

CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION

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

**DOCKET****09-AFC-4**DATE 12/21/10

December 21, 2010

RECD. 12/21/10

TO: MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

**NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF A
PRELIMINARY STAFF ASSESSMENT – PART A
FOR THE PROPOSED OAKLEY GENERATING STATION PROJECT
(09-AFC-4)**

This notice is to inform you of the availability of the Preliminary Staff Assessment – Part A (PSA – Part A) for the Oakley Generating Station (OGS) project, Application for Certification (09-AFC-4). The PSA was published on **December 20, 2010**.

Purpose of Preliminary Staff Assessment

This Preliminary Staff Assessment (PSA) contains the California Energy Commission staff's independent evaluation of the proposed Oakley Generating Station (OGS) project, Application for Certification (09-AFC-4). The PSA is being published in two parts. PSA – Part B is anticipated to be published in January 2011. A complete PSA examines engineering, environmental, public health and safety aspects of the OGS project. Because the PSA is being published in two parts, not all sections typical of a PSA are being published at this time. PSA – Part A contains staff's environmental and engineering evaluation of the OGS project in the following technical sections: **Cultural Resources, Noise and Vibration, Public Health, Transmission Line Safety and Nuisance, Visual Resources, Waste Management, Worker Safety, Facility Design, Geology and Paleontology, Power Plant Efficiency, and Power Plant Reliability**. PSA – Part B will contain staff's environmental and engineering evaluation of the OGS project for the balance of remaining technical sections: **Alternatives, Air Quality, Biological Resources, Land Use, Socioeconomic Resources, Soil and Water Resources, Traffic and Transportation, and Transmission System Engineering**. The PSA contains analyses similar to those normally contained in an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) required by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). When issuing a license, the Energy Commission is the lead agency under CEQA, and its process is functionally equivalent to the preparation of an EIR.

The Energy Commission staff has the responsibility to complete an independent assessment of the project's engineering design and its potential effects on the environment, the public's health and safety, and whether the project conforms to all applicable laws, ordinances, regulations and standards (LORS). The staff also recommends measures to mitigate potential significant adverse environmental effects and proposes conditions of certification for construction, operation and eventual closure of the project, if approved by the Energy Commission. The PSA is not the decision document for these proceedings nor does it contain findings of the Energy Commission related to environmental impacts or the project's compliance with local, state, and federal legal requirements. The PSA will be superseded by staff's Final Staff Assessment (FSA), which

will serve as staff's official sworn testimony in evidentiary hearings to be held by an assigned Committee of two Energy Commissioners and a Hearing Officer. After evidentiary hearings, the Committee will consider the recommendations presented by staff, the applicant, all parties, government agencies, and the public – all contributors that comprise the official record of this proceeding – prior to issuing a Presiding Member's Proposed Decision (PMPD). Following a public hearing, the full five-member Energy Commission will render its final decision.

Public Comments

The California Energy Commission encourages public participation in the review of the Oakley Generating Station Project Application for Certification (09-AFC-4). The public comment period for this PSA – Part A is from Monday, December 20, 2010 to Wednesday, January 19, 2011. **Written comments on the PSA – Part A should be provided to Pierre Martinez, Siting Project Manager, no later than 5:00 p.m., Wednesday, January 19, 2011 at the address on this letterhead (please add “MS-15”) or by email to pmartine@energy.state.ca.us. Technical or project schedule questions should be directed to Pierre Martinez at (916) 651-3765 or by email.**

Staff anticipates publishing a PSA – Part B in January 2011 and will provide an additional 30-day public comment period. A public workshop is anticipated some time in January 2011 to provide the public, agencies, and other interested parties to present questions or comments on the PSA – Part A and B. A separate notice on the workshop will be provided at a future date.

Summary of the Proposed Oakley Generating Station Project

The Oakley Generating Station project is proposed as a natural gas-fired, combined-cycle facility with a nominal generating capacity of 624-megawatts (MW). The facility will be designed as a base-load facility with the added capabilities of rapid startup, high turndown capability (i.e. ability to turn down to a low load), and high ramp rates.

