



**CALIFORNIA  
ENERGY  
COMMISSION**

1516 Ninth Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
800-822-6228  
www.energy.ca.gov

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC  
INFORMATIONAL HEARING &  
SITE VISIT**

(FOR DOCKET USE)

EL CENTRO REPOWER PROJECT  
SMALL POWER PLANT EXEMPTION  
DOCKET NO. 06-SPPE-2

The California Energy Commission is the State agency granted exclusive authority to review and license proposals to construct and operate large electric power plants, including the authority to exempt proposals under 100 MW from our certification review. A proposal granted an exemption is subject to local permitting processes. Imperial Irrigation District (IID) has filed a proposal to repower the El Centro Unit 3 by replacing the existing boiler with a combustion turbine and heat recovery steam generator. The repower project will increase Unit 3 generating capacity from 44 megawatts to 128 megawatts. A Committee of the Commission will begin the exemption review process by conducting a Public Informational Hearing and Site Visit as described below.

**Purpose of Hearing:** The Informational Hearing and Site Visit are the initial steps of the Commission's public power plant exemption process, which contains requirements under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) to review all relevant environmental aspects of the proposed project.

At the Informational Hearing, members of the general public, neighboring landowners, and representatives of other governmental agencies will have an opportunity to obtain information and offer comments on the proposal. The Applicant will explain its plans for developing the proposed site and related facilities. The Energy Commission staff will explain the regulatory review process and staff's role as independent experts in analyzing the project. The Applicant and the staff will also discuss possible issues that may be significant during the remainder of the proceeding.

**Informational Hearing  
Date & Place:**

**Friday, August 4, 2006  
Beginning at 2:00 p.m.**

**Imperial Irrigation District, Bill Condit Auditorium  
1285 Broadway  
El Centro, CA 92243**



**Site Visit Date & Place:**

The Informational Hearing will be preceded by a tour of the proposed site. Persons intending to attend the Site Visit should gather at the parking lot at 1:00 p.m. The Applicant will provide transportation. Private vehicles are not allowed on the site, which is an operating power plant.

**Imperial Irrigation District, Bill Condit Auditorium  
1285 Broadway  
El Centro, CA 92243**

**Reservations Required  
by July 31, 2006**

Persons planning to attend the Site Visit should make a reservation for transportation with the Commission's Public Adviser at 916-654-4489 or toll free at 800-822-6228 or via e-mail [[pao@energy.state.ca.us](mailto:pao@energy.state.ca.us)] no later than Friday, July 31, 2006.

**Project Description:**

On May 19, 2006, the Imperial Irrigation District (IID) filed an application for a Small Power Plant Exemption (SPPE). IID is seeking an exemption from the California Energy Commission's licensing requirements. If an exemption is granted, IID would need to secure the appropriate licenses and permits for the project from various local, state and federal agencies.

Imperial Irrigation District (IID) proposes to replace an existing steam-generating unit within the site of the existing El Centro Generating Station (ECGS) located at 485 East Villa Road, El Centro in Imperial County, California. The El Centro Unit 3 Repower Project would be owned and operated by IID to serve the growing electrical load demands of the region.

The Unit 3 Repower Project will replace an existing boiler with a General Electric Frame 7EA dry low NOx combustion turbine generator and heat recovery steam generator to supply steam to the existing steam turbine generator. The generator output from the Unit 3 Repower Project will be stepped-up to transmission system voltage and interconnected to the existing IID El Centro Switching Station also located within the ECGS property. Most of the existing Unit 3 plant systems will continue to be used with only minor modifications. The Unit 3 Repower Project will increase the existing Unit 3 generating capacity by 84 MW from 44 MW to 128 MW.

The Unit 3 Repower Project will interconnect to the existing Southern California Gas Company high pressure gas metering station located on the existing ECGS property. Annual water consumption for the Unit 3 Repower Project is expected to be approximately 1,125 acre-feet. The existing ECGS uses raw water from IID's Dogwood surface canal Gate 54B for cooling tower make-up. These existing systems will be used to meet the expected water requirements for the proposed project. IID also proposes to eliminate the discharge from the entire ECGS and dispose of the wastewater to a deep injection well system located on the ECGS property, consisting of two Class I non-hazardous wastewater deep injection wells approximately 2,000 feet below ground surface.

**NEW COMBUSTION  
TURBINE,  
HEAT RECOVERY  
STEAM GENERATOR  
AND 100-ft STACK**



**More Information:**

In order to assist participants in understanding the project, the Commission Staff prepared and filed an **Issue Identification Report** on July 5, 2006, summarizing the potential major issues in the proceeding. Copies of this document may be obtained by calling the Commission's Project Manager, or through the Commission's Web Site at:

**[[www.energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/elcentro](http://www.energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/elcentro)]**

The environmental and engineering details of the proposed project are contained in the Small Power Plant Exemption (SPPE). Copies of the SPPE are available at El Centro Public Library, 539 State St., El Centro, CA; Calipatria Branch Library, Imperial County, 225 W. Main St., Calipatria, CA.

**Public Participation:**

**800-822-6228**  
(toll free in California)  
**916-654-4489**

Members of the public may participate in all phases of the licensing process in a variety of ways. If you need information concerning public participation, please contact Margret J. Kim, the Energy Commission's Public Adviser, at 916-654-4489 or, toll free in California, at 800-822-6228, or by e-mail at: [\[pao@energy.state.ca.us\]](mailto:pao@energy.state.ca.us).

Information concerning the status of the project, notices and other relevant documents are available on the Commission's Web Site at:

[\[www.energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/elcentro\]](http://www.energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/elcentro)

**Special Accommodation:**

If you have a disability and need assistance to participate in the Informational Hearing and/or Site Visit, please contact Lou Quiroz at least five (5) days before the hearing at 916-654-5146 or email at: [\[lquiroz@energy.state.ca.us\]](mailto:lquiroz@energy.state.ca.us).

**Contacts:**

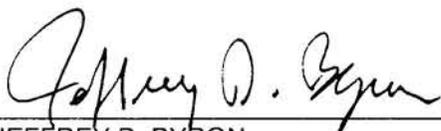
Technical questions concerning the project should be addressed to the Energy Commission Staff's Project Manager, Mary Dyas, at 916-651-8891 or e-mail: [\[mdyas@energy.state.ca.us\]](mailto:mdyas@energy.state.ca.us).

Questions of a legal or procedural nature should be directed to Garret Shean, the Hearing Officer, at 916-654-3893 or e-mail at: [\[gshean@energy.state.ca.us\]](mailto:gshean@energy.state.ca.us)

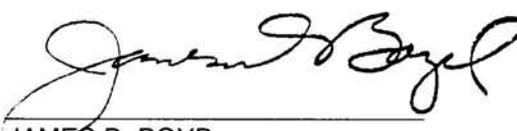
Media inquiries should be directed to Claudia Chandler, Assistant Executive Director for Media and Public Communications, at 916-654-4989 or by e-mail at: [\[mediaoffice@energy.state.ca.gov\]](mailto:mediaoffice@energy.state.ca.gov).

Dated: July 7, 2006

ENERGY RESOURCES CONSERVATION AND  
DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION



JEFFREY D. BYRON  
Commissioner and Presiding Member  
El Centro SPPE Committee



JAMES D. BOYD  
Vice-Chair and Associate Member  
El Centro SPPE Committee