

To whom it may concern,

I am merely a concerned citizen that would prefer to remain unnamed that researched local energy projects in this community for a school project.

I located some evidence of concern relating to the documents that I have provided specifically within the 3. Fire Protection section.

Without these trained firefighters, we have been relying on volunteer firefighters. I am concerned as to their availability and ability if and when something should occur that may affect our entire small city.

That began the thought process of our excessive city tax probably assisting in the payment of high cost insurance to this site and many like it.

Respectfully,

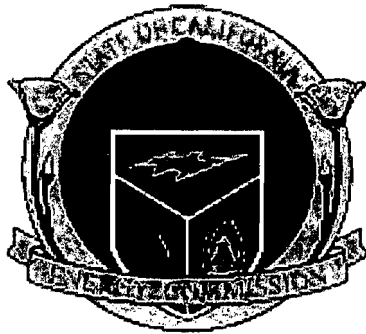
Concerned Citizen in Blythe, CA

COMMISSION DECISION

APPLICATION FOR CERTIFICATION

BLYTHE ***ENERGY PROJECT***

Docket No 99-AFC-8



MARCH 2001

CALIFORNIA
ENERGY
COMMISSION

Gray Davis, *Governor*

P 800-01-010

state and federal law. (Ex. 53, p. 483.) Separate Injury and Illness Prevention Programs, Fire Protection and Prevention Plans, and Personal Protective Equipment Programs will also be prepared for both the construction and operation phases of the project. These comprehensive programs will contain more specific plans dealing with the site and linear facilities, such as the Emergency Action Plan, as well as additional programs under the General Industry Safety Orders, Electrical Safety Orders, and Unfired Pressure Vessel Safety Orders. (Ex. 53, pp. 480-483.) Conditions **Worker Safety-1** and **Worker Safety-2** require BEP to consult with Cal/OSHA and the City of Blythe to ensure that these programs will comply with applicable LORS.

3. Fire Protection

BEP will rely on both onsite fire protection systems and the Fire Department's fire protection and emergency response services. The proposed fire protection system at the site will be adequate for fighting incipient fires; fighting major structural fires will require the services of the Fire Department. The proposed fire protection system at the site includes fire alarms, detection systems, fire hydrants, and hose stations throughout the facility. Fixed fire suppression systems will be installed at determined fire risk areas, such as the transformers, turbine lubrication oil equipment, and cooling tower. The fire water system will be served directly from the raw water tank. The raw water tank is sized at approximately 600,000 gallons with approximately 150,000 gallons of reserved fire suppression capacity. The facility fire mains will also supply a vapor suppression system at the aqueous ammonia storage tank area. The system will be designed and operated in accordance with National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) standards and recommendations. Dedicated fire water supply will be designed in accordance with NFPA 850. Sprinkler systems will be installed in the Control/Administration Building and Fire Pump Building, as required by NFPA requirements. Hand-held fire extinguishers will be located throughout the facility in accordance with NFPA 10. (Ex. 53, pp. 478-479.)

Two fire stations, operated by the Riverside County Fire Department, are located near the site. Fire Station No. 45 is the closest station to the Blythe Energy Project site. The address is 17280 Hobsonway, about one mile west of the property. The second fire station, Station No. 43, is located in the City of Blythe at 140 West Barnard Street about five miles east of the project property.

Station No. 45 is composed of two fire engines with one used by full-time staff at the station and one used as backup for volunteer firefighters based around the City of Blythe. This fire station is staffed by two full-time trained firefighters. Additionally, they have 15 to 20 volunteer firefighters that can be called in for emergency situations. Response time to the site would be within 3 to 5 minutes. This fire station also provides fire-fighting support to the Blythe Airport.

Riverside County Fire Department Station No. 43 has two full-time trained firefighters. Additionally, they have 15 to 20 volunteer firefighters that can be called in for emergency situations. The fire fighting equipment located at this station consists of two fire engines, one water tender, and a squad vehicle. Estimated response time to the Blythe Energy Project site is 5 to 7 minutes.

The Blythe Fire Department will provide fire protection to the area in coordination with Riverside County Fire Department through an automatic aid agreement. An automatic aid agreement is when both fire departments are dispatched automatically when a call is received. The automatic aid agreement was recently modified as a condition of approval to the State Filing of Annexation No. 50 to include the proposed site for the BEP. The Blythe Fire Department is located at 201 North Commercial Street, approximately 5 miles east of the site. This fire department is based on 33 trained volunteer firefighters and one full-time fire marshal. Fire fighting equipment consists of four fire engines, one 50-foot ladder truck, one squad truck, and one quick response vehicle. Response time of the Blythe Fire Department to the project site is estimated to range from about 10 to 15 minutes.

