

INFORMATIONAL HEARING AND SITE VISIT  
BEFORE THE  
CALIFORNIA ENERGY RESOURCES CONSERVATION  
AND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

In the Matter of: )  
 )  
El Centro Repower Project ) Docket No.  
Small Power Plant Exemption ) 06-SPPE-2  
\_\_\_\_\_ )

IMPERIAL IRRIGATION DISTRICT  
BILL CONDIT AUDITORIUM  
1285 BROADWAY  
EL CENTRO, CALIFORNIA 92243

FRIDAY, AUGUST 4, 2006

2:05 p.m.

Reported by:  
Troy Ray  
Contract No. 170-04-001

PETERS SHORTHAND REPORTING CORPORATION (916) 362-2345

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Jeffrey Byron, Presiding Member

James D. Boyd, Associate Member

HEARING OFFICER AND ADVISORS

Garret Shean, Hearing Officer

Peter Ward, Advisor

Kevin Kennedy, Advisor

STAFF AND CONSULTANTS PRESENT

Mary Dyas, Project Manager

Eileen Allen, Facilities Program Manager

Steve Munro, Compliance Project Manager

PUBLIC ADVISER

Nick Bartsch

APPLICANT

Allan J. Thompson, Attorney

Henryk Olstowski, Assistant Manager, Energy

Dana L. Diller, Project Development Manager

Baltazar A. Aguilera, Assistant Project Manager

Imperial Irrigation District

Dave Tateosian

Power Engineers, Inc.

James Diven

URS Corporation

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## 1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 2:05 p.m.

3 PRESIDING MEMBER BYRON: Good afternoon,  
4 everybody. My name is Jeff Byron; I'm the newest  
5 Commissioner of the California Energy Commission,  
6 and the Presiding Commissioner on this siting  
7 case. And to my left is Commissioner Boyd, who  
8 made some extraordinary efforts to be here today.  
9 He woke up yesterday morning in Washington, D.C.,  
10 but somehow managed to find his way to El Centro.

11 ASSOCIATE MEMBER BOYD: Cooler here than  
12 in Washington, D.C.

13 (Laughter.)

14 PRESIDING MEMBER BYRON: And all the way  
15 to my right is my Advisor, Kevin Kennedy. And to  
16 my far left is Commissioner's Boyd's Advisor,  
17 Peter Ward. And you already have met Garret Shean  
18 here. Garret will be the Hearing Officer for  
19 today.

20 And I just wanted to welcome you all. I  
21 wanted to thank IID for the little tour we had,  
22 and for the cookies in the back, and all that  
23 water. I think you'll find that most of us are  
24 here in a listening capacity because eventually  
25 we'll be deciding this case.

1           And Garret will go over the procedure  
2           we're going to follow. But there will be a chance  
3           for public comment. And mostly what you'll be  
4           doing is be hearing from the applicant in terms of  
5           presenting to us what the project is. And then  
6           we'll also hear from the Commission Staff with  
7           regards to what some of the concerns are, or the  
8           issues that have been identified at this point.

9           So, I will turn it over to our Hearing  
10          Officer, Garret Shean.

11          HEARING OFFICER SHEAN: Thank you,  
12          Commissioner. And good afternoon. Just for the  
13          record I'd like to indicate that we have  
14          completed, between 1:00 and 2:00, a site visit to  
15          the El Centro Unit No. 3 Repowering Project. And  
16          we are now commencing the informational hearing  
17          portion of the proceedings today.

18          In addition to the people who are here  
19          at the dais, I think there is one very important  
20          person I need to introduce. That would be Nick  
21          Bartsch back there by the door. He is with the  
22          Commission's Public Adviser's Office, which has a  
23          gubernatorially appointed Public Adviser, who is  
24          responsible for a combination of facilitating and  
25          enhancing public participation in proceedings like

1 this.