The proposed project site is located in the city of Oakley, eastern Contra Costa County, at 6000 Bridgehead Road, northeast of the junction of State Route 4 and State Route 160. This site is at the western city limits of Oakley and adjacent to the eastern city limits of Antioch. The project is located on a 21.95-acre site that is part of a larger 210-acre property owned by E.I. du Pont de Nemours and Company (DuPont).

The majority of the project site is currently used as a vineyard as this portion of the DuPont property was never developed for industrial purposes. A small wetland area is located at the northwestern corner of the site.

Primary equipment for the generating facility will include:

- Two General Electric (GE) Frame 7FA combustion turbine generators (CTGs)
- One single condensing GE D11 steam turbine generator

- Two unfired heat recovery steam generators (HRSGs)
- One auxiliary boiler
- One air-cooled condenser (dry-cooled technology)
- One evaporative fluid cooler
- One diesel powered fire pump, and other associated equipment.

Power will be transmitted to the regional electrical grid through a 230-kV connection to PG&E's Contra Costa Substation, located 2.4-miles to the southwest of the OGS. The project will replace the existing 60-kV line, located within an existing 80-foot-wide PG&E easement, with a 230-kV line.

Construction laydown and parking areas will be located on a 20-acre parcel east of the plant site on DuPont property.

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.

Public Participation

Please direct your technical or project schedule questions to Pierre Martinez, Energy Commission Project Manager, at (916) 651-3765 or by email at pmartine@energy.state.ca.us.

The status of the project, an electronic copy of the PSA – Part A, copies of notices, and other relevant documents are available on the Energy Commission's web site at: <http://www.energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/oakley>.

You can also subscribe to receive e-mail notification of all notices and announcements at: <http://www.energy.ca.gov/listservers>. By being on this e-mail list, you will receive all project-related notices and documents pertaining to the project's evaluation and review.

If you have any questions related to the automatic e-mail notification list, please contact Maria Santourdjian, Siting Project Assistant, at (916) 651-9410, or by e-mail at msergoya@energy.state.ca.us.

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The PSA – Part A will be available for review at the following local libraries:

Antioch Library
501 W. 18th Street
Antioch, CA

Pittsburg Library
80 Power Avenue
Pittsburg, CA

Oakley Library / Freedom High
1050 Neroly Road
Oakley, CA

Copies are also available at the Energy Commission's Library in Sacramento, the California State Library in Sacramento, and at public libraries in Eureka, San Francisco, Fresno, 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 PSA – Part A, please fill out the enclosed form and return it to California Energy Commission, Attention: Maria Santourdijan, Siting Project Assistant, at (916) 651-9410, or by e-mail at msergoya@energy.state.ca.us.

Sincerely,

Date: _____

ROGER JOHNSON, Siting Office Manager
Siting, Transmission and Environmental
Protection Division

Enclosure
Mailed to lists:
7285 - General
7286 - Property Owners

Please send me a paper copy / CD (circle one) of the California Energy Commission's Preliminary Staff Assessment – Part A for the Oakley Generating Station Project Application for Certification (09-AFC-4).

Name:

Address:

City/State/Zip:

FOLD HERE

California Energy Commission
Attention: Maria Santourdijan
1516 Ninth Street, MS-15
Sacramento, CA 95814-5512

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Staple or Tape closed.



**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 *OAKLEY GENERATING STATION***

**Docket No. 09-AFC-4
PROOF OF SERVICE
(Revised 8/13/2010)**

APPLICANT

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DECLARATION OF SERVICE

I, Maria Santourdjian, declare that on December 21, 2010, I served and filed copies of the attached Notice of Availability of a Preliminary Staff Assessment Part A. 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: [\[http://www.energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/contracosta/index.html\]](http://www.energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/contracosta/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;
- ☒ by delivering on this date, for mailing with the United States Postal Service with first-class postage thereon fully prepaid, to the name and address of the person served, for mailing that same day in the ordinary course of business; that the envelope was sealed and placed for collection and mailing on that date 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. 09-AFC-4
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, that I am employed in the county where this mailing occurred, and that I am over the age of 18 years and not a party to the proceeding.

Originally Signed by
Maria Santourdjian