All full-time Riverside County Fire Department personnel are HAZ MAT First Responder Operational qualified. First responders at the operations level are individuals who respond to releases or potential releases of hazardous substances as part of the initial response to the site for the purpose of protecting nearby persons, property or the environment from the effects of the release (29 CFR/1910.120). In the event of a sustained hazardous materials release, the Hazardous Materials Response Team (HIT Unit) of Riverside County Fire Department would provide response support. The HIT Unit is located in Beaumont, California (Riverside County Fire Department No. 20). Response time is approximately two hours to the site. (Ex. 53, pp476-477.) See, **Worker Safety And Fire Protection Table 1**, below, replicated from Exhibit 53, page 477, which provides an outline of the response time, equipment and personnel at each station.

**WORKER SAFETY AND FIRE PROTECTION Table 1
Fire Station/Fire Protection Capabilities**

| Station | Response time | Equipment | Number of Firefighters |
|--|------------------------------|---|---|
| Station No. 45 17280 Hobsonway Blythe, CA (Riverside County Fire Department) | Approximately 3 to 5 minutes | 2 — Type 1 Engine 1 — Type 4, Squad Vehicle | 2 trained firefighters 15 to 20 volunteer firefighters |
| Station No. 43 140 West Barnard St. Blythe, CA (Riverside County Fire Department) | Approximately 5 to 7 minutes | 2 — Type 1 Engine 1 — Water Tender 1 — Type 4, Squad Vehicle | 2 trained firefighters 15 to 20 volunteer firefighters |
| Blythe Fire Department 201 North Commercial St. Blythe, CA (City of Blythe Fire Department) | Approximately 10-15 minutes | 1 — 50-foot ladder truck 4 — Fire Truck 1 — Squad Vehicle 1 — Quick Response Vehicle | 33 - Trained volunteer firefighters 1- Fire Marshal |

Equipment types are defined as follows:

- The Fire Engine (Type 1) is a primary response unit. It has a 500 gallon water tank, a minimum of 1,000 gallon per minute (gpm) pump, and 2,400 feet of hose. This apparatus also has Basic Life Support (BLS) medical treatment capabilities.
- Fire Trucks are also primary response units, and have a 500-gallon water tank, a 1,250-gpm pump, 1,000 feet of hose and an aerial ladder with stream capability of 1000 gpm.
- Water Tender has a 1,250-gallon water supply, a 500-gpm pump.

- Type 4 squad is a four-wheel drive vehicle used for brush fire or watershed patrol. (Ex. 53, p.478.)

The City of Blythe is reviewing the AFC and will perform a needs assessment to evaluate and address fire service capabilities to the project. Condition **WORKER SAFETY-4** will ensure that BEP s contribution to project-specific impacts to the City of Blythe s fire protection and emergency service capabilities are adequately mitigated. (Ex. 53, p. 479.)

Condition **WORKER SAFETY-5** will ensure that hazardous materials incident response including response time, available equipment and training, is adequately mitigated. (Ex. 53, p. 479.)

The applicant will be required to provide final diagrams and plans to staff and to the City of Blythe, prior to construction and operation of the project, to confirm the adequacy of the proposed fire protection measures. All Fire Department access roads, water mains, and fire hydrants shall be installed and operational during construction in accordance with Article 87 of the Fire Code. A final inspection by the City of Blythe will be required to confirm that the facility meets all the Fire and Building Code requirements. (Ex. 53, p. 479.)

COMMISSION DISCUSSION

Implementation of the proposed Construction Safety and Health Plan and the proposed Operation Safety and Health Plan will ensure compliance with applicable LORS relating to industrial workers and will reduce potential impacts to insignificant levels. The Conditions require the project owner to submit its plans to Cal/OSHA, the City of Blythe, and the Commission for review. Cal/OSHA will monitor implementation of the plans, as necessary.

The evidentiary record documents continued negotiations between Applicant and the Fire Department to ascertain fees and other mitigation measures necessary to provide adequate fire protection and emergency response service. Applicant is required to provide a final agreement on these matters prior to the start of any excavation activities. We believe this requirement ensures that appropriate measures will be implemented to provide emergency services to the project.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

Based on the evidence of record, the Commission makes the following findings and conclusions:

1. Industrial workers are exposed to potential health and safety hazards on a daily basis.
2. To protect workers from job-related injuries and illnesses, the project owner will implement comprehensive Safety and Health Programs for both the construction and operation phases of the project, including an accident/injury prevention program, a personal protective equipment program, an emergency action plan, a fire protection and prevention plan, and other general safety procedures.
3. The project will rely on local fire protection services and onsite fire protection systems that will be approved by the City of Blythe.
4. The Riverside County Fire Department has 2 fire stations within 7 minutes response time to the project site and the City of Blythe has 1 fire station within 15 minutes response time to the project site.
5. HAZMAT first response can be provided by all Riverside County Fire Department Personnel and in the event of a sustained HAZMAT release, response will be made by Riverside County Fire Department No. 20 in Beaumont, California, which has a response time of approximately two hours.
6. Existing fire and emergency service resources will be adequate to meet project needs with the completion of negotiations between BEP and the City of Blythe to ascertain the fees and measures necessary to ensure adequate fire protection and emergency services.

