

DOCKET 79-AFC-40
DATE JAN 27 2012
RECD. FEB 06 2012

From: Shahab Khoshmashrab
To: Will Evans
CC: Stephen Mitchell
Date: 1/27/2012 3:47 PM
Subject: Re: Noise Standards in Lake County

Thank you Will, this is what I was expecting to hear. We have taken the steps you mentioned below and have resolved the complaint to the satisfaction of the complainant. Even though the project exceeds the county's threshold at the power plant property line, the plant is in compliance with the threshold at the complainant's home.

Shahab Khoshmashrab
Senior Mechanical Engineer
California Energy Commission

>>> Will Evans <Will.Evans@lakecountyca.gov> 1/27/2012 2:39 PM >>>

Shahab,

I had a message from you forwarded to me regarding how the Lake County Community Development Department enforces its noise standards on geothermal power plants. More specifically, you brought to our attention a case where a resident near a power plant called your office complaining about noise. After investigation, you indicated that the power plant complied with noise standards at the residence, but not at the property line as called for in the zoning ordinance.

It is often difficult to enforce noise standards objectively because annoying noises are highly subjective. Most often in a case like this, we would work with both parties involved to develop a solution to the noise problem. We would try to determine the source of the noise and ask the power plant operator to mitigate the noise in a manner that was consistent with the neighbor's need for peace and quiet. We would follow up with the plant operator to see what changes were made and stay in touch with the complainant to ensure that the problem was resolved.

We deal with non-compliance with noise standards by responding to complaints. If a project exceeds the noise standards in the zoning ordinance, but the local property owners aren't disturbed by it, then we generally don't take action.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks,
Will

William H. Evans
Resource Planner
Lake County Community Development Department
255 N. Forbes Street
Lakeport, CA 95453
707-263-2221
Will.Evans@lakecountyca.gov