2 If you think at some point you want to  
3 become more involved than either an observer of  
4 meetings like this, or watching what's going on on  
5 the Commission's internet site, then Nick is the  
6 guy to get ahold of. And he can help you with  
7 whatever would be your next level of  
8 participation.

9 And with that, I do want to speak to  
10 some degree about how you can participate or  
11 monitor what is going on in this case.

12 We have a sign-up sheet back there which  
13 will allow one of two things, actually three if  
14 you don't indicate anything. You can either  
15 indicate that you would like to receive by snail  
16 mail information with respect to documents that  
17 are filed in the proceedings. And that will be  
18 principally the staff's draft initial study; later  
19 their final initial study; and ultimately, the  
20 proposed decision, and decision at the Commission  
21 level.

22 You can also indicate your email  
23 address. And let me say that would be our  
24 preferred means of communicating with you. In  
25 addition to having a postal mail list, we will

1 also have an email list which will give you a more  
2 comprehensive set of information. In addition to  
3 the documents, it will also give you notices of  
4 public meetings that are being held either by the  
5 Commission Staff, and those are workshops; or by  
6 the Committee, itself.

7 So we do have a preference, given the  
8 cost of postal mail and photocopying and  
9 everything else like that, of having you put your  
10 email address there. And then you can monitor  
11 what is going on essentially by, once you've  
12 signed up, getting emails from us when anything is  
13 going on.

14 Your third alternative is to use the  
15 Commission's website to monitor what's going on.  
16 This is going to be more proactive on your part.  
17 It'll require that you go to the Energy Commission  
18 website, which is obviously [www.energy.ca.gov](http://www.energy.ca.gov).  
19 Scroll down on the right-hand side of the home  
20 page and you can find a listing of the various  
21 proceedings that the Commission has that are of a  
22 power plant siting nature. And if you click on  
23 the one that says El Centro, you can then find out  
24 what is going on in a little calendar box that's  
25 on the website page for this particular case.

1                   So, you pick what is appropriate for the  
2                   level of participation or monitoring that you  
3                   desire. And we're happy to have you at whatever  
4                   level you wish to participate.

5                   At this point I'd like to have the  
6                   applicant and staff, and then any other agencies  
7                   who are present here today introduce themselves.  
8                   And we'll begin with the applicant.

9                   MR. OLSTOWSKI: Good afternoon. Let me  
10                  start out by introducing some of our team members  
11                  here at IID. I'd like to identify our Project  
12                  Manager first, who's Dana Diller. And I'd also  
13                  like to introduce Balta Aguilera, who's our  
14                  Assistant Project Manager.

15                  And I'd like to identify Dave Tateosian,  
16                  who is our owner's engineers Project Manager. And  
17                  then finally, I'd like to introduce James Diven  
18                  who is our environmental consultant Project  
19                  Manager. And our public representative at IID is  
20                  Rosemary Gonzales, and I believe she's here  
21                  somewhere.

22                  Oh, I --

23                  (Laughter.)

24                  MR. OLSTOWSKI: And lastly, but most  
25                  importantly, is our counsel, our CEC counsel,

1 Allan.

2 I'm Henryk Olstowski, and I'm the  
3 Assistant Manager for IID Energy, responsible for  
4 managing the generating resources at IID.

5 HEARING OFFICER SHEAN: Can I ask you at  
6 this time before we get into your presentation,  
7 we'll do a staff introduction and then there's  
8 some other people here. And then we'll come right  
9 back to you shortly thereafter. Is that  
10 acceptable to you?

11 MR. OLSTOWSKI: Yes.

12 HEARING OFFICER SHEAN: All right.  
13 We'll go now to the Commission Staff to do its  
14 introductions.

15 MS. DYAS: I'm Mary Dyas; I'm the  
16 Project Manager for the Energy Commission for  
17 reviewing this project. And today we have Steve  
18 Munro, who is the Compliance Project Manager; and  
19 Eileen Allen, who is the Facilities Program  
20 Manager. And I believe that's all of our staff  
21 that we have here.

