

[Print](#) | [Close Window](#)**Subject: Delta Notice of Dispute and Request for Informal Investigation and Meeting****From: rob@redwoodrob.com****Date: Thu, Mar 02, 2017 4:37 pm****To: anwar.ali@energy.ca.gov, mitchw@calpine.com, Barbara.McBride@calpine.com****Bcc: Sarveybob@aol.com**

Hi Anwar,

We have not received a response from Calpine regarding the Hydrogen explosion and destruction at the facility, so we are hereby filing the below with you;

Thank you

Rob Simpson

Executive Director

Helping Hand Tools (ZHT)

510-634-4171



Delta Energy Center (Calpine/Bechtel Pittsburg) Power Plant Project

Docket Number:

98-AFC-03 (Application For Certification)

98-AFC-3C (Compliance Proceeding)

Notice of Dispute and Request for Informal Investigation and Meeting.

The Decision for the project states;

Any person or agency may file a complaint alleging noncompliance with the Conditions of Certification. Such a complaint will be subject to review by the Commission pursuant to Title 20, California Code of Regulations, section 1230 et seq., but in many instances the noncompliance can be resolved by using the informal dispute resolution process...

We are therefore filing this complaint under the informal dispute resolution process.

The Decision for the project states;

Request for Informal Investigation

Any individual, group, or agency may request the Commission to conduct an informal investigation of alleged noncompliance with the Commission's terms and Conditions of Certification. All requests for informal investigations shall be made to the designated CPM... Depending on the urgency of the noncompliance matter, the CPM may conduct a site visit and/or request the project owner to provide an initial report, within forty-eight (48) hours, followed by a written report filed within seven (7) days.

This matter has particular urgency because Hydrogen explosion and fire destroyed part of the facility and a pending amendment proceeding is scheduled to be considered by the commission at its regular business meeting on March 8, 2017. The commissioners may require the results of this complaint to form a basis for any decision on the facility. While the Request for informal meeting, envisions a slightly more relaxed schedule

we are requesting that it occur within 48 hours of this complaint and at the facility so that the CPM and can tour the wreckage from the explosion and fire. Calpine has, to date, stonewalled releasing any information regarding the explosion and fire. We have sent several emails and left a message telephonically They have apparently not informed the CEC, air district, EPA, CPUC or any other regulatory body of the explosion despite the duty to do so pursuant the Decision and other agency LORS .

The Decision states;

In the event of an unexpected temporary closure, the project owner shall notify the CPM, as well as other responsible agencies, by telephone, fax, e-mail, etc., within 24 hours and shall take all necessary steps to implement the on-site contingency plan. The project owner shall keep the CPM informed of circumstances and expected duration of the closure.

Calpine is in violation of this condition and the associated closure procedures, including "removal of hazardous materials and hazardous wastes, draining of all chemicals from storage tanks and other equipment and the safe shutdown of all equipment."

With no evidence presented by Calpine to the contrary, we conclude that the project must be in violation of the Mechanical LORS and Design Criteria, as described in the decision. Also worker safety and fire prevention conditions are violated.

Our drive by examination of the facility showed no visible landscaping. The project is in violation of;

VIS-8 Immediately following completion of construction of the power plant, the project owner shall implement the installation of aesthetic screening along the south and west edges of the power plant site that will partially screen views of the lower portion of the facility from the Pittsburg-Antioch Highway and nearby residences. Screening may consist of a combination of plants, aesthetic berms, and walls or fencing. Vegetation selected for landscape screening shall consist primarily of plants that are native to the local region. Screening vegetation shall consist of trees and shrubs in groupings designed to form a varied visual edge. Planting of screening vegetation shall be initiated as soon as possible during facility construction and shall achieve a minimum of 50% screening of the lower 40 feet of the facility within 10 years of the startup of operation of the facility. The goal of the screening should be to maintain the open space character of the remaining area, reduce impacts of new sources of lighting, and partially screen the lower portion of the power plant to help blend it with its surroundings and soften the visual impacts of the project.

The Decision states;

ENFORCEMENT

The Commission s legal authority to enforce the terms and conditions of its Decision is specified in Public Resources Code sections 25534 and 25900. The Commission may amend or revoke the certification for any facility, and may impose a civil penalty for any significant failure to comply with the terms or conditions of the Commission Decision.

We ask that the Commission revoke the certification and fine Calpine \$5,000,000 in civil penalties.

We ask that the CPM compel responses to the below data requests and verify all other conditions of certification including providing a copy all documents responsive to the bird mortality the Decision's bird mortality issue "3-year monitoring program to document evidence of collisions and/or electrocutions and to establish a mortality reduction plan, if necessary. (Condition BIO-7.)