7. With the agreement between BEP and the City of Blythe regarding appropriate mitigation, impacts to fire protection and emergency services will be insignificant.
8. Implementation of the Conditions of Certification, below, will ensure that the project conforms with all applicable laws, ordinances, regulations, and standards on industrial worker health and safety as identified in the pertinent portions of APPENDIX A of this Decision.

The Commission therefore concludes that implementation of Applicant's Safety and Health Programs and Fire Protection measures will reduce potential adverse impacts on the health and safety of industrial workers to levels of insignificance.

CONDITIONS OF CERTIFICATION

WORKER SAFETY-1 The project owner shall submit to the CPM a copy of the Project Construction Safety and Health Program, containing the following:

- A Construction Injury and Illness Prevention Program
- A Construction Fire Protection and Prevention Plan
- A Personal Protective Equipment Program

Protocol: The Construction Injury and Illness Prevention Program and the Personal Protective Equipment Program shall be submitted to the California Department of Industrial Relations, Division of Occupational Safety and Health (Cal/OSHA) Consultation Service, for review and comment concerning compliance of the program with all applicable Safety Orders.

The Construction Fire Protection and Prevention Plan shall be submitted to the City of Blythe for review and acceptance.

Verification: At least Thirty (30) days prior to the start of construction, or a date agreed to by the CPM, the project owner shall submit to the CPM a copy of the Project Construction Safety and Health Program and the Personal Protective Equipment Program, with a copy of the cover letter transmittal of the programs to Cal/OSHA Consultation Services. The project owner shall provide a letter from the City of Blythe stating that they have reviewed and accepted the Construction Fire Protection and Prevention Plan.

WORKER SAFETY-2 The project owner shall submit to the CPM a copy of the Project Operation Safety and Health Program containing the following:

- an operation Injury and Illness Prevention Plan
- an emergency Action Plan

- an operation Fire Protection Plan
- a personal Protective Equipment Program

Protocol: The Operation Injury and Illness Prevention Plan, Emergency Action Plan, and Personal Protective Equipment Program shall be submitted to the California Department of Industrial Relations, Division of Occupational Safety and Health (Cal/OSHA) Consultation Service, for review and comment concerning compliance of the program with all applicable Safety Orders.

The Operation Fire Protection Plan and the Emergency Action Plan shall be submitted to the City of Blythe for review and acceptance.

Verification: At least Thirty (30) days prior to the start of operation, the project owner shall submit to the CPM a copy of the final version of the Project Operation Safety & Health Program. It shall incorporate Cal/OSHA's Consultation Service comments, stating that they have reviewed and accepted the specified elements of the proposed Operation Safety and Health Plan.

The project owner shall notify the CPM that the Project Operation Safety and Health Program (Injury and Illness Prevention Plan, Fire Protection Plan, the Emergency Action Plan, and Personal Protective Equipment requirements), including all records and files on accidents and incidents, is present on-site and available for inspection.

WORKER SAFETY-3 The project owner shall submit automatic fire extinguishing system plans, fire alarm system plans, and detailed architectural plan(s) to the City of Blythe for review and approval before beginning construction.

Verification: At least Thirty (30) days prior to the erection of building structures, or a date agreed to by the CPM, the project owner shall submit to the CPM a letter from the City of Blythe stating that they have received, reviewed and approved the automatic fire extinguishing system plans, fire system alarm plans, and construction plans.

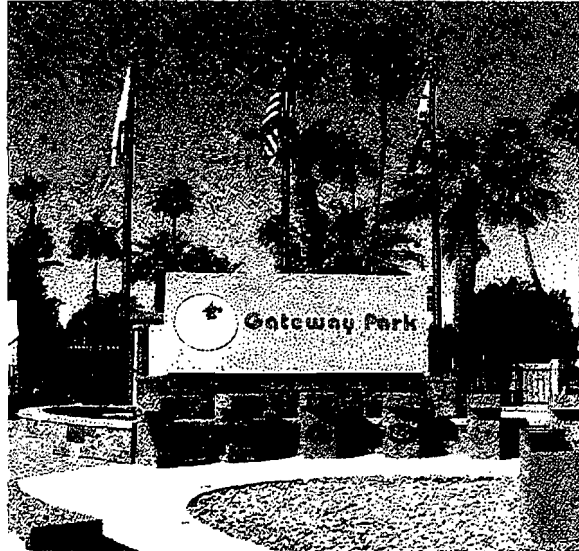
WORKER SAFETY-4 Prior to erection of structures that pose a fire hazard at the project site, the project owner shall reach an agreement with the City of Blythe on the amount of fees and timing of payment (or other agreed to method) the project owner will provide to cover project-specific impacts associated with fire protection services to the project.