22 HEARING OFFICER SHEAN: Okay. Are there  
23 others here who would like to introduce  
24 themselves, either from local jurisdictions or any  
25 other interests? You're under no compulsion to do

1 so.

2 All right, let me just go over a couple  
3 of points and then we're going to come back to the  
4 applicant.

5 I think it ought to be fairly obvious  
6 that we're here from the Energy Commission because  
7 the Imperial Irrigation District has filed an  
8 application for a small power plant exemption for  
9 its Unit 3 repowering, which will, by virtue of  
10 removing the old Unit 3 boiler from service, and  
11 substituting a new combustion turbine generating  
12 unit, which will then use its waste heat to create  
13 steam that would go back into the existing steam  
14 turbine at Unit 3, will increase the generating  
15 capacity from approximately 44 megawatts up to  
16 128.

17 Now, unlike most Energy Commission  
18 proceedings wherein we usually review and actually  
19 license a new facility, this is an application for  
20 an exemption. If the net modification of this  
21 project is less than 100 megawatts, then the owner  
22 and proponent of the project may seek to be exempt  
23 from the Energy Commission's usual licensing  
24 procedures, upon a finding by us that there are no  
25 significant environmental impacts.

1           And then it shifts over to seeking local  
2 permits using our initial study proposed mitigated  
3 negative dec, declaration, I should get out of the  
4 lingo, and the Commission's proposed decision as  
5 the environmental documentation to support what  
6 would likely be the permit from the Air Quality  
7 Management District.

8           In order for us to make the decision  
9 that the project should be exempt we go through  
10 this public hearing process. And this is the  
11 initial step.

12           From here the Commission Staff will be  
13 asking questions of the applicant through data  
14 requests; more information about approximately,  
15 just less than 20 technical areas that are found  
16 in the California Environmental Quality Act  
17 checklist.

18           And upon the response by the applicant,  
19 the staff will prepare a draft initial study,  
20 which will then be released to the public, as well  
21 as the applicant and other local agencies, for  
22 their review and subsequent updating by the staff  
23 to reflect any comments. That document then will  
24 be made public.

25           And at that point the Committee will get

1 back in the game. We will conduct another public  
2 hearing to have any comments or questions with  
3 respect to the document produced by the staff.  
4 And at that point anything that the applicant has  
5 to say with respect to it will also be considered.

6 And then we'll come out with a proposed  
7 decision, which ultimately will be voted upon by  
8 the five-member Energy Commission.

9 So, as I say, our purpose here is to  
10 first present the project by the applicant; and  
11 then hear what it is that you have to say.

12 During the course of this meeting the  
13 staff will discuss any of the issues that they  
14 have found initially, and any resolution that  
15 they've arrived at to date.

16 And then we will get into an open  
17 question-or-comment period for you.

18 I think that pretty much covers what I  
19 want to say at this particular point. We're now  
20 going to have the applicant make his presentation.  
21 Then a brief presentation by the staff. And then  
22 the rest of the public meeting is for you members  
23 of the public.

24 MR. OLSZOWSKI: I would like to start  
25 out by actually thanking the CEC for holding this

1 hearing and allowing IID the opportunity to  
2 present its project.

3 All of us at IID are excited about the  
4 repowering of the Unit 3. And in a nutshell, it's  
5 going to result in more local generating capacity.  
6 It's going to result in the use of new and  
7 existing technology and equipment to more  
8 efficiently generate electricity at a lower  
9 capital project cost than a greenfield project  
10 would cost.

11 And then it'll result in a substantial  
12 reduction in emissions due to the retiring of the  
13 Unit 3 boiler and the installation of state-of-  
14 the-art pollution control technologies.

15 This is a slide of a visual simulation  
16 of the project. And it's a similar view west of  
17 the generating units that the individuals that  
18 participated in the site visit saw.

19 IID Energy is geographically the largest  
20 municipal utility in the State of California,  
21 covering 6471 square miles in the Imperial,  
22 Riverside and San Diego Counties. IID Energy is  
23 the sixth largest utility in the state. And IID  
24 Energy is one of five transmission control areas  
25 in the state.

