California Energy Commission
DOCKETED
11-AFC-3
TN # 68271

OCT. 30 2012

October 30, 2012

Quail Brush Genco, LLC Ms. Lori Ziebart Project Manager 9405 Arrowpoint Boulevard Charlotte, NC 28273

Regarding: QUAIL BRUSH GENERATION PROJECT (11-AFC-3), Dorian Houser's (Intervenor) Data Requests, 36 through 40.

Pursuant to Title 20, California Code of Regulations, section 1716, I request information for the items in the enclosed data requests. The information is requested in order to 1) adequately evaluate the impacts of the proposed project on the environment and 2) determine if the analyses were performed consistent with standard practices and guidelines. These data requests are made in the area of Noise.

If you are unable to provide the requested information, or object to providing the information, please send notification me and the Committee within 20 days receipt of this notice. Please provide reasons or justifications for not providing the information.

Please contact me at dhouser@cox.net or 619-889-5170 should you have questions regarding the enclosed data request.

Sincerely,

Dorian S. Houser, Ph.D.

Dorian S. House

Noise

Background: On August 30, 2012 the Applicant offered a re-design of the proposed project with a rearrangement of the stacks (Applicant's Supplement to the AFC, dated August 30, 2012). It is unclear from the information provided how the acoustic modeling was performed to address the rearrangement of the stacks, i.e. with one stack operational or all stacks operational. The influence of multiple stacks operating concurrently with other noise producing equipment cannot be ascertained and the incremental increase in noise progressing from the operation of a single stack to multiple stacks is not reported. This information is reasonably required to allow the acoustic modeling to be evaluated.

Data Request 36: Please provide a noise map for one stack operating concurrently with all other (non-stack) noise producing equipment. Please provide a subsequent noise map with all stacks operating concurrently with other noise producing equipment.

Background: On October 19, at the CEC Staff Workshop, Dr. Dorian Houser (Intervenor) asked the Applicant if the Datakustik GMBH CadnaA software (version 4.2.141) was freely available to the public. The Applicant replied that it was available. The software is commercial but does offer a free evaluation version; however, the free evaluation version "falsifies" the calculations. Thus, the demonstration version of the software will not allow the intervenors or any other interested party to evaluate the acoustic modeling as performed without payment for use of the software. Intervenor access to the acoustic modeling approach is reasonably required to enable independent evaluation of the acoustic modeling.

Data Request 37: Please provide a modeling interface that allows the acoustic model to be duplicated. Please provide all input data utilized for modeling purposes.

Background: The output of the Datakustik model does not provide error predictions. Acoustic models, as with all predictive models, are incapable of faithfully replicating all real world conditions that affect the modeling outcome. As such, error estimates are typically incorporated in order to enable the confidence of the measurement to be ascertained. For the purpose of the noise modeling provided here, such estimates are reasonably required to evaluate the accuracy of the noise predictions.

Data Request 38: Please provide error estimates (e.g. standard deviations) for all predicted noise levels at each of the monitoring sites as well as within the noise maps.

Background: Model validation is important to accepting model predictions for any predictive model. No references to model validation of the Datakustik model are provided in the AFC or its supplements. For the purpose of the noise modeling provided here, model validation is reasonably required to evaluate the accuracy of the noise predictions.

Data Request 39: Please provide documentation on the validation of the Datakustik model. Please strive for peer-reviewed validation (i.e. attempt to avoid conference presentations and in-house reports).

Background: Much of the reference information for sound power levels is only partially referenced, impeding independent evaluation of sound power levels for each piece of equipment that will contribute to noise generation. Information on sound power levels is reasonably required for evaluation of the acoustic modeling of the operational facility.

Data Request 40: Please provide references for sound power levels or source levels for all noise generators included in the acoustic model.



BEFORE THE ENERGY RESOURCES CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

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APPLICATION FOR CERTIFICATION FOR THE QUAIL BRUSH GENERATION PROJECT

DOCKET NO. 11-AFC-03 PROOF OF SERVICE (Revised 10/29/2012)

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DECLARATION OF SERVICE

I, Dorian S. Houser, declare that on October 30, 2012, I served and filed a copy of the QUAIL BRUSH GENERATION PROJECT (11-AFC-3), Dorian Houser's (Intervenor) Data Requests, 36 through 40, dated October 30, 2012. This document is accompanied by the most recent Proof of Service list, located on the web page for this project at: http://www.energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/quailbrush/index.html.

The document has been sent to the other parties in this proceeding (as shown on the Proof of Service list) and to the Commission's Docket Unit or Chief Counsel, as appropriate, in the following manner:

(Check all that Apply)

-	
For ser	vice to all other parties:
<u>X</u>	Served electronically to all e-mail addresses on the Proof of Service list;
	Served by delivering on this date, either personally, or for mailing with the U.S. 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 "e-mail preferred."
AND	
For filir	ng with the Docket Unit at the Energy Commission:
X	by sending an electronic copy to the e-mail address below (preferred method); OR
	by depositing an original and 12 paper copies in the mail with the U.S. Postal Service with first class postage thereon fully prepaid, as follows:
	CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION – DOCKET UNIT Attn: Docket No. 11-AFC-03 1516 Ninth Street, MS-4 Sacramento, CA 95814-5512 docket@energy.ca.gov
OR, if t	iling a Petition for Reconsideration of Decision or Order pursuant to Title 20, § 1720:
	Served by delivering on this date one electronic copy by e-mail, and an original paper copy to the Chief Counsel at the following address, either personally, or for mailing with the U.S. Postal Service with first class postage thereon fully prepaid:
	California Energy Commission Michael J. Levy, Chief Counsel 1516 Ninth Street MS-14 Sacramento, CA 95814 michael.levy@energy.ca.gov

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct.

Donin S. House