----- Original Message -----

Subject: [Delta Energy Center Data requests]

From: <rob@redwoodrob.com>

Date: Tue, February 28, 2017 10:21 am

To: Barbara.McBride@calpine.com

Hi Barbara,

Anwar Ali at the CEC referred me to you. Sorry I sent the below email before I was advised that you are the contact for the project. Any response to the below would be appreciated.

Thanks

Rob Simpson

----- Original Message -----

Subject: Delta Energy Center Data requests

From: <rob@redwoodrob.com>

Date: Mon, February 27, 2017 10:23 am

To: mitchw@calpine.com

To; Mitchell D. Weinberg,

Director, Strategic Origination & Development
Calpine Corporation
4160 Dublin Boulevard, Suite 100
Dublin, CA 94568

Mr. Weinberg,

We are considering Calpine's petition for amendment of the Delta Energy Center license before the CEC, due to the explosion and fire at the project. We are not sure that you are the right contact person but there is no contact info in the petition. We have some questions or data requests regarding the status of the project and the proposal to operate this project in simple cycle mode. We would like to meet with you and/or your staff about this proposal this week to tour the damage and discuss the data requests. We should submit comments soon so that they may be considered at the March 8 CEC business meeting. We also tend to inspire robust participation with other orgs and the public, the responses will help us gauge our commitment to this campaign. Our initial questions are listed below.

1. Provide any available evidence which suggests that operation in simple cycle mode is required to support the California Independent System Operator in resource planning for Summer 2012.
2. What is the heat rate for the project in simple cycle mode?
3. What will be the increase in GHG emissions per megawatt hour for the project?
4. How does the modification affect the resource adequacy contract signed in 2014 with PG&E and the ratepayer?
5. Is it Calpine's intent that there be any time limits on the operation in peaker mode, Hourly monthly, annually?
6. How many years or months would Calpine expect to run in peaker mode or is this an indefinite amendment.
7. Will the Delta Energy be seeking a modification of the projects air permit?
8. Provide a copy of all information available regarding the cause of the explosion/fire, even if investigations are incomplete. If the investigation into the cause is not complete explain the procedure used to determine that it is safe to continue to operate the facility.
9. Provide a copy of any communications with any regulatory body and CAISO since the accident.
10. Identify the frequency and duration of increased visible water vapor plumes.
11. Provide media and informational contact details for Calpine representative(s) for this amendment.
12. How long will modifications to operate in peaker mode delay repairs to the damaged areas.
13. How long will repairs take with and without the modification to peaker mode.
14. When will the steam turbine be functional?
15. Provide an estimate of cost for the repairs, the existence of any insurance covering the cost of repairs and if your corporation can collect any insurance without completing repairs.
16. What are the impacts of the demolition and repair of the turbine, air quality, traffic, etc..?
17. Will it require another commissioning period? If so what are the air quality and other impacts?
18. What would be your corporation's intention if the damage is irreparable? Would it permanently close the facility or continue to operate in simple cycle mode?
19. What additional dangers or delays are there for workers and the public by conducting repairs while the plant is operational instead of offline, for instance what would be the potential impact on workers if the isolating plate or rupture disk failed while they worked during combustion?
20. Provide any records of other facilities that have sustained similar explosions or inserted isolating plates for this type of repair.
21. Provide an economic analysis of the operation in simple cycle mode v. combined cycle mode for the ratepayer (public) and your corporation.
22. Identify how the Unexpected Temporary Closure and reporting procedures from the original decision were followed.
23. Has consultation begun with USFWS re. the oil spill into the river during the fire?
24. What were the air quality and other impacts form the explosion and fire?

25. The CEC Decision for the facility states; The project objectives are: • To build and operate a reliable power plant with a steam and electricity connection to Dow Chemical.13 (10/5 RT 56.). Does this modification meet that objective?
26. Condition AQ-78 requires Applicant to provide data from the new air monitor for one year prior to and two years after commercial operation. Please provide that data.
27. What mitigation's will the Calpine provide for the impacts?

Barring satisfactory responses to the above data requests;
We intend to commence a campaign against the amendment and expect to file a request for an informal investigation (the procedure for which is identified in the decision) in addition to a complaint and request for investigation under 1231 of the Warren Alquist Act because it appears that the project is in violation of a host of conditions of the original decision and the petition for amendment has inadequate data .

