CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION
1516 NINTH STREET
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814-5512

DOCKET
06-AFC-7
DATE OCT 12 2006
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NOTICE OF RECEIPT
FOR THE
HUMBOLDT BAY REPOWERING PROJECT
APPLICATION FOR CERTIFICATION (06-AFC-7)

On September 29, 2006, Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) submitted an Application for Certification (AFC) to construct and operate the Humboldt Bay Repowering Project (HBRP) in the City of Eureka, Humboldt County. As part of our review process, the staff of the Energy Commission works closely with local, state and federal agencies to ensure that all laws, ordinances, regulations and standards are met and incorporated into the final decision of the California Energy Commission.

Project Description

The proposed HBRP site would be located at 1000 King Salmon Avenue, Eureka, California. This project will be located on 5.4 acres within a 143-acre parcel currently occupied by the existing PG&E Humboldt Bay Power Plant. The HBRP will be a load following power plant consisting of ten (10) natural gas-fired Wärtsilä 18V50DF 16.3 megawatt (MW) reciprocating engine-generator sets and associated equipment with a combined nominal generating capacity of 163 MW. The HBRP will also be capable of running on California Air Resources Board (CARB)-certified diesel fuel in order to ensure local area reliability during instances of natural gas curtailment in the region as required by the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) and PG&E's CPUC Gas Tariff Rule 14. This project is a replacement of the existing 105 MW Units 1 and 2 and the two 15 MW Mobile Emergency Power Plants (MEPP) at PG&E's Humboldt Bay Power Plant site.

Air emissions from the proposed facility would be controlled using best available control technology applied to each engine's exhaust. Each system would consist of a selective catalytic reduction unit for oxides of nitrogen (NOx) control and an oxidation catalyst unit for carbon monoxide (CO) and volatile organic compounds (VOC) control. In order to be considered for licensing by the Energy Commission, the project would be required to conform with rules and regulations of the North Coast Unified Air Quality Management District (NCUAQMD) and be issued a Determination of Compliance from NCUAQMD.

The HBRP proposes using approximately 2,400 gallons of water per day (2.7 acre-feet/year) on average for cooling or other industrial purposes, which is a fraction of the water required for traditional combined-cycle turbine design. The generators will use an air radiator cooling system in a closed loop system (similar to automobiles). The HBRP will discharge industrial and sanitary wastewater into the Humboldt Community Services District (HCSD) sanitary sewer system at an average rate of about 860 gallons per day. Raw water for industrial processes and site landscape irrigation will be supplied from PG&E's existing ground water well via a direct connection to an onsite 6-inch-diameter water pipeline. Domestic water required for non-process uses (i.e., sinks, toilets, showers, drinking fountains, eye wash/safety showers, etc.) will be provided from a new 4- to 6-inch-diameter on-site pipeline

running 1200 feet to a connection with the existing HCSD line that runs along King Salmon Avenue.

The project would be connected from the generators to the existing switchyard via two 60 kilovolt (kV) tie lines and one 115-kV tie line. No new transmission lines will be required. Natural gas would be supplied to the HBRP via an onsite 10-inch-diameter, high-pressure, natural gas pipeline owned and operated by PG&E.

Assuming the HBRP receives a license from the Energy Commission by November 2007, construction of the project would start in early spring 2008. Pre-operational testing of the power plant would begin in summer of 2009, and full commercial operation is expected to begin by fall of 2009.

Energy Commission's Facility Certification Process

The Energy Commission is responsible for reviewing and ultimately approving or denying all thermal electric power plants, 50 MW and greater, proposed for construction in California. The Energy Commission's facility certification process carefully examines public health and safety, environmental impacts and engineering aspects of proposed power plants, and all related facilities such as electric transmission lines and natural gas and water pipelines. The issuance of a certificate by the Energy Commission is in lieu of any local, state, or federal permit (to the extent permitted by federal law). The Energy Commission's responsibilities are those of a lead agency under CEQA, except the Energy Commission's analysis takes the form of several environmental and decision documents rather than an Environmental Impact Report.

Public Participation

Over the coming months, the Energy Commission will conduct a number of public workshops and hearings to determine whether the project should be approved for construction and operation and, if so, under what set of conditions. These workshops will provide the public and local, state and federal agencies the opportunity to ask questions and provide input about the proposed project. The Energy Commission will issue notices for these workshops and hearings at least 10 days prior to the meeting.

If you desire information on participating in the Energy Commission's review of the project, please contact Margret Kim, the Energy Commission's Public Adviser, at (916) 654-4489 or toll free in California, at (800) 822-6228. The Public Adviser's Office can also be contacted via email at pao@energy.state.ca.us. Please direct your technical or schedule questions to John Kessler, Energy Commission Project Manager, at (916) 654-4679, or jkessler@energy.state.ca.us. The status of the project, copies of notices, an electronic version of the AFC, and other relevant documents are also available on the Energy Commission's Internet web site at: http://www.energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/humboldt. You can also receive email notification of all project-related activities and availability of reports by subscribing to the List Server on the website. News media inquiries should be directed to Assistant Executive Director, Claudia Chandler, at (916) 654-4989.

This notice of receipt has been mailed to all parties that requested placement on the mailing list during the pre-filing period and to property owners located within 1000 feet of the proposed project site and within 500 feet of any linear feature. By being on the mailing list, you will receive notices of all project-related activities and notices when documents related to the project's evaluation are available for review. If you wish to be removed from the mailing list, please contact Joann Gonzales, Project Secretary, at (916) 653-1640, or e-mail at jgonzale@energy.state.ca.us.

Availability of the AFC Document

Copies of the AFC are available locally for public inspection at:

Humboldt County Library - Eureka 1313 3rd Street Eureka, CA 95501	Humboldt County Library – Fortuna Branch 775 14th Street Fortuna, CA 95540
Humboldt County Library – Arcata Branch 500 7th Street Arcata, CA 95521	Humboldt County Library – Rio Dell Branch 715 Wildwood Avenue Rio Dell, CA 95562
Humboldt State University Library - Arcata One Harpst Street Arcata, CA 95521-8299	Humboldt County Library – Ferndale Branch 807 Main Street Ferndale, CA 95536

Copies are also available at the Energy Commission's Library in Sacramento, the California State Library in Sacramento, and at public libraries in Los Angeles, San Francisco, San Diego and Fresno. In addition, copies will be distributed to those public agencies that would normally have jurisdiction except for the Energy Commission's exclusive authority to certify sites and related facilities.

DATE: October 12, 2006

Roger E. Johnson, Manager
Energy Facilities Siting and Compliance Office

Mailed to list October 12, 2006