1           The IID electrical system's 2005 peak  
2 demand was 899 megawatts. A new peak of 993  
3 megawatts was set on July 21st of this year. This  
4 is over a 10 percent increase over last year's  
5 peak.

6           Over the past several years our system  
7 load has been growing at about 7 percent. And our  
8 forecasted system peak with reserves for 2008 is  
9 1185 megawatts; and in 2011 our forecasted peak  
10 will be 1305 megawatts.

11           The forecasted growth that you see, or  
12 that we presented is really what's driving our  
13 need to add to our generating assets at Imperial  
14 Irrigation District.

15           This slide is a graph of the low, medium  
16 and high IID system load forecast projected out to  
17 the year 2020. This is one example of the tools  
18 that IID uses to plan for our future generation  
19 asset additions.

20           ASSOCIATE MEMBER BOYD: Could I ask you  
21 a question. How confident are you in the future,  
22 in light of what's happened in the last few weeks?

23           MR. OLSZOWSKI: Well, as it pertains to  
24 needing more generation --

25           ASSOCIATE MEMBER BOYD: Just load demand

1 and forecasting.

2 MR. OLSZOWSKI: Well, I can tell you  
3 that our peak this year was substantially above  
4 what our projection was. So, there's a need for  
5 these resources.

6 Why repower El Centro Unit 3? A repower  
7 of Unit 3 will result in a 40 percent improvement  
8 in the heat rate or efficiency of the unit. It'll  
9 result in a 60 percent improvement in water use to  
10 generate a megawatt hour of electricity. And  
11 provide additional control area and transmission  
12 system benefits.

13 Repowering will use existing El Centro  
14 generating site, and existing infrastructure and  
15 interconnections.

16 This is a satellite photograph of the  
17 area around El Centro Generating Station with  
18 three key observation points noted. The following  
19 two slides will provide views from key observation  
20 point number 3, which is in this area.

21 This slide is a view of the El Centro  
22 Generating Station from a residence off East Villa  
23 Road. And it's key observation point number 3.  
24 And that's as the plant exists today.

25 Can you go back? Okay, this is the

1 slide that is the actual photograph of how the  
2 plant exists today. The next slide is a view from  
3 the same key observation point showing the  
4 proposed El Centro Unit 3, repowered unit.

5 And as you can see there's very little  
6 visual change between how that plant exists today  
7 and how it will look with the repowered Unit 3. I  
8 think the only change from this observation point  
9 would be the view of a third, or excuse me, a  
10 fourth stack.

11 Some of the project technical specifics  
12 on the El Centro Unit 3 repower include the use of  
13 a GE78 combustion turbine using low NOx, or dry  
14 low NOx technology in an effort to conserve water.  
15 The repowered unit will be permitted for 1000  
16 hours, and 150 starts annually. And the repowered  
17 unit will interconnect with the El Centro  
18 Switching Station, which is adjacent to the plant.  
19 And also interconnect with the Southern California  
20 Gas Company's natural gas transmission line.

21 Some of the El Centro Unit 3 repower  
22 milestones are the submittal of the small power  
23 plant exemption application in May of 2006, which  
24 IID has already done.

25 In December 2006 we both expect to

1 receive the small power plant exemption from the  
2 CEC and a permit from Imperial County Air  
3 Pollution Control District.

4 In the first quarter of 2007 we expect  
5 to execute the engineer, procure, construct and  
6 the equipment contracts. In April of 2007 we're  
7 scheduled to begin engineering and procurement.  
8 And construction starts in -- the schedules start  
9 in September 2007.

10 With commercial operation scheduled for  
11 May of 2009, and that's scheduled so that we meet  
12 our peak summer demand in the summer of 2009.

13 And with that I'd like to answer any  
14 questions, or actually have the project  
15 development team answer any questions that the  
16 public or the CEC may have.