Thank you,
Rob Simpson
Executive Director
Helping Hand Tools (2HT)

Fire at Pittsburg power plant Sunday afternoon

By [Joaquin Palomino](#), San Francisco Chronicle

Updated 6:33 pm, Sunday, January 29, 2017

A fire erupted in a Pittsburg power plant Sunday afternoon, sending 40-foot flames and black plumes of smoke into the air.
The fire was reported just before 4 p.m. at the [Delta Energy Center](#), on the 1200 block of [Arcy Lane](#). There were no reported injuries and Contra Costa County Fire District personnel had extinguished the fire by 6 pm, Cpt. [Lisa Martinez](#) said

Hazardous material workers were monitoring the situation due to the presence of hydrogen, a potentially volatile chemical. U.S. Fish and Game officials also responded since lube oil was flowing from the power plant toward the delta, Martinez said.

<http://www.sfgate.com/bayarea/article/Fire-at-Pittsburgh-power-plant-Sunday-afternoon-10892913.php>

Explosion shuts down Pittsburg power plant □3 The Delta Energy Center, an 880 megawatt power plant in Pittsburg, CA, was shut down yesterday following an explosion and are in the steam turbine generator. (Ron Riesterer/Staff) By AARON DAVIS | aarondavis@bayareanewsgroup.com | PUBLISHED: January 30, 2017 at 4:24 pm | UPDATED: January 31, 2017 at 5:24 am 3/3/2017 Explosion shuts down Pittsburg power plant indefinitely

<http://www.eastbaytimes.com/2017/01/30/explosionshutsdownpittsburgpower-plant/> 2/4 PITTSBURG — The Delta Energy Center power plant was shut down on Sunday after an explosion and are destroyed the steam turbine generator. At 3:43 p.m., calls came in to the Contra Costa Fire District line of a are involving the hydrogen cooling system of the steam turbine at the Delta Energy Center power plant at 1200 Arcy Lane in Pittsburg. Fireäghters arrived on scene to änd a lubrication oil are that was slowly starting to dwindle after power plant staff purged the hydrogen and carbon dioxide from the system, which starved the are of äammable gas. The are took approximately two hours to äght and no injuries were reported. "One end of the generator was destroyed in the are, mostly because of the initial explosion of the hydrogen gas," are marshal Robert

Marshall said. "There was concern about the gear lubrication oil going into a storm drain near there, but we were able to boom that and no oil made it down to the river." The Delta Energy Center is an 880-megawatt, natural gas-fired, "combinedcycle" plant, which uses both gas and steam to generate electricity. The plant uses three gas turbines to generate electricity and each are equipped with a heat recovery system that delivers steam to an additional steam turbine, which generates 70 percent more electricity, on average. Calpine has said that the damage was isolated to the steam turbine's generator and that the rest of the plant, as well as the neighboring communities, was not directly impacted. Calpine is still assessing the accident and was not able to comment on the cause of the explosion nor the extent of the damage "The fire was on the generator section, not on the steam turbine itself," said Brett Kerr, director of external affairs for Calpine, which owns the plant. "In the steam turbine, hydrogen is used as a cooling unit in the generator. Friction at that speed produces a lot of heat." Kerr said that safety systems are in place and that the hydrogen, which is highly flammable, is not stored next to the generator. The Delta Energy Center is second only to the 1.3 gigawatt Pittsburg Generation Station in terms of electricity generation capacity in the Bay Area. Calpine is also the owner and operator of the Los Medanos Energy Center, a 555-megawatt combined cycle plant in Pittsburg. The Delta Energy Center is the 19th largest, in terms of generating capacity, in the state. When running 24 hours a day, seven days a week, the Delta Energy Center can 3/3/2017 Explosion shuts down Pittsburg power plant indefinitely <http://www.eastbaytimes.com/2017/01/30/explosion-shuts-down-pittsburg-power-plant/> 3/4 When running 24 hours a day, seven days a week, the Delta Energy Center can meet the electricity demands of more than 800,000 households. It is unknown when it will be back online. "The entire facility is offline until we can make sure it's safe to restart it," Kerr said. Reading this on your phone or tablet? Stay up to date on East Bay news with our new, free mobile app. Get it from the Apple app store or the Google Play store. According to the California Independent System Operator (CAISO), which oversees regional electrical grids and ensures competitive markets, the Delta and Los Medanos Energy centers have both been online since Dec. 14 to provide backup energy due to planned and forced transmission outages. Read the notice online at bit.ly/CPMnotice. According to CAISO, the fire did not impact grid reliability. "As far as where the energy comes from, we have outages often on the grid and our operators re-optimize the grid for the area and generation that is the most feasible to deliver to the area at the lowest cost feasible," said Steven Greenlee, spokesman for CAISO. "The market sets the price, so it's equally plausible that the price could be lower." <http://www.eastbaytimes.com/2017/01/30/explosion-shuts-down-pittsburg-power-plant/>

PITTSBURG (KRON)—Firefighters are working to put out a fire that started Sunday afternoon in a steam turbine generator at a Pittsburg energy plant, according to the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District. The incident was reported 3:43 p.m. at the Calpine Delta Energy Center on Arcy Lane.

