

3.0 FACILITY CLOSURE

Facility closure can be either temporary or permanent. Facility closure can result from two circumstances: (1) the facility is closed suddenly or unexpectedly due to unplanned circumstances such as a natural disaster or other unexpected event (e.g., a temporary shortage of facility fuel); or (2) the facility is closed in a planned, orderly manner, such as at the end of its useful economic or mechanical life or due to gradual obsolescence. The two types of closure are discussed below.

3.1 TEMPORARY CLOSURE

Temporary or unplanned closure can result from a number of unforeseen circumstances, ranging from natural disaster to economic forces. For a short-term unplanned closure, in which no hazardous substances are released, the facility would be kept “as is,” ready to resume operating when the event causing the unplanned closure is rectified or ceases to restrict operations.

If there is a possibility of a release of hazardous substances, the project owner will notify the California Energy Commission (CEC) compliance unit and follow emergency plans that are appropriate to the emergency Risk Management Plan (RMP). Depending upon the expected duration of the shutdown, chemicals may be drained from the storage tanks and other equipment. All waste (hazardous and nonhazardous) will be disposed of according to laws, ordinances, regulations, and standards (LORS) in effect at the time of the closure. Facility security will be retained so that the facility is secure from trespassers.

3.2 PERMANENT CLOSURE

The anticipated life of the generation facility is 30 years. However, if the facility were economically viable at the end of the 30-year operating period, it could continue to operate for a much longer period of time. As power plant operators continuously upgrade their generation equipment, and maintain the equipment in compliance with industry standards, there is every expectation that the generation facility will have value beyond its expected life.

3.3 CLOSURE MITIGATION

At the time of facility closure, decommissioning will be completed in a manner that: (1) protects the health and safety of the public; and, (2) is environmentally acceptable. One year prior to a planned closure, the project owner will submit a specific decommissioning plan that will include the following:

- Identification, discussion, and scheduling of the proposed decommissioning activities to include the power plant, applicable transmission lines, and other pertinent facilities constructed as part of the project.
- Description of the measures to be taken that will ensure the safe shutdown and decommissioning of all equipment, including the draining and cleaning of all tankage, and the removal of any hazardous waste.
- Identification of all applicable LORS in effect at the time of closure, and how the specific decommissioning will be accomplished in accordance with the LORS.
- Instructions for notification of state and local agencies, including the CEC.
- Once land is used for industrial or commercial purposes, it rarely reverts back to its natural state. Reuse of the land will be encouraged in this case, as opposed to taking additional land for future industrial or commercial purposes. If the plant site is to return

to its natural state, the specific decommissioning plan will include discussion covering the removal of all aboveground and underground objects and materials, and an erosion control plan that is consistent with sound land management practices.

In the event of an unplanned closure due to earthquake damage or other circumstances, the project owner will meet with the CEC and local agencies and submit a detailed decommissioning closure plan in a timely manner.

No decommissioning plan will be submitted for a temporary shutdown.