17 HEARING OFFICER SHEAN: Are there any  
18 questions at this point from the audience?

19 Well, why don't we have the staff kick  
20 in and maybe we'll come up with a question.

21 MS. DYAS: My name is Mary Dyas; I'm the  
22 Project Manager for the Energy Commission on this  
23 project. And as soon as we get my slides up -- a  
24 lot of my stuff has already been covered. So it's  
25 going to be fairly quick here.

1           And I'm just going to review the process  
2           that we go through. The Energy Commission is  
3           responsible, has some permitting authority over  
4           the licensing of thermal power plants 50 megawatts  
5           or larger, as well as related facilities, which  
6           includes transmission lines, water supply systems,  
7           natural gas pipelines, waste disposal facilities  
8           and access roads.

9           This particular application, which was  
10          filed, was for a small power plant exemption,  
11          which we commonly call an SPPE. And in this  
12          process the Energy Commission may exempt power  
13          plants from the full certification process if the  
14          proposal is for less than 100 megawatts and has no  
15          unmitigated adverse impacts on the environment or  
16          energy resources.

17          And in the SPPE process, as the lead  
18          CEQA agency, the Energy Commission completes an  
19          initial study and at the end, comes to the final  
20          decision. If the application is approved by the  
21          Commission, an applicant is then required to  
22          obtain the appropriate local, state and federal  
23          agency licenses and permits to build the power  
24          plant. So the Energy Commission is not approving  
25          the license to build; they are just, in this case,

1 exempting the applicant from the process of  
2 certification.

3 And by the way, I do have copies of this  
4 presentation for anyone that wants it, on the back  
5 table.

6 During the CEQA evaluation the Energy  
7 Commission will prepare an initial study which is  
8 based on an environmental checklist which staff  
9 goes through, as Hearing Officer Shean mentioned,  
10 I believe there's around 20 technical areas.

11 And in this process we also hold  
12 workshops. And there will be a workshop once the  
13 draft initial study is put out. And then another  
14 workshop, I believe, when the final initial study  
15 is filed. And there will be other hearings, as  
16 well.

17 And as listed on here, documentation in  
18 this process includes the draft and final initial  
19 studies; the Presiding Member's Proposed Decision;  
20 and then the final Commission decision.

21 During the process staff works with  
22 local, state and federal agencies. At the local  
23 level some of the agencies that they work with  
24 include the Imperial County Planning and  
25 Development Services, as well as the City of El

1 Centro.

2 At the regional level Imperial County  
3 Air Pollution Control District and the Colorado  
4 River Basin Regional Water Quality Control Board.  
5 That was a mouthful.

6 At the state level staff works with the  
7 California Department of Fish and Game, as well as  
8 the California Air Resources Board.

9 And at the federal level, the U.S.  
10 Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Fish  
11 and Wildlife Service.

12 The context for this project are all  
13 listed here. We have the Commissioners listed;  
14 the Hearing Officer; myself; Kerry Willis, who was  
15 not able to attend today, as the Staff Attorney;  
16 and then the Public Adviser, Margret Kim. But  
17 Nick Bartsch is here in her stead.

18 And then as Commissioner Byron stated  
19 earlier, usually at this time in this particular  
20 process we would include the issues resolution  
21 workshop, or discuss the issues.

22 At this point, over the past couple of  
23 weeks with staff reviewing the data responses to  
24 their requests, we originally had issues in the  
25 areas of air quality and noise. And an issues

1 identification report was filed in mid-July  
2 stating these particular potential issues or  
3 problems that were noted during the initial review  
4 of the application.

5 At this point I have been informed that  
6 staff has resolved both of these issues in air and  
7 noise. So, as things are, we currently don't have  
8 any outstanding issues to resolve.

9 This is a proposed schedule, just for  
10 the fact that things do slip and don't necessarily  
11 hit that. We are actually looking to file the  
12 draft initial study by the end of the month. And  
13 then within a week after that is filed, we will  
14 have the workshop on that document. And the  
15 public will be welcome to attend and give comments  
16 on that. They can attend or give comments in  
17 writing, as well as by email.

