

CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION

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



June 9, 2009

Notice of Availability and Notice of a Public Workshop
Related to the
Preliminary Staff Assessment for the Proposed
GWF Tracy Combined Cycle Power Plant (08-AFC-7)

The California Energy Commission (Energy Commission) staff filed a Preliminary Staff Assessment (PSA) for the proposed GWF Tracy Combined Cycle Power Plant (GWF Tracy). Additionally, Energy Commission staff will conduct a workshop on this PSA. All interested agencies and members of the public are invited to review the PSA and participate in the workshop. The workshop will be held:

Tuesday, June 23, 2009
Starting at 10:00am

City of Tracy, City Hall Council Chambers
333 Civic Center Plaza,
Tracy, California 95376
(Wheelchair Accessible)
(Map Attached)

DOCKET	
08-AFC-7	
DATE	<u>JUN 09 2009</u>
RECD.	<u>JUN 09 2009</u>

To participate in the meeting by telephone,
Please call: (800) 857-9848 (toll-free in the U.S. and Canada)
Enter passcode: 55963

The purpose of this PSA workshop is to receive comments on staff's analysis from the applicant, public, intervenors in the proceeding, and local, state and federal agencies. Public comments on the PSA are welcome and encouraged to be submitted in writing by July 10, 2009, to Alan Solomon, Project Manager. Comments will be used to revise the PSA and complete the Final Staff Assessment which will become staff's testimony in evidentiary hearings.

TO: AGENCY DISTRIBUTION LIST

This notice is to inform you of the availability of the Preliminary Staff Assessment (PSA) for the GWF Tracy Combined Cycle Power Plant (GWF Tracy) Application for Certification (08-AFC-7). The PSA was published on June 9, 2009. The PSA contains the California Energy Commission staff's preliminary engineering, environmental, and public safety evaluation of the proposed GWF Tracy project. Currently, there are three

PROOF OF SERVICE (REVISED 2/25/09) FILED WITH
 ORIGINAL MAILED FROM SACRAMENTO ON 6/9/09

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technical areas (Air Quality, Biological Resources, and Traffic and Transportation) which are currently undetermined with respect to mitigation of potential impacts and/or for conformance with applicable laws, ordinances, regulations, and standards (LORS). Otherwise, staff believes that as currently proposed, including the applicant's and the staff's proposed mitigation measures and the staff's proposed conditions of certification, the GWF Tracy project would comply with all applicable LORS. For a detailed review of potentially significant impacts and the related mitigation measures, please refer to each chapter of the PSA.

Purpose of the Workshop

This notice is also to inform you that Energy Commission staff will hold a workshop to discuss the PSA. This public notice is to further encourage public participation, as it relates to the proposed GWF Tracy project and the Energy Commission's permitting process. The workshop will provide an opportunity for agencies, the public and other interested parties to present questions and comments on the PSA. All interested agencies and members of the public are invited to participate. The workshop will be held on Tuesday, June 23, 2009 starting at 10:00 a.m. in the City of Tracy, City Hall Council Chambers, 333 Civic Center Plaza, Tracy, California 95376. Based on the workshop dialogue, written comments received regarding the PSA, and additional information that will be gathered, the Energy Commission staff will revise the PSA, where appropriate, and issue a Final Staff Assessment (FSA).

The California Energy Commission encourages public participation in the review of the Application for Certification (08-AFC-7). The public comment period for this PSA is from June 9, 2009 through July 10, 2009. Written comments on the PSA should be provided to Alan Solomon, Project Manager, no later than 5:00 p.m., July 10, 2009, at the address on this letterhead or by email to asolomon@energy.state.ca.us.

Following a public comment period on the PSA, the PSA will be superseded by staff's FSA which will serve as staff's formal testimony in evidentiary hearings to be held by the Energy Commission Committee assigned to hear this case. The Committee will hold evidentiary hearings and will consider the recommendations presented by staff, applicant, interveners, government agencies, and the public prior to proposing its decision. In the last step, the full Energy Commission will issue the final decision.

Background

On July 18, 2008, the California Energy Commission received an Application for Certification (AFC) from GWF Energy, LLC for the GWF Tracy Combined Cycle Power Plant (GWF Tracy). GWF Energy, LLC proposes to modify the existing Tracy Peaker Plant (TPP) (01-AFC-16), a nominal 169-megawatt (MW) simple-cycle power plant by converting the facility into a combined-cycle power plant with a new nominal generating capacity of 314 MW. On September 5, 2008, GWF Energy, LLC provided a supplement to the AFC to satisfy the Energy Commission's informational requirements. On September 10, 2008, the Energy Commission accepted the AFC with the supplemental information as complete, beginning staff's analysis of the project.

