

# **PALOMAR ENERGY CENTER (01-AFC-24C)**

## **Petition to Modify the California Energy Commission Air Quality Conditions of Certification to Install and Operate Emergency Engine**

CPM: DALE RUNDQUIST  
NOVEMBER 10, 2010 SITING COMMITTEE MEETING  
DECEMBER 15, 2010 BUSINESS MEETING

### **BACKGROUND**

---

- 500 MW natural-gas fired combined-cycle power plant in the city of Escondido in San Diego County.
- Owned and operated by San Diego Gas and Electric Company.
- Certified August 6, 2003.
- Operational since April 1, 2006.

### **SUMMARY OF PETITION**

---

- The amendment would allow SDG&E to install and operate one 1,945 brake horsepower (bhp) emergency-use internal combustion engine (ICE) at Palomar Energy Center.
- The engine will be fired exclusively on pipeline quality natural gas fuel and drive a 1,400 kilowatt (kW) electrical generator.
- This emergency-use device will be a critical service engine, meant to keep certain plant systems in a ready mode when electricity is unavailable from the SDG&E power grid.
- The SDAPCD issued an approval of this application on May 11, 2010.

### **STAFF ANALYSIS**

---

- The emergency engine is necessary to protect critical equipment from being damaged during extended transmission outages.
- The minute increase of approximately 0.12 tons/year of NO<sub>x</sub> from the emergency engine would be fully mitigated by the original ERC's provided and the overall plant emission limits would not change.
- With the added Conditions of Certification (attached), the project would continue to comply with all applicable laws, ordinances, regulations and standards (LORS).

## **PUBLIC PROCESS**

---

- Petition to modify project filed on April 27, 2010 and docketed on May 25, 2010.
- Notice of Receipt mailed to the post-certification mailing list and affected public agencies October 12, 2010, posted to the Energy Commission Website, and docketed.
- Staff analysis mailed to interested parties, docketed, and posted to CEC Website October 26, 2010.
- No comments were received.
- The San Diego Air Pollution Control District (SDAPCD) released an Authority to Construct (ATC) on May 11, 2010 to allow installation of this unit.

## **FINDINGS**

---

- The petition meets all the filing criteria of Section 1769(a) concerning post-certification project modifications.
- The modification will not change the findings in the Energy Commission's Final Decision pursuant to Section 1755.
- The project will remain in compliance with all applicable laws, ordinances, regulations, and standards, subject to the provisions of Public Resources Code section 25525;
- The Palomar Energy Center is a North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) Critical Asset necessary for transmission system restoration and provides power to the San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station (SONGS) in the event of a system outage.
- The critical services engine would provide backup power to lube oil pumps, turning gear motors, fire pumps, cooling water pumps, generator hydrogen seal oil pumps, etc. so that the plant could be restarted once power is restored.
- The addition of this critical services engine is the simplest and most effective way to prepare the plant for an extended shutdown due to loss of the transmission system.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

---

- Staff recommends approval of the amendment to add the conditions of certification to allow the installation and operation of the 1,945 brake horsepower (bhp) emergency-use internal combustion engine (ICE).