

BLYTHER ENERGY PROJECT PHASE II (02-AFC-1C)

Good morning Commissioners, my name is Mary Dyas and I am the Compliance Project Manager for the Blythe Energy Project Phase II. With me this morning is Senior Staff Counsel Kevin Bell.

The Blythe Energy Project Phase II is a 569-megawatt combined-cycle project that was certified by the Energy Commission in December 2005, but has not been built yet. The Blythe II facility will be located approximately five miles west of the city of Blythe. The project site is located on an approximately 76 acres immediately adjacent to the operational Blythe Energy Project.

In 2012, Caithness Blythe II, LLC, received a five-year extension of the Deadline for the Start of Construction, from December 14, 2011 to December 14, 2016.

Ownership of the project changed in 2014, from Caithness Blythe II, LLC to AltaGas Sonoran Energy Inc.

On July 15, 2015, AltaGas Sonoran Energy Inc. submitted a petition to modify the Commission Decision for the Blythe Energy Project Phase II. The petition seeks to:

- Rename the project from Blythe Energy Project Phase II to Sonoran Energy Project;
- Define a new point of interconnection;
- Replace the two 190 MW Siemens SGT6-5000F combustion turbines with a single, more efficient, 333 MW General Electric Frame 7HA.02 combustion turbine;
- Replace the 208 MW Siemens steam turbine generator with a more efficient 220 MW single-shaft General Electric D652 steam turbine generator;
- Increase the size of the auxiliary boiler to support General Electric's rapid response fast start capability;
- Decrease the size of cooling tower from an 11-cell to a 10-cell tower in response to the reduced heat rejection requirements;
- Decrease the size of the emergency diesel fire pump engine; and
- Optimize the general arrangement.

The proposed changes to the project site as certified by the Commission in 2005 and modified in 2012 will be substantial, but will not change the boundary of the site. Staff will need to determine if the proposed changes will result in adverse environmental impacts that would be different than those analyzed in the original proceeding and subsequent amendment.

Staff is requesting assignment of a committee to best accommodate public participation in this amendment proceeding.