

**CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION**1516 NINTH STREET  
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814-5512**DOCKET****02-AFC-2C**

DATE APR 01 2009

RECD. APR 01 2009



**NOTICE OF RECEIPT  
PETITION TO AMEND  
THE ENERGY COMMISSION DECISION for the  
SALTON SEA UNIT 6 GEOTHERMAL POWER PLANT (02-AFC-2C)**

On March 12, 2009, CE Obsidian Energy filed a petition with the California Energy Commission requesting to modify the Salton Sea Unit 6 Geothermal Power Plant (SSU6). The project was certified by the Energy Commission on December 18, 2003, but its construction was postponed due to economic circumstances beyond the applicant's control. The SSU6 project site is located on a 160-acre parcel in the Imperial Valley, approximately 1,000 feet southeast of the southern reach of the Salton Sea, within an unincorporated area of Imperial County, California. The region is characterized by agriculture and geothermal power production. The town of Niland is approximately 7.5 miles to the northeast and the town of Calipatria is approximately 6.1 miles to the southeast of the plant site. The Sonny Bono Salton Sea Wildlife Refuge Headquarters is approximately 4,000 feet from the plant site. The Alamo River and New River are approximately 4.8 miles southwest and 2.7 miles east of the plant site, respectively.

**DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED MODIFICATION**

The project was originally licensed in December 2003 to produce 185 MW of geothermal power. An amendment to the project license was approved in 2005 allowing the applicant to increase the project's generating capacity to 215 MW. The modification proposed in the petition would involve installation of three separate generating facilities (each with 53 MW net generating capacity), which will produce a combined 159 MW net of renewable geothermal power. The three units would each utilize a single-flash brine/steam handling system, rather than the multi-flash system planned for the original facility, and the steam production and brine injection wells would be split up and moved close to each generating facility. The project site would be expanded from 80 acres to 160 acres, but the total amount of land disturbed would be approximately identical to the amended 215 MW project.

**ENERGY COMMISSION REVIEW PROCEDURES**

The purpose of the Energy Commission's review process is to assess the impacts of this proposal on environmental quality, public health and safety. The review process includes an evaluation of the consistency of the proposed changes with the Energy Commission's Decision and if the project, as modified, will remain in compliance with applicable laws, ordinances, regulations, and standards (Title 20, Calif. Code of Regulations, section 1769). Energy Commission staff is currently analyzing the request and will publish an analysis in the near future. A public hearing for the purpose of approving or denying the amendment proposal will subsequently be held at a regularly scheduled Energy Commission business meeting.

This Notice of Receipt is being mailed to interested parties and property owners adjacent to the project site who may want to participate in the amendment process.

The petition is available on the Energy Commission's website at <http://www.energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/saltonseamendment/index.html>. The staff analysis (when published), will also be posted on the website. If you would like to receive a hard copy of the petition and/or staff's analysis, please complete the enclosed Information Request Form and return it to the address shown.

If you have any comments or questions, please contact Dale Rundquist, Compliance Project Manager, at (916) 651-2072, or by fax to (916) 654-3882, or via e-mail at: [drundqui@energy.state.ca.us](mailto:drundqui@energy.state.ca.us) within 14 days of the date of this notice.

For further information on how to participate in this proceeding, please contact the Energy Commission Public Adviser's Office, at (916) 654-4489, or toll free in California at (800) 822-6228, or by e-mail at [pao@energy.state.ca.us](mailto:pao@energy.state.ca.us). News media inquiries should be directed to the Energy Commission Media Office at (916) 654-4989, or by e-mail at [mediaoffice@energy.state.ca.us](mailto:mediaoffice@energy.state.ca.us).

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Enclosure: Information Request Form

Mail List # 7156

Privacy Policy: You will receive only the information requested, and the Energy Commission will make no additional use of your personal information.

**INFORMATION REQUEST FORM**

**COMPLETE & MAIL TO:** CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION  
COMPLIANCE UNIT  
ATTN: DALE RUNDQUIST  
1516 NINTH STREET, MS-2000  
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814

**OR FAX TO:** (916) 654-3882

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NAME AND/OR TITLE (AS IT IS TO APPEAR ON MAIL LABEL)

\_\_\_\_\_  
ORGANIZATION (IF APPLICABLE)

\_\_\_\_\_  
STREET ADDRESS OR P.O. BOX

\_\_\_\_\_  
CITY

STATE

ZIP CODE

**PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE COMMISSION DECISION FOR THE SALTON SEA UNIT 6 GEOTHERMAL PROJECT, TO INSTALL THREE 53 MW GENERATING FACILITIES AND RELATED STEAM PRODUCTION FACILITIES, TOTALLING 159 MW, RATHER THAN A SINGLE 215 MW GENERATING FACILITY AND RELATED STEAM PRODUCTION FACILITIES**

**PLEASE CIRCLE THE DOCUMENTS YOU WOULD LIKE TO RECEIVE:**

- PETITION TO AMEND
- STAFF ANALYSIS
- COMMISSION ORDER

( ) KEEP ME ON THE MAILING LIST

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**PROJECT:** SALTON SEA UNIT 6 GEOTHERMAL POWER PLANT 2009 MAJOR AMENDMENT

**DOCKET NO:** 02-AFC-2

**MAIL LIST NO:** 7156