18 And then following that the dates get  
19 really sketchy, and they're very approximate. And  
20 that's not the 6th of August, that came out wrong.  
21 It's actually October of 2006. So we didn't have  
22 a specific date set yet.

23 And then also, just as noted, as things  
24 come up there may be delays or things may even get  
25 done ahead of schedule, and those dates may

1 change.

2 And at that point this is all -- that's  
3 all I have.

4 HEARING OFFICER SHEAN: Thank you, Mary.

5 MS. DYAS: Um-hum.

6 PRESIDING MEMBER BYRON: Mr. Shean,  
7 could I ask Mary a question? Mary, can you or  
8 somebody give me a very quick explanation of how  
9 the air quality issue was resolved?

10 MS. DYAS: I knew you were going to ask  
11 that, and I don't know the answer to that. I was  
12 just informed by Matt a couple of days ago because  
13 I specifically asked him if there was still an  
14 unresolved issue. And he said that apparently  
15 they had gotten their information on the  
16 interpollutant ratio from the data responses. And  
17 I don't know the specifics of it at this point.

18 PRESIDING MEMBER BYRON: We can dig it  
19 out of the material later. Thanks.

20 MS. DYAS: Sure.

21 HEARING OFFICER SHEAN: Mary, do you  
22 have the information on the noise? Since we have  
23 some members of the public here, let me just  
24 indicate that initially the staff had indicated  
25 that they had some concerns with respect to noise.

1 Or do you want --

2 MS. DYAS: That I also don't have what  
3 actually resolved the issue. I know there were --  
4 Steve Baker, who is our noise staff, initially had  
5 some concerns with just some -- he needed  
6 clarification on something that he was reading in  
7 the application.

8 And I believe he got that clarification.  
9 Just as one thing was stated here, another thing  
10 was stated here. He just needed to verify which  
11 was which. And through his data request and the  
12 following response he was able to resolve that  
13 issue.

14 HEARING OFFICER SHEAN: Okay. My  
15 understanding, and this is because we're also  
16 doing the Niland case, is that the staff initially  
17 had had issues in that case, and may have had the  
18 same issues with respect to how the ambient noise,  
19 that is in the noise in the forepicture, if you  
20 will, is being measured.

21 And originally the applicant had done it  
22 using a 24-hour average. The staff prefers, and  
23 the Commission is generally using, measurements  
24 that are done with four-hour averages so that  
25 essentially you go around the clock and have an

1 average for each four-hour segment. And that way  
2 nighttime noise is distinguished, in the average,  
3 from what occurs during the daytime.

4 And that that is being applied in this  
5 particular proceeding, as it is in the Niland  
6 proceeding, so that there is greater assurance for  
7 the people who are in the area in which there may  
8 be a noise effect. That this particular project  
9 would have the ambient noise measured using the  
10 four-hour increments, average increments. And the  
11 applicant is then assuring the staff that it will  
12 meet the county noise standards for the project  
13 using the lowest of those four-hour averages. Is  
14 that correct?

15 All right, we're getting lots of nods  
16 here from the applicant. So I believe that's what  
17 it is.

18 All right, thank you.

19 I think that exchange that we just had  
20 is interesting for you members of the public who  
21 may have an intention to be actively interested in  
22 this project. The squeaky wheel is going to get  
23 some attention.

24 The schedule that was shown by Ms. Dyas  
25 indicates that this proceeding will have, for the

1 Committee, our next event, the prehearing  
2 conference. That will follow several things, so  
3 you need to pay attention to this.

4 When the staff releases its initial  
5 draft study, it will have its analysis of anything  
6 that it thinks is a problem; or if they thought  
7 that there was a problem, how it's been solved by  
8 the applicant.