The automatic fire extinguisher system was activated when the fire started and everyone near the generator was able to get out safely, said Fire Prevention Capt. Lisa Martinez said.

No firefighters were injured.

A hazmat team was called to the scene because the incident involved hydrogen which is a hazardous material, Martinez said. Businesses and homes were not evacuated.

Most of the fire was put out by 4:45 p.m.

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife have been told about the fire because the power plant is near the Dow Wetlands Preserve and the San Joaquin River, Martinez said.

<http://kron4.com/2017/01/29/firefighters-working-to-extinguish-fire-at-pittsburg-energy-plant/>

At 3:43 pm Sunday, Contra Costa County firefighters responded to a report of a generator on fire at the Delta Energy Center.

Located in the 1200 block of Arcy Lane in Pittsburg, CONFIRE reported heavy black smoke coming from the facility and requested confirmation that there was no hazardous materials which the facility confirmed.

By 4:10 pm, CONFIRE reported that they had a fire in a turbine generator about 30-40 feet in the air. They were also dealing with some flammable liquid on the ground while setting up a ground monitor for hydrogen. It was reported the hydrogen was secured from the fire. Lube oil was also reported on fire and they were preparing to make an interior attack.

By 4:22 pm, CONFIRE reported electrical lockdown was complete and two-in-two-out established for interior attack.

By 4:35pm, CONFIRE reportedly evacuated all crews from the interior and are reassessing. Fire is still active.

By 4:41pm, CONFIRE requested County Hazmat and Fish & Game to the scene. Lube oil is making its way into the river. Reported a majority of the fire was out and that its still a small fire that was burning.

Check back for updates.

<http://eastcountytoday.net/pittsburg-generator-at-delta-energy-center-catches-fire/>

----- Original Message -----

Subject: RE: Delta energy center data request

From: "Ali, Anwar@Energy" <anwar.ali@energy.ca.gov>

Date: Tue, February 28, 2017 10:38 am

To: "rob@redwoodrob.com" <rob@redwoodrob.com>

Sure I will.

From: rob@redwoodrob.com [<mailto:rob@redwoodrob.com>]

Sent: Tuesday, February 28, 2017 10:37 AM

To: Ali, Anwar@Energy

Subject: RE: Delta energy center data request

ok thanks. If they do file anything can you send me a copy?

R

----- Original Message -----

Subject: RE: Delta energy center data request

From: "Ali, Anwar@Energy" <anwar.ali@energy.ca.gov>

Date: Tue, February 28, 2017 10:17 am

To: "rob@redwoodrob.com" <rob@redwoodrob.com>

Hello Rob:

We have not received any report yet; Calpine is still investigating the root cause of the fire. Thank you.

Anwar

From: rob@redwoodrob.com [<mailto:rob@redwoodrob.com>]

Sent: Tuesday, February 28, 2017 10:14 AM

To: Ali, Anwar@Energy

Subject: RE: Delta energy center data request

Oh hey Thanks Anwar,

I will try and reach her. Can I get a record of any communications, that you have available, since the explosion and fire at the property. Did they file some kind of incident report?

Cheers,

Rob

----- Original Message -----

Subject: RE: Delta energy center data request

From: "Ali, Anwar@Energy" <anwar.ali@energy.ca.gov>

Date: Tue, February 28, 2017 9:50 am

To: "rob@redwoodrob.com" <rob@redwoodrob.com>

Cc: "Root, Christine@Energy" <Christine.Root@energy.ca.gov>

Hi Rob:

The contact person for Calpine is Barbara McBride; her phone number is 1-925-570-0849. Thank you.

Anwar

ANWAR ALI, Ph.D.

Compliance Project Manager

CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION
Siting, Transmission, & Environmental Protection
Division

1516 Ninth Street, Sacramento, CA 95814

Direct: (916) 654-5020 | Fax: (916) 651-8868

cid:image001.png

From: rob@redwoodrob.com [<mailto:rob@redwoodrob.com>]

Sent: Tuesday, February 28, 2017 8:07 AM

To: Ali, Anwar@Energy

Subject: Delta energy center data request

Hi Mr. Ali,

I see a petition for an amendment regarding the Delta Energy Center but there is no contact information for the developer or indication of the author of the petition. I have some questions that they may be able to answer. Please respond with contact information for the author or a contact person for Calpine.

Thank you
Rob Simpson