

**CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION**1516 NINTH STREET  
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814-5512**DOCKET**  
**99-AFC-8C**DATE FEB 01 2010  
RECD. FEB 02 2010**NOTICE OF RECEIPT**  
**PETITION TO AMEND**  
**THE BLYTHE ENERGY PROJECT TRANSMISSION LINE**  
**(99-AFC-8C)**

On January 6, 2010, 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 began construction in February, 2009. The BEPTL project would be located entirely within Riverside County, between the Blythe Energy Plant (BEP) and Southern California Edison's (SCE) Julian Hinds Substation near Hayfield.

**DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED MODIFICATIONS**

The project owner is seeking approval to complete the connection between the BEP and the BEPTL, by converting Western's Buck Blvd Substation from its current 161-kV operating voltage to 230-kV. The physical changes will include modification of the existing relay panels that will provide fault protection to the Plant and the new 230-kV line to SCE's Julian Hinds Substation. Additionally, communications equipment will be installed that will provide load, equipment information, and voice lines between the Blythe Energy Plant, SCE, and the California Independent System Operator. Other changes will include hardware installation and testing which will occur within the switch control building to operate at 230-kV line. The Buck Blvd Substation will be the eastern terminus of the 67-mile 230-kV BEPTL which is being constructed from the Blythe Energy Plant to SCE's Julian Hinds Substation.

The approval of this request will allow for a direct connection between the BEP and the BEPTL and will reduce ground-disturbing activities within the plant grounds that would have been needed for the installation of the gas-insulated substation which was approved in 2007. The BEP will be disconnected from the Western operating grid and then connected to the SCE operating grid in June 2010.

**ENERGY COMMISSION AND BLM STAFF REVIEW AND DETERMINATION**

The Energy 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 National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) compliance. The BLM involvement is due to the need for portions of the BEPTL to be constructed on BLM administered public lands. The BLM has defaulted the review of this request to the Energy Commission since this request does not involve BLM land.

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 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 has determined that the proposed modifications meet the criteria for staff approval because:

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

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 9<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:mdyas@energy.state.ca.us). If no substantive objection is received in writing 14 days of this notice, the requested project modifications will be deemed approved, and a description of the change will be placed in the project file.

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 [publicadviser@energy.state.ca.us](mailto:publicadviser@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).

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: \_\_\_\_\_

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