION

The Commission is the lead agency for the purpose of California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) compliance. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is the lead Federal agency for the purpose of NEPA compliance. The BLM involvement is due to the need for portions of the BEPTL to be constructed on BLM administered public lands. Therefore, the BLM is responsible for reviewing the proposed insignificant project changes to ensure NEPA compliance.

Pursuant to section 1769(a)(2), Title 20, California Code of Regulations, Energy Commission approval of the project modifications is not required if Energy Commission staff determines that:

- There is no possibility that the modification may have a significant effect on the environment, and
- The modification(s) will not result in a change to or deletion of a condition of certification, or make changes that would cause the project not to comply with applicable laws, ordinances, regulations, or standards (LORS).

Energy Commission staff is in the process of determining whether or not the proposed modifications meet the following criteria:

- The modifications will not have any significant effect on the environment;

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- Existing conditions of certification are sufficient to cover the proposed modification without changes to, or deletions of, any conditions of certification; and
- The project as modified will maintain full compliance with applicable LORS.

Energy Commission staff will determine whether this petition requires changes to the existing project's conditions of certification and applicable LORS.


Any person may file written comments within 14 days of the date of this notice as set forth in Section 1769(a)(2). All comments must be in writing and must be sent either by U.S. mail, e-mail, or other document delivery service to Mary Dyas, Compliance Project Manager, at the address shown below:

California Energy Commission
1516 9th Street, MS 2000
Sacramento, CA 95814

Comments may be submitted by fax to: (916) 654-3882, or by e-mail to: mdyas@energy.state.ca.us. If no substantive objection is received in writing, and staff determines that the petition meets the above mentioned criteria, the requested project modifications will be deemed approved, and a description of the change will be placed in the project file.

If you have questions about this notice, please contact Mary Dyas at (916) 651-8891, or by fax or e-mail using the above information.

Date: 12/10/08



EILEEN ALLEN, Manager
Siting and Compliance Office
Siting, Transmission and Environmental Protection Division

Mail List # 747