

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

DOCKET
08-AFC-7

DATE NOV 03 2009

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November 3, 2009

Notice of Availability of the
Final Staff Assessment for the Proposed
GWF Tracy Combined Cycle Power Plant (08-AFC-7)

TO: MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

This notice is to inform you of the availability of the Final Staff Assessment (FSA) for the proposed GWF Tracy Combined Cycle Power Plant (GWF Tracy) Application for Certification (08-AFC-7). The FSA was published on October 30, 2009. The FSA contains the California Energy Commission staff's engineering, public health, and environmental evaluation of the proposed plant.

The FSA will serve as staff's testimony during evidentiary hearings. The Energy Commission Committee assigned to the GWF Tracy proceedings will consider and weigh the testimony or comments or recommendations of all interested parties, including Energy Commission staff, the applicant, intervenors, public, and other local, state, and federal agencies, before issuing the Presiding Member's Proposed Decision (PMPD) for consideration by the full Energy Commission. The public, intervenors, local, state and federal agencies are encouraged to participate in these hearings. The Energy Commission will issue notices at least ten days prior to any scheduled hearings.

The California Energy Commission encourages public participation in the review of the GWF Tracy Application for Certification and staff's FSA. Written comments on the FSA should be provided to Alan Solomon, Project Manager, no later than 5:00 p.m., November 29, 2009 at the address on this letterhead or by email to asolomon@energy.state.ca.us. Technical or project schedule questions should also be directed to Alan Solomon at (916) 653-8236 or by email.

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 2010, with commercial operation commencing in June 2012.

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 because the regulatory program has been certified by the Natural Resources Agency pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21080.5, produces several environmental and decision documents rather than an Environmental Impact Report.

Summary of the California Energy Commission Staff's Conclusions

The California Energy Commission staff concludes that the proposed GWF Tracy Combined Cycle Power Plant in San Joaquin County can be permitted and constructed in a manner that would allow it to comply with environmental laws and state policies – with the adoption of staff's recommended mitigation measures.

Public Resources, Contact Information and Additional Sources for Information

If you desire information on how to participate in the Energy Commission's review of the proposed project, please contact the Energy Commission's Public Adviser, at (916) 654-4489 or toll free in California at (800) 822-6228, or by email at:

publicadviser@energy.state.ca.us.

To request special accommodations for those persons with disabilities, please contact Lourdes Quiroz, the Energy Commission's Equal Employment Opportunity Officer at lquiroz@energy.state.ca.us or by telephone (916) 654-5146. For those persons with limited English knowledge, request interpreter services by contacting the Project Manager, Alan Solomon, at (916) 653-8236.

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

<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>.

News media inquiries should be directed to Assistant Director, Susanne Garfield, at (916) 654-4989, or by email at: mediaoffice@energy.state.ca.us.

Availability of the AFC and FSA Documents

Copies of the AFC and FSA are available for public inspection at the following libraries:

Tracy Branch Library
20 E. Eaton Avenue
Tracy, CA 95376-3100

Fair Oaks Branch Library
2370 E. Main Street
Stockton, CA 95205-6558

Margaret K. Troke Branch Library
4950 Pacific Ave, Suite 445
(in Weberstown Mall)
Stockton, CA 95207

Weston Ranch Branch Library
1453 W. French Camp Road
Stockton, CA 95206

Cesar Chavez Central Library
605 N. El Dorado Street
Stockton, CA 95202-1907

Maya Angelou Southeast Branch Library
2324 Pock Lane
Stockton, CA 95205-7821

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Copies will also be available at the Energy Commission's Library in Sacramento, the California State Library in Sacramento, and at California public libraries in Eureka, Fresno, San Francisco, Los Angeles, and San Diego. In addition, copies will be distributed to those public agencies that would normally have jurisdiction except for the Energy Commission's exclusive authority to certify sites and related facilities.

If you would like a paper copy or CD of the FSA, please contact April Albright, Project Assistant, at (916) 653-1640, or by email at aalbirgh@energy.state.ca.us.

Sincerely,

Date: 11/3/09

Original signed by:
EILEEN ALLEN, Office Manager
Siting, Transmission and Environmental
Protection Division

Enclosure

Mailed to lists:
7312 - General
7313 - Property Owners



**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 November 3, 2009, I served and filed copies of the attached Notice of Availability of the Final Staff Assessment; Agency Letter for the Final Staff Assessment; and Library Letter for the Final Staff Assessment. 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