

Memorandum

Date : July 31, 2000

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To : William Keese, Presiding Member
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: California Energy Commission - **Kae C. Lewis**
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Subject : **CONTRA COSTA POWER PLANT UNIT 8 STATUS REPORT #1 – August 1, 2000**

Since the June 12, 2000 Contra Costa Power Plant (CCPP) Unit 8 Informational Hearing and Site Visit, staff has filed one set of data requests, conducted one data request workshop, and participated in one community meeting whose subject was environmental justice. On July 14, the Applicant filed a request to have their data response time for the staff's first set of data requests extended from July 29 to August 18, 2000. Data requests from an intervenor, Joe Hawkins, to the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (AQMD), Energy Commission staff and other agencies, were filed on June 14. Energy Commission staff are preparing responses to Mr. Hawkins' data requests and expect to file them by August 18, 2000.

The Applicant expects to submit information concerning the project description which is a change from that submitted in the AFC. The two areas of expected modification are the water supply from the City of Antioch and turbine building design.

Significant Issues: At the Informational Hearing on June 12, significant issues were identified in these technical areas: air quality, biological resources, environmental justice, transmission system engineering, water resources and visual resources. Staff data requests were submitted to the Applicant in most of these areas along with cultural resources, transmission line safety, waste management and public health.

Probably the most significant issues identified thus far are concerned with *air quality* and *public health*. The *air quality* key issues will be the acquisition of emission reduction credits, especially the geographic source of these offsets, and the results of cumulative air quality impact analysis. The CCPP Unit 8 project is located in East Contra Costa County which has ten other power plants and many industries. Judging from comments at CCPP Unit 8 events thus far, these two issues, along with their *public health* ramifications, are probably those of greatest concern to community residents. These issues are also closely linked to *environmental justice* issues which will be analyzed in the AFC process.

Significant issues are also identified in *biological* and *water resources* which overlap for this project. The cooling water system for the existing Contra Costa Power Plant has critical impacts on the aquatic resources of the San Joaquin River. As a consequence, the extent of additional impacts due to the operation of the proposed Unit 8 will be closely scrutinized. The staff is coordinating with the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board on the inclusion of Unit 8 in the renewal process of the National

Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit for the Contra Costa Power Plant.

Visual resources issues are also very important to this project because of its location near the Antioch Bridge, recreational facilities, and because of the expected incidence of plumes from the cooling tower.

Community and Agency Interest: The CCPP Unit 8 project is being closely followed by the Antioch community. The data request workshop held on July 25 was attended by about 45 members of local neighborhoods and the yacht club which is located next to the proposed site. Because of the proximity of the proposed plant to the marina, potential additional noise from the proposed project is a serious concern to the yacht club. These participants are very interested in being kept informed about meetings which they requested to be held in Antioch during evening hours.

On June 15 the staff attended a meeting of a local community action group, CAP-IT (Community Abatement of Pollution-Industrial Toxins). The staff's purpose was to describe the AFC process for the CCPP Unit 8 project, describe our expectations for an environmental justice analysis, and to solicit the names of persons and groups that the Energy Commission should contact for input. The participants were very helpful in providing the latter. In addition, they expressed their chief concerns about the project identified as significant issues above

The public agencies who have thus far expressed an active interest in the CCPP Unit 8 project by attending the Informational Hearing and data request workshop are: City of Antioch, Antioch Unified School District, County of Contra Costa (Health Services), and Bay Area Air Quality Management District.

Schedule: On June 20 the Project Committee filed a scheduling order for the CCPP Unit 8 project. It directs that the Preliminary Staff Assessment (PSA) be filed by October 27, 2000. Although the Applicant has requested a time extension for the first set of data requests, the PSA should remain on schedule. The Detailed Facilities Study (DFS) for transmission interconnection was completed by Pacific Gas and Electric and submitted to staff on July 18. CAL-ISO's review and approval of the DFS is due in mid-August. The Preliminary Determination of Compliance (PDOC) which must be issued by the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (AQMD) is expected to be filed by Sept. 17. The Bay Area AQMD has indicated, however, that unless overtime is approved, that date could slip by one month. If the PDOC is not issued until October 17, then the document (and the public comments which will be submitted subsequent to that date) will not be available for inclusion in the drafting of the PSA.

Cc: Contra Costa Proof of Service
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