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Angelique Juarez-Garcia Compliance Project Manager Siting, Transmission and Environmental Protection Division California Energy Commission 1516 Ninth Street, MS-2000 Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: REQUEST FOR STAFF APPROVED MODIFICATION: WALNUT ENERGY CENTER AUTHORITY WALNUT ENERGY CENTER (02-AFC-4C): INSTALLATION OF MICRO FILTER FEED TANK AND SHADE STRUCTURE

Dear Ms. Juarez-Garcia:

I am writing on behalf of Walnut Energy Center Authority ("WECA"), the license holder for the Walnut Energy Center ("WEC"). The purpose of this letter is to request Energy Commission staff approval for a modification to the WEC. Specifically, this modification includes the addition of a new Micro Filter Feed Tank and a shade structure. As described below, the Micro Filter Feed Tank is needed for WEC to continue to effectively operate its Zero Liquid Discharge ("ZLD") water treatment process. The shade structure is necessary to prevent sun damage to some of the ZLD equipment.

Micro Filter Feed Tank

In January 2009, Turlock Irrigation District ("TID") determined it was necessary to upgrade and optimize some of the internal components of the existing WEC ZLD system. The system was using multi-media filters to filter contaminants found in the reclaimed water. However, the multi-media filters were allowing excessive amounts of submicron material to pass through. This submicron material then fouled downstream equipment, resulting in poor performance, reduced run times, increased cleaning frequency, increased energy consumption, and additional waste.

As an alternative, TID sought to replace the multi-media filters with micro filtration equipment that provides more effective and efficient filtration. Since TID was replacing existing equipment with similar equipment within the same ZLD system area, the change contemplated at that time was not a modification requiring an amendment to the WEC license. The replacement of the

filtration equipment's internal systems did not change the design, operation or performance of the WEC. In essence, the internal workings of the existing system was considered to be a "black box."

TID initiated a Request for Proposal process for the micro filtration equipment in the Spring of 2009. The responsive bids included, among other things, the addition of a Micro Filter Feed Tank to contain the cooling tower blowdown stream as a feed point for the new micro filtration equipment. Given the prior advice that the ZLD system was essentially a black box, no linkage was seen between the inclusion of a new tank in the responsive bids and the possibility of a need to notify the CEC, given the CEC's continuing oversight of new facilities that may affect project description. As a result of not seeing this linkage, the Micro Filter Feed Tank was installed with the micro filtration equipment.

The Micro Filter Feed Tank is a 24,000 gallon fiberglass tank (12' diameter x 30' in height). It is gray in color, matching the other structures at the WEC, and is located in the ZLD water treatment process area. This new tank is not clearly visible from outside of the plant property. The Micro Filter Feed Tank was sized to meet the design requirements of the new micro filtration equipment and stores the cooling tower blowdown for use in the micro filters. The tank provides enough storage to handle brief upsets in the micro filters without affecting the cooling tower chemistry.

Included in Attachment 1, are three figures that depict where the tank is located and its dimensions. This first figure shows the new Micro Filter Feed Tank. The Micro Filter Feed Tank is approximately 2 feet shorter than the HERO Reject Storage Tank (on the right side in the picture). The second figure is a fabrication drawing of the Micro Filter Feed Tank that shows its dimensions. The third figure is an aerial of the WEC plant. The location of the new Micro Filter Feed Tank is shown on the figure.

Shade Structure

TID proposes to install a shade structure to protect the micro filtration equipment from sun damage. The structure would be located in the WEC ZLD area. It would be 44' long by 18'-6" wide. It would be approximately 13' in height, which is much shorter than much of the equipment and tanks in the ZLD area. The structure would be supported by galvanized steel beams and the metal roof would be painted gray to match the rest of the WEC. Included in Attachment 2 is an engineering drawing of the shade structure. The location of the shade structure is indicated in the aerial of the WEC plant in Attachment 1.

Conclusion

Based on these facts, the WECA believes that the inclusion of the Micro Filter Feed Tank and shade structure constitute an insignificant project change that can be approved by Staff. Pursuant

to section 1769(a)(2), Title 20, California Code of Regulations, a formal amendment 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).

Nevertheless, the information presented herein is consistent with the requirements of Section 1769 of the California Energy Commission regulations. The information presented herein provides a complete description of the proposed modifications, as required by Section 1769(a)(1)(A). The information also includes a discussion of the necessity of the proposed changes, per Section 1769(a)(1)(B). The project modification is based on information that was not known during the time of the certification, and it does not undermine the assumptions, rationale, findings, or other bases for the final decision, per Sections 1769(a)(1)(C) and 1769(a)(1)(D). As discussed above, the modification does not have the potential to create any significant impacts on the environment and makes the project consistent with all applicable LORS, per Sections 1769(a)(1)(E) and 1769(a)(1)(F). The modification will not adversely affect the public, per Section 1769(a)(1)(G). In addition, the modification will have no adverse effects on nearby property owners, per Sections 1769(a)(1)(H) and 1769(a)(1)(I).

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact George Davies, Turlock Irrigation District Combustion Turbine Department Manager at (209) 883-3451or me at 916-447-2166.

Sincerely,

ELLISON, SCHNEIDER & HARRIS L.L.P.

Jeffery D. Harris

Attorneys for Walnut Energy Center Authority

Attachment

cc: Jack Caswell, CEC with Attachment











