

**October 14, 2020 California Energy Commission Business Meeting
Item 4. Geysers Sonoma (80-AFC-01C).**

Staff Analysis, TN 234709

<https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/Lists/DocketLog.aspx?docketnumber=80-AFC-01C>

Petition for Modification, TN 232608

<https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/Lists/DocketLog.aspx?docketnumber=80-AFC-01C>

Geysers Sonoma Unit 3 Compliance Plan, TN 206765

<https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/Lists/DocketLog.aspx?docketnumber=80-AFC-01C>

Geysers Sonoma Unit 3 Final Decision, TN 206764

<https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/Lists/DocketLog.aspx?docketnumber=80-AFC-01C>

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

STATE ENERGY RESOURCES
CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

IN THE MATTER OF:

GEYSERS SONOMA UNIT 3

GEYSERS POWER COMPANY, LLC

Docket No. 80-AFC-01C

**ORDER APPROVING
PETITION TO AMEND THE
FACILITY LICENSE**

On March 31, 2020, Geysers Power Company (GPC), LLC, submitted a petition for modification of the Final Decision for the Sonoma Geothermal electrical generating facility. GPC has requested California Energy Commission (CEC) approval to install a permanent standby diesel engine powered pump for the cooling tower wet-down system. The equipment upgrade would change the operational characteristics of the power plant, and it would also require changes to the air quality conditions of certification for the facility.

CEC staff is proposing to revise the facility's air quality conditions of certification for consistency with the Northern Sonoma County Air Pollution Control District's (NSCAPCD) Authority to Construct (ATC) Permit, issued on March 9, 2020.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

CEC staff reviewed the petition and finds that it complies with the requirements of Title 20, section 1769(a) of the California Code of Regulations. CEC staff assessed the impacts of the modifications on environmental quality and on public health and safety.

Based on staff's analysis, staff recommends modifications to air quality conditions of certification. The current conditions do not include all facility requirements or provide an adequate, traceable nexus between the air quality standards and the reporting requirements. Staff proposes that the existing slate of air quality conditions of certification be repealed and replaced with new conditions of certification to update the reporting standards and incorporate revised language for consistency with NSCAPCD-issued operating permits.

ENERGY COMMISSION FINDINGS

Based on the record, including staff's analysis, the Commission concludes that the proposed modifications will not result in any significant impacts to public health and safety, or to the environment. The Commission finds that:

- The petition meets all the filing criteria of Title 20, section 1769 (a), of the California Code of Regulations, concerning post-certification project modifications;
- The modifications will not change the findings in the Commission's Final Decision, pursuant to Title 20, section 1748, of the California Code of Regulations;
- The project will remain in compliance with all applicable laws, ordinances, regulations, and standards, subject to the provisions of Public Resources Code, section 25525;
- The updated Air Quality Conditions of Certification reflect changes made by the relevant Air Districts and harmonizes the Energy Commission's license with the Air District's permit; and
- The stationary permanent emergency diesel-driven engine for the cooling tower wet-down system will aid in fire prevention.

CONCLUSION AND ORDER

The California Energy Commission hereby adopts staff's recommendations and approves the amended conditions of certification to the Commission Decision for the Geysers facility as set forth in the Staff Assessment.

CERTIFICATION

The undersigned Secretariat to the Commission does hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of an Order duly and regularly adopted at a meeting of the California Energy Commission held on October 14, 2020.

AYE:

NAY:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

Cody Goldthrite
Secretariat