9 If, for some reason, you feel that that  
10 is either not a thorough analysis, or you don't  
11 agree with the result, that's when you need to be  
12 the squeaky wheel and let the staff know what you  
13 view is, and why. If their technical experts  
14 believe that that has merit, they will begin to  
15 incorporate it. If they think there's an  
16 explanation and that may satisfy your inquiry,  
17 then you'll get that.

18 After they have completed the final  
19 initial study you will then know where the staff  
20 has come down. If you disagree with that, you  
21 have an opportunity for a hearing in front of the  
22 Commissioners who are here today. And you can  
23 present a position that is contrary to what you  
24 either believe the applicant has produced, or what  
25 you think the staff has produced.

1           And you will need to, at the point of  
2           what's listed there as the prehearing conference,  
3           let us know that you want to do that.

4           As I say, the squeaky wheel is going to  
5           get the grease. If we don't hear that there are  
6           members of the public or other agencies that have  
7           problems with the draft and ultimately the -- I'm  
8           sorry, the draft and ultimately the final initial  
9           study, if we don't hear from anybody, we're going  
10          to assume that everybody's pretty happy with  
11          what's going on.

12          At that point, the tail-end of the  
13          process may truncate a bit so that we're not  
14          expending a lot of public resources to cover  
15          something that is uncontested.

16          So we just want you to know that, so  
17          that you have a fundamental understanding of our  
18          process. You have numerous opportunities to get  
19          in and have your views expressed. And ultimately  
20          you have the right to come before the Committee  
21          and tell us any position you have contrary to what  
22          the staff has. So I just want to assure you that  
23          that is the nature of our public process.

24          MS. DYAS: Can I just add one thing.  
25          Also if there's no public that states concerns or

1 nobody that's really interested in it, we will  
2 more than likely have that draft initial study  
3 workshop held in Sacramento rather than here in El  
4 Centro.

5 And if we do have it in Sacramento, we  
6 will have phone lines available so participants  
7 can call in. But I just wanted to add that to --

8 HEARING OFFICER SHEAN: Yes, I was just  
9 about to get to that point. Because it's an  
10 obvious savings to the State of California, if  
11 there is not that kind of interest, to do our  
12 business up in Sacramento and use a  
13 teleconferencing capability so that we're not  
14 using public funds for airline tickets, hotels, et  
15 cetera, et cetera. And we'd just as soon not do  
16 that. And then afford you the opportunity to  
17 listen in via teleconferencing capability to  
18 what's going on.

19 So there will always be public access to  
20 any staff event, as well as any Committee event.  
21 I wanted to give you the general lay of the land  
22 in terms of anything that may affect an interest  
23 that you have.

24 Now, given that, having heard from the  
25 applicant and from the staff, this is now the

1 audience's opportunity to let us know what you  
2 think, if you choose to do so. You, of course,  
3 may remain silent, having heard whatever you have  
4 heard.

5 And so I'll throw it open at this point.  
6 Is there any member of the audience who would like  
7 to either ask questions or have comments?

8 All right, hearing none, let me just  
9 remind you, please, if you have signed up to get  
10 information on this proceeding on the list that's  
11 at the back door, if you're using a postal address  
12 you might make sure that you didn't use your worst  
13 doctor's handwriting on that; and the same thing  
14 with your email address, so that we have some  
15 assurance we'll hit it on the first time that we  
16 try to send you something.

17 And with that, if there are no comments  
18 or questions, we're about to close the meeting.  
19 Going once; twice. Thank you, we're adjourned.

20 (Whereupon, at 3:00 p.m., the  
21 informational hearing was adjourned.)

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CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

I, TROY A. RAY, an Electronic Reporter, do hereby certify that I am a disinterested person herein; that I recorded the foregoing California Energy Commission Informational Hearing; that it was thereafter transcribed into typewriting.

I further certify that I am not of counsel or attorney for any of the parties to said hearing, nor in any way interested in outcome of said hearing.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 9th day of August, 2006.

PETERS SHORTHAND REPORTING CORPORATION (916) 362-2345