GWF Energy, LLC's objectives are to convert the TPP to a combined cycle plant in order to address the future electricity needs of California, construct and operate an electrical generating facility on an existing brown-field site, and provide additional electrical capacity in the San Joaquin County and City of Tracy area. The proposed project would utilize existing TPP infrastructure to reduce environmental impacts and costs, and enhance the reliability of the state's electrical system by providing power generation near the centers of electrical demand.

Project Description

The proposed project site consists of 16.38 acres within a 40-acre parcel in San Joaquin County, and is located within an industrial and agricultural area which includes the existing TPP. The property is bounded by the Delta-Mendota Canal to the southwest, agricultural property to the south, and east, and the Union Pacific Railroad to the north. The San Joaquin County General Plan designates the proposed project site as General Agriculture and the County Zoning Designation is G-40, which allows electrical generation.

The project would include the addition of two heat recovery steam generators, a steam turbine generator, an auxiliary boiler, an air-cooled dry condenser unit, and a 115-kilovolt (kV) electrical switchyard. The proposed project would use existing TPP infrastructure, including the existing natural gas pipeline, water supply pipeline, and electric transmission line. Three short segments of the PG&E's 115 kV transmission system (totaling approximately 3 miles) would require reconductoring (upgraded wires to accommodate the added generating capacity). The reconductoring segments would be a 0.7 mile long transmission line adjacent to the proposed project site, and two segments, approximately 1.6 miles and 0.7 mile long, respectively, near the intersection of Interstate 5 and Interstate 205, near the PG&E Kasson Substation. Process water would be supplied via the existing TPP pipeline from the Delta-Mendota Canal by the Byron Bethany Irrigation District.

If approved, project construction would begin in the fall of 2011, with commercial operation commencing in 2013.

Energy Commission Licensing Authority

The Energy Commission is responsible for reviewing and ultimately approving or denying all applications for construction and operation of thermal electric power plants, 50 MW 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), and produces several environmental and decision documents rather than an Environmental Impact Report.

The status of the project, an electronic copy of the PSA, copies of notices, and other relevant documents are also available on the Energy Commission's web site at:

May 2009
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<http://www.energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/tracyexpansion/index.html>. You can also
subscribe to receive email notification of all notices at
<http://www.energy.ca.gov/listservers>.

Sincerely,

Date: 6/9/09

Original signed by
TERRENCE O'BRIEN, Deputy Director
Siting, Transmission and Environmental
Protection Division

Enclosure: Preliminary Staff Assessment of Application for Certification (08-AFC-7)
Mailed to list: 7314 - Agency



**BEFORE THE ENERGY RESOURCES CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT
COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
1516 NINTH STREET, SACRAMENTO, CA 95814
1-800-822-6228 – WWW.ENERGY.CA.GOV**

**APPLICATION FOR CERTIFICATION
FOR THE *GWF TRACY COMBINED CYCLE
POWER PLANT PROJECT***

**Docket No. 08-AFC-7
PROOF OF SERVICE**

(Revised 2/25/2009)

APPLICANT

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DECLARATION OF SERVICE

I, April Albright, declare that on June 9, 2009, I served and filed copies of the attached Notice of Availability and Notice of Public Workshop to Agency Distribution List; Notice of Availability and Notice of Public Workshop to Members of the Public; and Document Handling for the Preliminary Staff Assessment, dated June 9, 2009. The original document, filed with the Docket Unit, is accompanied by a copy of the most recent Proof of Service list, located on the web page for this project at: **[<http://www.energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/tracyexpansion/index.html>]**. The document has been sent to both the other parties in this proceeding (as shown on the Proof of Service list) and to the Commission's Docket Unit, in the following manner:

(Check all that Apply)

For service to all other parties:

- sent electronically to all email addresses on the Proof of Service list;
- by personal delivery or by depositing in the United States mail at Sacramento, California with first-class postage thereon fully prepaid and addressed as provided on the Proof of Service list above to those addresses **NOT** marked "email preferred."

AND

For filing with the Energy Commission:

- sending an original paper copy and one electronic copy, mailed and emailed respectively, to the address below (preferred method);

OR

- depositing in the mail an original and 12 paper copies, as follows:

CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION

Attn: Docket No. 08-AFC-7
1516 Ninth Street, MS-4
Sacramento, CA 95814-5512

docket@energy.state.ca.us

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Original signed by _____
April Albright