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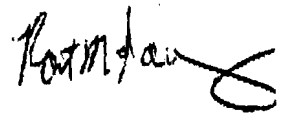
State of California
Energy Resources and Conservation and Development Commission

In the matter of	)	Docket No: 01-AFC-7C
	)	Comments of Robert Sarvey
Russell City Energy Center	)	on the Extension Request for
	)	Construction for the Russell City
	)	Energy Center



Robert M. Sarvey 7-8-08

Introduction

On June 1, 2008 the CEC posted a notice of receipt for a "PETITION TO EXTEND CONSTRUCTION DEADLINE FOR THE RUSSELL CITY ENERGY CENTER PROJECT (01-AFC-7C)". The notice called for public comment to be received by July 1. Unfortunately there is no staff assessment posted or delivered to interested persons on this extension. It is customary for the CEC staff to analyze a proposed extension or amendment and comment on specific LORS and environmental impacts which the project must conform to for an extension of time or a specific amendment to be granted. Waiting for the CEC business meeting on the extension request to hear CEC staff's concerns stifles public input.

Since the CEC staff has not published an analysis I object to the processing of the extension request without a formal evidentiary hearing to discuss the projects non compliance with LORS and CEQA. Following is a brief discussion of LORS non compliance and CEQA impacts of the proposed project.

Air Quality

NO2 Impacts

The projects steady state NO 2 impacts are reported in table 3 of the FSA as 226.8 ug/m (below). Background NO2 concentrations in the project area are 143 ug/m3. The projects estimated impacts violate the new State NO2 of 338 ug/m3. As the project violates the new State NO2 standard that was approved by the OAL the project violates new LORS and cannot be certified as designed.

AIR QUALITY Table 3
Project Operation Emission Impacts

Pollutants	Avg. Period	Impacts ($\mu g/m^3$)	Background ($\mu g/m^3$)	Total Impacts ($\mu g/m^3$)	Standard ($\mu g/m^3$)	Percent of Standard
NO_2	1-hour (start-up)	77.08	143	220.08	470 [1]	47%
	1-hour (steady state)[3]	226.8	143	369.8	470 [1]	79%
	Annual	0.14	32	32.1	100 [2]	32%
SO_2	1-hour	4.92	102.2	107.12	655 [1]	16%
	24-hour	1.1	23.5	24.6	105 [1]	23%
CO	1-hour	1,069.71	3,680	4,749.71	23,000 [1]	21%
	8-hour	178.23	2,178	2,356.23	10,000 [1]	23%
PM10	24-hour	2.94	51.7	54.64	50 [1]	**109%**
	Annual	0.15	18.1	18.25	20 [1]	91%
PM2.5	24-hour	2.94	39.9	42.48	65 [2]	65%
	Annual	0.15	9.4	9.55	12 [1]	80%

Notes
1. State standards
2. Federal standards
3. Including impacts from fire pump engine.
Source: RC 2006a.

Start up and Shut Down Emissions

The project does not comply with Best Available Control Technology for start-up and shut down emissions. The majority of the facility daily NOx emissions are caused by start-up and shutdown events where hourly start-up emissions rates are six, seven and 68 times higher than normal operation for NOx, POC and CO, respectively. If the project used the Siemens- Westinghouse Benson Once-Through boiler technology, start-up and shutdown emissions would be significantly reduced. Alternatively, some projects have incorporated an auxiliary boiler or solar array to provide steam that can shorten start-up times. According to a vendor of this technology, the Siemens-Westinghouse, Benson Once-Through or Fast-Start technology can be designed to fit the proposed 501 FD combustion turbines without additional capital costs above that of the standard, off-the-shelve shelf, HRSG that the project owner has proposed. If the project is built with the aforementioned Fast-Start technology, the project start-up NOx emissions are expected to be reduced from the proposed 480 lbs to 22 lbs for each cold start-up event, and from 240 lbs to 28 lbs for hot or warm start-up events. This represents a 95 percent and 88 percent emission reduction of NOx for cold, and hot or warm start-up events, respectively.

Alternatively, the 600 MW combined cycle Palomar Project in Escondido has installed a proprietary control system, OpFlex from General Electric, which allows ammonia to be injected at the earliest time to shorten start-up times and reduce start-up emissions at the facility. Preliminary, non-optimized results from their March 7, 2007, Petition for Variance 4703 Extension indicated that they have reduced NOx emissions from 120 lbs to 28 lbs for hot or warm start-up events.

Condition AQSC-10 allows the applicant to employ fast start technology but this does not require its use. With the projects potential to violate the new State NO2 standard, CEQA requires feasible and cost effective mitigation measures to be utilized to eliminate a significant impact which is violation of the new State NO2 standard.

Greenhouse Gas Mitigation

The BAAQMD now requires a fee for greenhouse gas emissions. http://www.baaqmd.gov/pln/climatechange.htm#GHGFee The license should acknowledge the green house gas fees to be paid to the BAAQMD.

Conclusion

Before this second extension is granted to the Russell City Project an evidentiary hearing is necessary to revise the decision to comply with new LORS and the projects unmitigated CEQA impacts.