

CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION

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ENERGY, OCEAN RESOURCES, AND FEDERAL CONSISTENCY DIVISION REPORT

FOR THE

AUGUST 8, 2007 MEETING OF THE CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION

TO: Commissioners and Interested Parties

FROM: Alison Dettmer, Deputy Director
 Energy, Ocean Resources & Federal Consistency

DE MINIMIS WAIVER		
APPLICANT	PROJECT	LOCATION
E-07-006-W Pacific Gas & Electric Co.	Install 13 groundwater monitoring wells at the Humboldt Bay Power Plant.	Humboldt Bay Power Plant Eureka, Humboldt County

NOTICE OF COASTAL DEVELOPMENT PERMIT WAIVER – DE MINIMIS

DATE: July 19, 2007

PERMIT NO: E-07-006-W

TO: Coastal Commission and Interested Parties

SUBJECT: Waiver of Coastal Development Permit Requirements

Based on the plans and information submitted by the applicant for the development described below, the Executive Director of the Coastal Commission hereby waives the requirements for a coastal development permit (CDP), pursuant to Section 30624.7 of the California Coastal Act.

Applicant: Pacific Gas and Electric Company

Project Location: Humboldt Bay Power Plant, 1000 King Salmon Avenue, Eureka, Humboldt County.

Background: Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) is conducting a Phase II site assessment in anticipation of decommissioning the retired nuclear reactor at the Humboldt Bay Power Plant. The work proposed under this waiver is meant to provide additional information about groundwater conditions at the site and to establish monitoring locations for determining potential radiological conditions during decommissioning.

Project Description: The project involves installing 13 groundwater monitoring wells at the power plant site. Six of the wells would be used to determine groundwater characteristics, and seven would be used to determine potential radiological conditions that may occur during decommissioning. Nine of the wells would be on existing paved surfaces within the power plant complex and four would be on upland vegetated areas within the power plant site. The wells would be installed using a truck-mounted hollow stem auger drill rig, which would require a work area of about 10 feet by 15 feet during installation. The area of ground disturbance around each well would be approximately two feet by two feet. The groundwater wells would extend to a depth of about 15 feet below the ground surface, and the radiological monitoring wells would extend to either 65 or 90 feet below the ground surface. Four of the wells would extend about two to three feet above grade; the rest would be flush with the ground surface. Soil removed would be tested for contaminants and disposed of in a manner dictated by the soil test results. The groundwater wells are expected to remain in place for approximately six months and will then be removed. The radiological monitoring wells are expected to remain in place for the duration of the decommissioning project, which is expected to be about ten years.

The project site is within the coastal zone and within the retained jurisdiction of the Coastal Commission. Humboldt County has determined the project is covered by a CEQA Class 6 Categorical Exemption – Information Collection.



Waiver Rationale: For the following reasons, the proposed project will not have a significant adverse effect, either individually or cumulatively, on coastal resources, and it will not conflict with the policies of Chapter Three of the Coastal Act:

- Sensitive Habitat: Work will occur in already developed or disturbed areas at the power plant site away from wetlands or other sensitive habitat areas. The work will also be subject to standard Best Management Practices at the plant site meant to prevent and reduce water quality impacts.
- Visual Resources: The drill rig used for the project will be temporary and its appearance will be compatible with the other industrial equipment at the site.
- Public Access: Work will take place within the power plant site in an area not subject to public access.

Important: This waiver is not valid unless the project site has been posted and until the waiver has been reported to the Coastal Commission. This waiver will be reported to the Commission at the meeting of August 8-10, 2007 in San Francisco. If four or more Commissioners object to this waiver, a coastal development permit will be required.

Sincerely,

Peter M. Douglas
Executive Director

By: _____

ALISON J. DETTMER
Deputy Director
Energy, Ocean Resources, and Federal Consistency Division