Verification: Not later than Thirty (30) days prior to erection of structures, the project owner shall provide the CPM with a copy of an agreement between the City of Blythe and the project owner for funding for project-specific impacts associated with fire protection.

WORKER SAFETY-5 Prior to the delivery of ammonia and natural gas to the site, the project owner shall enter into an agreement with the City of Blythe to provide adequate fire protection services and hazardous materials incident response for incidents involving ammonia and natural gas.

Verification: Thirty (30) days prior to the delivery of ammonia or natural gas to the site, the project owner shall provide the CPM with a copy of an agreement with the City of Blythe and the project owner for funding (or other agreed to method) to address project-specific impacts associated with hazardous materials response.

BLYTHE CITY COUNCIL
BLYTHE REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY



AGENDA

JUNE 14, 2011

6:00 P.M.

Joseph DeConinck, Mayor
Carie Covell, Vice Mayor
Richard Contreras, Councilman
Oscar Galvan, Councilman
Sam Patel, Councilman
David Lane, City Manager
Mallory Sutterfield, City Clerk

MEETINGS ARE HELD IN THE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBER, 235 NORTH BROADWAY, BLYTHE, CA

7. **Adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Mesa Bluffs Development Sewer Improvement Project.**

Recommendation by the City Planner: Council Adopt Resolution 2011-019 approving the Mitigated Negative Declaration and Mitigation, Monitoring and Reporting Plan prepared for the Mesa Bluffs Development Sewer Improvement Project.

RESOLUTION NO. 2011-019. A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BLYTHE CONTAINING FINDINGS IN SUPPORT OF APPROVAL OF A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION AND MITIGATION MONITORING AND REPORTING PLAN FOR MESA BLUFFS DEVELOPMENT SEWER IMPROVEMENT PROJECT.

8. **Agreement between the City of Blythe and Riverside County EDA for Roberti Z Berg match grant funds.**

Recommendation by the ED Specialist: Council approve an Agreement from Riverside County EDA to supply the \$213,000 required match funds for the Roberti Z Berg California State Parks Grant for Quechan Park Improvements.

9. **Cancellation of Riverside County Fire Service Agreements for services within various Annexed Areas.**

Recommendation by the City Manager: Due to the closure of County Fire Station 43 Council Terminate Agreements for Services in City of Blythe Annexed areas 45, 46, 43 and 50.

10. **Agreement between the City of Blythe and Fisher Wireless for a Maintenance Contract to service radio equipment.**

Recommendation by the Chief of Police: Approve an Agreement between the City of Blythe and Fisher Wireless to service Police Department Radio Equipment in the amount of \$5,304 per year.

Mayor DeConinck asked to pull item #7 due to a possible conflict interest. Councilman Galvan asked to pull item #9 for discussion.

No public comment. Councilman Contreras made a motion to approve Consent Calendar items 1-6, 8 and 10. The motion was seconded by Vice Mayor Covell with a unanimous aye vote.

Cancellation of Riverside County Fire Services Agreements for Services within various Annexed Areas. Councilman Galvan stated that people think it's the City that is closing the Fire Station, when it is the County who is making the decision. He wanted to clarify that for the public. Mayor DeConinck stated that the County will be adding personnel at the Airport and Ripley Fire Stations. Mutual aid will still be in place, with hopefully plenty of coverage. We have a great Volunteer Fire Department and they will make it happen.

No Public Comment. Vice Mayor Covell made a motion to accept staff's recommendation. The motion was seconded by Councilman Galvan with a unanimous aye vote.

Adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Mesa Bluffs Development Sewer Improvement Project. Mayor DeConinck excused himself from the meeting due to a conflict of interest.

No Public Comment. Councilman Contreras made a motion to accept staff's recommendation. The motion was seconded by Councilman Galvan with a unanimous aye vote.

PUBLIC HEARING

Neighbours RV Park and Commercial Center GPA 2011-01, ZC 2011-0 and PP 2011-01. Planner Burrow reported the project includes a Zone Change, General Plan Amendment and Site Plan