

CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION

1516 NINTH STREET
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814-5512

**NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY
PRELIMINARY STAFF ASSESSMENT
FOR THE PANOCHÉ ENERGY CENTER PROJECT**

DOCKET	
06-AFC-5	
DATE	JUL 02 2007
RECD.	JUL 02 2007

On August 2, 2006, Energy Investors Fund, LLC, submitted an Application for Certification (AFC) to construct and operate a 400 megawatt (MW) simple-cycle power plant, the Panoche Energy Center, in an unincorporated area of western Fresno County. The facility site will be located on a 12.8-acre site within a 128-acre parcel. The site is approximately 12 miles southwest of the city of Mendota, 16 miles southwest of the city of Firebaugh and approximately 2 miles east of Interstate 5, adjacent to the Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E) existing Panoche Substation. The proposed site and substation are located south of West Panoche Road. The Energy Commission is responsible for reviewing and ultimately approving or denying all applications for thermal electric power plants, with a capacity of 50 MW and greater, proposed for construction in California. On November 8, 2006, the Energy Commission accepted the AFC as complete, which initiated Energy Commission staff's independent review of the proposed project.

The power plant is under the Energy Commission's siting authority. The power plant certification process examines engineering, environmental, public health, and safety aspects of power plant proposals and contains analyses similar to those required by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). When issuing a license, the Energy Commission is the lead state agency under CEQA, and its process is functionally equivalent to the preparation of an EIR. After a 30-day public comment period on the Preliminary Staff Assessment (PSA), staff will issue its testimony in the form of the Final Staff Assessment (FSA).

The PSA contains the California Energy Commission staff's initial engineering and environmental evaluation of the project. We will conduct a public workshop on the PSA in July 24, 2007 in Mendota. This workshop will be separately noticed. The public, local, State, and federal agencies are encouraged to participate. Based on the workshop, comments received on the PSA, and additional information that will be gathered in the areas of water supply and land use, we will revise the PSA and issue a Final Staff Assessment. Agencies and members of the public are encouraged to participate. Please provide any written comments to James W. Reede, Jr., Ed.D, Siting Project Manager by **Friday, July 27, 2007**.

The Preliminary Staff Assessment and other relevant documents are available on the Energy Commission's website at: <http://www.energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/panoche> and in printed format upon request. If you would like a copy of the PSA, please fill out the enclosed form and return it to the California Energy Commission, Attention: Dora Gomez, 1516 Ninth Street, MS-15, Sacramento, CA 95814-5512, phone (916) 653-1608.

Persons wanting information on how to participate in the Energy Commission's review of the project should contact the Energy Commission's Public Adviser Office, at (916) 654-4489, or toll free in California at (800) 822-6228.

Technical or project schedule questions should be directed to James W. Reede, Jr., Ed.D, Siting Project Manager, at (916) 653-1245 or by email at jreede@energy.state.ca.us News media inquiries should be directed to Assistant Director, Claudia Chandler, at (916) 654-4989.

DATE:

July 2, 2007

Eileen Allen FOR Roger E. Johnson
 Roger E. Johnson
 Siting and Compliance Office Manager

Please send me a copy of the California Energy Commission staff's Preliminary Staff Assessment for the Panoche Energy Center Project, Application for Certification (06-AFC-5).

Name:

Address:

City/State/Zip:

FOLD HERE

California Energy Commission
Attention: Dora Gomez
1516 Ninth Street, MS-15
Sacramento, CA 95814-5512

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