

3.0 Closure

Facility closure can occur on either a temporary or permanent basis. Temporary closure is a cessation of facility operations for a period of time greater than would be required for routine maintenance, overhaul, or replacement of major plant equipment. Temporary closures may be caused by damage to the facility from events such as fire, earthquake, or other natural occurrences, or by short-term economic considerations. Permanent closure is a cessation of facility operations with no intent to restart. Permanent closure may result from a combination of facility age and economic considerations, or from damage considered beyond repair or other reasons. Temporary and permanent facility closures are both addressed below.

3.1 Temporary Closure

In the case of a temporary closure, security for the BSEP facilities will be maintained on a 24-hour basis and the CEC and other responsible agencies will be notified. The course of action that will be followed will depend on whether or not the temporary closure involves a release of hazardous materials.

If there is no actual or threatened release of hazardous materials, a contingency plan will be implemented for the temporary halting of facility operations. The purpose of this contingency plan, to be developed prior to the beginning of operations, is to ensure compliance with all applicable laws, ordinances, regulations, and standards (LORS) and appropriate protection of public health, safety, and the environment. Depending on the expected duration of the temporary shutdown, the contingency plan may include the draining and proper disposal of chemicals from storage tanks and other facility equipment, the safe shutdown of all plant equipment, and various other measures to protect onsite workers, the public, and the environment.

If the temporary closure involves an actual or threatened release of hazardous materials to the environment, procedures will be implemented as provided in a Hazardous Materials Business Plan that will be developed for the Project (see Section 5.6, Hazardous Materials Handling). Procedures will include, but not be limited to, the following:

- Measures to control the release of hazardous materials;
- Requirements for notifying the appropriate agencies and the public;
- Emergency response procedures; and
- Training requirements for BSEP personnel in hazardous materials release response and control.

Once the hazardous materials release has been resolved, temporary closure will proceed as described above for temporary closure without a hazardous materials release.

3.2 Permanent Closure

The planned operational life of the Project is 30 years, but the BSEP facility conceivably could operate for a longer or shorter period depending upon economic or other circumstances. For example, if the BSEP facility remains economically viable, it could operate for more than 30 years, which would defer environmental impacts associated with closure and with the development of replacement power generating facilities. However, if the facility were to become economically non-viable before 30 years of operation, it could be closed permanently sooner. Regardless of when permanent closure occurs, a decommissioning plan specifying the appropriate closure procedures will be developed and implemented. As in the case of a temporary closure, security for the BSEP facilities will be maintained on a 24-hour basis during permanent closure and the CEC and other responsible agencies will be notified of the decommissioning schedule and plans.

The procedures provided in the decommissioning plan will be designed to ensure public health and safety, environmental protection, and compliance with applicable LORS. Prior to the beginning of permanent closure activities, the decommissioning plan will be submitted to the CEC for review and approval. Depending on conditions at the time of closure, the closure measures may range from extensive “mothballing” to the complete removal of Project equipment and other structures.

In general, the decommissioning plan for the BSEP will address the following:

- Proposed decommissioning measures for the power plant and all associated facilities constructed as part of the Project;
- Activities necessary for site restoration, if removal of all equipment and appurtenances is needed;
- Provisions for recycling facility components, collection and disposal of hazardous wastes, and resale of unused chemicals back to suppliers or other parties;
- Decommissioning alternatives other than full restoration of the site;
- Costs associated with the proposed decommissioning activities and the source of funds to implement these activities; and
- Conformance with applicable LORS and with local/regional plans.

Because it is not possible to predict at present the conditions that will exist at the time decommissioning decisions must be made, decommissioning details will be developed and provided to the CEC when the time for permanent closure is closer and more information is available.