

PETITION TO CHANGE CONDITIONS OF CERTIFICATION
TLSN-3 AND TLSN-4 FOR THE
INLAND EMPIRE ENERGY CENTER POWER PROJECT
(01-AFC-17C)
OBED ODOEMELAM, Ph.D.
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REQUEST

Inland Empire Energy Center (IEEC), LLC is seeking approval to delete the verification portion of Condition of Certification Transmission Line Safety and Nuisance-3 (TLSN-3) pertaining to radio or television-frequency interference and to delete TLSN-4 regarding the intensity of magnetic fields. The 0.9 mile overhead 500 kV line will transmit the generated energy to Southern California Edison's (SCE) power grid through SCE's Valley Substation.

BACKGROUND

The 800-megawatt project was certified by the Energy Commission on December 17, 2003. Construction of the project began on September 1, 2005. Construction of the transmission line is expected to begin in January 2006. The facility will be located near the community of Romoland in Riverside County.

LAWS, ORDINANCES, REGULATIONS AND STANDARDS (LORS)

At the time of certification, LORS applicable to TLSN Conditions of Certification were identified to minimize the potential for radio-frequency interference and magnetic field exposure. Such field strength and interference minimization is achieved through compliance with specific California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) requirements. Staff recommended Conditions of Certification TLSN-3 and TLSN-4 as the means of ensuring implementation of the necessary mitigation measures. IEEC is now petitioning the Energy Commission to modify TLSN-3 and delete TLSN-4.

ANALYSIS AND RECOMMENDATION

TLSN-3 (RADIO AND TV INTERFERENCE)

Staff originally recommended TLSN-3 to ensure that the line would be designed by IEEC to specifically 1) incorporate the measures necessary to minimize the potential for television and radio-frequency interference and 2) ensure implementation of a program allowing for reasonable steps to mitigate complaints on a case-specific basis. Since the project line is now proposed to be designed and operated by SCE, the applicable mitigation measures will be those specified in SCE's design guidelines. Furthermore, the line will be located within an existing corridor with a similar SCE line for which there

is an existing complaint resolution program. Since this program will also apply to the proposed line design, modifying TLSN-3 to only require the reasonable steps in any given case (without an annual reporting requirement) will be adequate to address staff's concerns regarding television and radio-frequency interference.

TLSN-4 (ELECTROMAGNETIC FIELDS)

As noted in the original Energy Commission Decision, CPUC's health-driven policy on line-field exposure was formulated to ensure that electric and magnetic fields from new or upgraded transmission lines are similar in intensity to fields from similar lines of the major service utility in the project area. The major utility in this case is SCE. Since SCE will now design, build, and operate the proposed line according to SCE's CPUC-approved field reduction requirements, staff does not consider TLSN-4 as necessary to verify the strengths of the electric and magnetic fields encountered within the right-of-way and recommends its deletion as requested in the petition.

REVISIONS TO EXISTING CONDITIONS OF CERTIFICATION

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TLSN-3 The project owner shall take reasonable steps to resolve any complaints of interference with radio or television signals from operation of the proposed line.

~~**Verification:** Any reports of line-related complaints shall be summarized along with related mitigation measures and provided in an annual report to the CPM. Such a yearly summary shall be provided for only the first five years of operation.~~

~~**TLSN-4** The project owner shall utilize a qualified individual or individuals to measure the strengths of the electric and magnetic fields encountered within the proposed line right-of-way after the start of plant operation. Measurements shall be made at representative points (along the line route) to verify the design assumptions relative to field strengths. Any corrective action necessary will depend on the results of these measurements.~~

~~Verification: The project owner shall file copies of the post-energization measurements with the CPM within 60 days after the plant commercial operation date.~~