

Docket Number 06-SPPE-2
First Round Data Requests
El Centro Unit 3 Repower Project
July 2006

DATA REQUEST #9
NOISE

BACKGROUND

In predicting noise impacts from project operation on sensitive receptors, the Application displays calculated noise levels at the four project property lines, and at the "closest residence," located to the west of the project (Application, Table 6.7-7). This residence is described elsewhere (Application, § 6.7.2.2, p. 6.7-7) as LT-1, which is approximately 2,600 feet from the project. The Application further describes a residence, named ST-1, located approximately 2,300 feet to the northeast of the project (Application, § 6.7.2.2, p. 6.7-6).

Staff believes that project noise impacts on the residence at ST-1 may be significantly greater than those on LT-1 because 1) ST-1 is nearer the project than LT-1, and 2) project noise at the west property line (nearest the residence at LT-1) is calculated at 55 dBA, and at the north property line (nearest the residence at ST-1) at 68 dBA (Application, Table 6.7-7), more than twice as loud. In order to evaluate worst case noise impacts on nearby residences, staff must know the calculated project noise level at the residence ST-1.

DATA REQUEST

9. Please provide a calculation of expected noise levels from project operation at monitoring location ST-1, the residence at 2161 North Dogwood Road, expressed in terms of L_{eq} .

DATA RESPONSE

The calculated sound level from operation of the Project at location ST-1 is 48 dBA L_{eq} . This value is also presented in the SPPE Application on Figure 6.7-4, Calculated Noise Contours at Sensitive Receptors (see Attachment B). While staff is correct in summarizing the projected noise contours at the ECGS Site property line, one important fact that was not presented in staff's Background information is that the northern property line is located approximately 450 feet from the Unit 3 Repower Project Site. Whereas, the western property line is 1,350 feet from the Unit 3 Repower Project Site, some 900 feet further than the northern property line. This explains the reason for the higher ambient noise levels and from calculated noise levels as a result of the Project.

The Applicant also took two 15-minute noise measurements at location PL-2 (see Attachment C, Figure 6.7-1, Noise Measurement Locations), which is the northern property boundary, as presented in Section 6.7.2.2. These measurements were taken between 1:30 and 1:45 pm and between 12:45 and

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1:00 am. As discussed in the SPPE Application and also in Staff's Background information, the calculated noise measurement from the operation of the Unit 3

Repower Project is projected at 68 dBA at this location, which is a decrease of 1 dBA L_{eq} from the daytime measurement and an increase of 4 dBA L_{eq} from the nighttime measurement.

It is important to note that while IID owns the property north of East Villa Road, for noise measurement purposes, we selected East Villa Road as the "property boundary" given public access to the road.

**ATTACHMENT B
NOISE
CALCULATED NOISE CONTOURS AT SENSITIVE
RECEPTORS FIGURE**

ATTACHMENT C
NOISE
NOISE MEASUREMENT LOCATIONS FIGURE