

4.0 CLOSURE

Facility closure can be either temporary or permanent. Temporary closure is a cessation of facility operations for a period of time greater than would be required for routine maintenance, overhaul, or replacement of major plant equipment. Temporary closures may be caused by damage to the facility from events such as fire, earthquake, or other natural occurrences, or by short-term economic considerations. Permanent closure is a cessation of facility operations with no intent to restart. This may result from a combination of facility age and economic considerations, or from damage considered beyond repair or other reasons. Temporary and permanent closure are both addressed below.

4.1 Temporary Closure

In the case of a temporary closure, security for the VV2 Project facilities will be maintained on a 24-hour basis and the CEC and other responsible agencies will be notified. The course of action that will be followed will depend on whether or not the temporary closure involves a release of hazardous materials.

If there is no actual or threatened release of hazardous materials, a contingency plan will be implemented for the temporary halting of facility operations. The purpose of this contingency plan will be to ensure compliance with all applicable laws, ordinances, regulations, and standards (LORS) and appropriate protection of public health, safety, and the environment. Depending on the expected duration of the temporary shutdown, the contingency plan may include the draining and proper disposal of chemicals from storage tanks and other facility equipment, the safe shutdown of all plant equipment, and various other measures to protect Project workers, the public, and the environment.

If the temporary closure involves an actual or threatened release of hazardous materials to the environment, procedures will be implemented as provided in a Risk Management Plan and a Hazardous Materials Business Plan that will be developed for the Project (see Section 6.7, Hazardous Materials Handling). Procedures will include measures to control the release of hazardous materials, notifications of the appropriate agencies and the public, emergency response, and training for Project personnel in hazardous materials release response and control. Once the hazardous materials release has been resolved, temporary closure will proceed as described above for temporary closure without hazardous materials release.

4.2 Permanent Closure

The planned operational life of the VV2 Project is 30 years, but the facility could operate for a longer or shorter period. For example, if the power plant remains economically viable, it could

operate for more than 30 years, which would defer environmental impacts associated with closure and with the development of replacement power generating facilities. Likewise, if the facility were to become economically non-viable before 30 years of operation, it could be closed permanently sooner than 30 years. Regardless of when permanent closure occurs, a decommissioning plan laying out the appropriate closure procedures will be developed and implemented.

The procedures provided in the decommissioning plan will be designed to ensure public health and safety, environmental protection, and compliance with applicable LORS. This plan will be submitted for CEC review and approval prior to the beginning of permanent closure activities. Depending on conditions at the time of closure, the closure measures may range from extensive “mothballing” to the complete removal of Project equipment and other structures. Because it is not possible to predict at present the conditions that will exist at the time decommissioning decisions must be made, decommissioning details will be developed and provided to the CEC when the time for permanent closure is closer and more information is available.

The decommissioning plan will address the following:

- Proposed decommissioning measures for the power plant and all appurtenant facilities constructed as part of the Project,
- Activities necessary for site restoration if removal of all equipment and appurtenances is needed,
- Decommissioning alternatives other than full restoration of the site,
- Costs associated with the proposed decommissioning activities and the source of funds to implement these activities, and
- Conformance with applicable LORS and with local/regional plans.

In general, the decommissioning plan for the VV2 Project will attempt to maximize the recycling of facility components. Unused chemicals will be sold back to suppliers or to other parties. All equipment will be drained and shut down, and all hazardous wastes will be collected and disposed of appropriately. Site security will be provided 24 hours a day during decommissioning.