

CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION

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ENERGY, OCEAN RESOURCES, AND FEDERAL CONSISTENCY DIVISION REPORT
 FOR THE
 OCTOBER 7, 2009 MEETING OF THE CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION

TO: Commissioners and Interested Parties
 FROM: Alison Dettmer, Deputy Director
 Energy, Ocean Resources & Federal Consistency

IMMATERIAL AMENDMENT		
APPLICANT	PROJECT	LOCATION
E-09-005-A1 Pacific Gas & Electric Co.	Amend CDP No. E-09-005 to replace about 4,000 sq. ft. of the modular buildings with a steel-framed building to be built on a concrete pad in preparation for decommissioning power units at Humboldt Bay Power Plant.	Humboldt Bay Power Plant Humboldt County

NOTICE OF PROPOSED IMMATERIAL PERMIT AMENDMENT

E-09-005-A1

TO: All Interested Parties

FROM: Peter M. Douglas, Executive Director

DATE: September 28, 2009

SUBJECT: Application to amend coastal development permit No. E-09-005 granted to Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E) site modifications for demolishing and decommissioning power units at the Humboldt Bay Power Plant, near King Salmon, Humboldt County.

The Executive Director has determined that the requested project change described herein may be approved as an immaterial amendment to the above-referenced coastal development permit (CDP). The amendment would result in a minor change to the CDP, which allowed PG&E to modify the power plant site for demolishing and decommissioning the existing power units.

Background and Project Description: On June 11, 2009, the Commission approved CDP No. E-09-005 allowing PG&E to modify its Humboldt Bay Power Plant site in preparation for demolishing and decommissioning power units. The approved modifications included expanding and constructing access roads, constructing parking, staging, and laydown areas, and placing about 7,000 square feet of modular office buildings.

Requested Amendment: PG&E has requested its permit be amended to allow replacing about 4,000 square feet of the modular buildings with a steel-framed building to be built on a concrete pad. This building would house the “count room”, to be used for determining radiological characteristics of building materials and soils removed during PG&E’s demolition and decommissioning project. The building would be about 50’ X 80’ and up to 20’ in height, and would be constructed within a developed area on site. PG&E would extend underground water, sewer, and communication lines from nearby buildings and would provide electrical service from a new overhead powerline (about 40’ elevation) from a connection on the north end of the power plant site.

Findings: *The proposed amendment has been deemed “immaterial” for the following reasons:*

- **Water Quality:** The project would be subject to conditions of the Commission’s previously-issued CDP, which includes water quality protection requirements. The amendment would not raise additional construction stormwater concerns, since the building would be built on an already graded and constructed parking area subject to stormwater controls.



- Visual Resources: The building would present no substantial visual changes, since it would be similar in appearance to the modular buildings the Commission approved as part of the original CDP and would be located within and near already developed areas of the power plant site. Similarly, although part of the new power line would be along the perimeter of the power plant site, its appearance would be similar to, and subordinate to, other existing infrastructure at the site.
- Public Access and Traffic: The building would occupy about 20 parking spaces; however, PG&E has determined its demolition and decommissioning project will require about 90 fewer personnel than previously anticipated, so there are no expected additional impacts to public access to nearby shoreline areas.
- Temporary Impacts: The building would be temporary and used for the duration of the decommissioning activities (expected to be about 2020), after which it would be removed and the site restored.

Immaterial Permit Amendment

Pursuant to the California Code of Regulations—Title 14, Division 5.5, Volume 19, section 13166(b)—the Executive Director has determined this amendment to be IMMATERIAL.

Pursuant to section 13166(b)(1), if no written objection to this notice of immaterial amendment is received at the Commission office within ten (10) working days of mailing said notice, the determination of immateriality shall be conclusive and the amendment shall be approved.

Pursuant to section 13166(b)(2), if a written objection to this notice of an immaterial amendment is received within ten (10) working days of mailing notice, and the executive director determines that the objection does not raise an issue of conformity with the Coastal Act or certified local coastal program if applicable, the immaterial amendment shall not be effective until the amendment and objection are reported to the Commission at its next regularly scheduled meeting. If any three (3) Commissioners object to the executive director’s designation of immateriality, the amendment application shall be referred to the Commission for action as set forth in section 13166(c). Otherwise, the immaterial amendment shall become effective.

Pursuant to section 13166(b)(3), if a written objection to this notice of an immaterial amendment is received within ten (10) working days of mailing notice, and the executive director determines that the objection does raise an issue of conformity with the Coastal Act or a certified local coastal program if applicable, the immaterial amendment application shall be referred to the Commission for action as set forth in section 13166(c).

If you wish to register an objection to this notice, please send the objection in writing to Tom Luster at the above address. If you have any questions, you may contact him at (415) 904-5248 or via email at tluster@coastal.ca.gov.