

CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION

1516 NINTH STREET
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814-5512
www.energy.ca.gov



**NOTICE OF DETERMINATION
PETITION TO AMEND
FOR THE LA PALOMA GENERATING PROJECT
(98-AFC-2C)**

California Energy Commission DOCKETED 98-AFC-2C
TN# 70620 MAY 06 2013

On February 6, 2013, La Paloma Generating Company, LLC, filed a petition with the California Energy Commission requesting to modify the La Paloma Generating Project. The 1,124-megawatt project was certified in October, 1999, and began commercial operations in January, 2003. The power plant is located east of the community of McKittrick in Kern County.

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED MODIFICATIONS

The modification proposed in the petition is to install and utilize inlet foggers to further cool the inlet air on hot days. The purpose of the proposed foggers is to provide additional inlet air cooling and additional mass, beyond what the existing inlet evaporative coolers can provide, to enable each combined-cycle turbine generator unit to achieve up to 8 megawatts of additional electrical generating capacity on hot days. The foggers will not operate when the ambient temperature is below 57°F. The petition to amend is available on the Energy Commission web page at <http://www.energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/lapaloma/compliance/>

ENERGY COMMISSION STAFF REVIEW AND DETERMINATION

Energy Commission technical staff reviewed the petition to amend for potential environmental effects and consistency with applicable laws, ordinances, regulations, and standards (LORS). Staff has determined that the technical or environmental areas of Biological Resources, Cultural Resources, Facility design, Geological and Paleontological Resources, Hazardous Materials Management, Land Use, Public Health, Noise and Vibration, Socioeconomics, Soil and Traffic and Transportation, Transmission Line Safety and Nuisance, Transmission System Engineering, Visual Resources, Waste Management, and Worker Safety and Fire Protection are not affected by the proposed changes, and no revisions or new conditions of certification are needed to ensure the project remains in compliance with all applicable LORS and existing conditions of certification in the Decision.

For the technical area of Air Quality, staff has determined that the project would continue to comply with applicable LORS. Final Authority to Construct permits were issued in January 2013 by the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District to include the installation of the inlet foggers. The combustion turbine inlet foggers would allow for increased energy production and efficiency without increasing previously analyzed and approved permitted emission limits. The modification would not require changes to any air quality conditions of certification, and the slight emissions increase during fogger operations would not cause additional air quality impacts.

For the technical area of water resources, the installation of inlet foggers would result in an overall decrease in the cooling systems water consumption while recovering some capacity typically lost on hot summer days. Inlet foggers would also consume less water than mechanical chillers and allow for more power generation capacity at a lower cost. Because of the reduction in water consumption demonstrated by information provided by the project owner, staff believes that the proposed modifications would not pose a significant effect on the environment or cause a change or deletion of any conditions adopted by the Commission in the final decision. Staff also believes that the proposed modifications are in compliance with applicable laws, ordinances, regulations, and standards.

A summary of staff's conclusions reached in each technical area are summarized in the following table.

Summary of Technical Area Response to Petition

TECHNICAL AREAS REVIEWED	STAFF RESPONSE	
	Technical Area Not Affected	Process As Staff Approved Project Modification
Air Quality		X
Biological Resources	X	
Cultural Resources	X	
Geological Hazards & Resources	X	
Hazardous Materials Management	X	
Facility Design	X	
Land Use	X	
Noise and Vibration	X	
Paleontological Resources	X	
Public Health	X	
Socioeconomics	X	
Soil and Water Resources		X
Traffic and Transportation	X	
Transmission Line Safety & Nuisance	X	
Transmission System Engineering	X	
Visual Resources	X	
Waste Management	X	
Worker Safety and Fire Protection	X	

Pursuant to section 1769(a)(2), Title 20, California Code of Regulations, "(w)here staff determines that there is no possibility that the modifications may have a significant effect on the environment, and if the modifications will not result in a change or deletion of a condition adopted by the commission in the final decision or make changes that would cause the project not to comply with any applicable laws, ordinances, regulations, or standards, no commission approval is required...."

Energy Commission staff has determined that approval by the full Commission is not required and the proposed modifications meet the criteria for approval at the staff level because:

- The modification will not have any significant effect on the environment;
- Existing conditions of certification are sufficient to cover the proposed modification without changes to, or deletions of, any conditions of certification; and
- The project as modified will maintain full compliance with applicable LORS.

Any person may file a written objection to staff's determination within 14 days of the date of this notice on the grounds that the project modification does not meet the criteria set forth in Section 1769(a)(2). All objections must be in writing and must be sent to the Energy Commission Dockets Unit. All written objections and all materials filed with the Dockets Unit will become part of the public record for this proceeding and may be posted to the Energy Commission's webpage for this facility.

Those submitting objections electronically should provide them as either a Microsoft Word document (.doc or .docx) or in Portable Document Format (.pdf) and include your name or your organization's name in the file name. Please e-mail electronic written objections to docket@energy.ca.gov and include the docket number 98-AFC-2C in the subject line of your e-mail. Those submitting non-electronic written objections should include the docket number 98-AFC-2C in the first paragraph and mail or hand-deliver the objections to:

California Energy Commission
Dockets Unit, MS-4
Docket No. 98-AFC-2C
1516 Ninth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814-5512

For further information on how to participate in this proceeding, please contact the Energy Commission Public Adviser's Office at (916) 654-4489, or at (800) 822-6228 (toll free in California), or by e-mail at publicadviser@energy.ca.gov. News media inquiries should be directed to the Energy Commission Media Office at (916) 654-4989, or by e-mail at mediaoffice@energy.ca.gov.

If you have questions about this notice, please contact Mary Dyas, Compliance Project Manager, at (916) 651-8891, or by fax to (916) 654-3882 or e-mail at mary.dyas@energy.ca.gov.

Date: May 6, 2013



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