

State Water Resources Control Board

NOV 20 2017

Mr. George L. Piantka
Director, Regulatory Environmental Service
NRG Energy, West Region
5790 Fleet Street
Carlsbad, CA 92008

Dear Mr. Piantka:

SUBJECT: GRID RELIABILITY INFORMATION REQUESTS FOR ENCINA GENERATING STATION

On May 4, 2010, the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) adopted the Water Quality Control Policy on the Use of Coastal and Estuarine Waters for Power Plant Cooling (Once-Through Cooling [OTC] Policy). To prevent disruption with the state's electrical power supply, section 1.1 of the OTC Policy provides that the State Water Board will convene a Statewide Advisory Committee on Cooling Water Intake Structures (SACCWIS) to advise the State Water Board on grid reliability and the impact of OTC Policy implementation on local area and system reliability. In order to perform an updated grid reliability analysis, the State Water Board requires updates to the previously submitted implementation plans submitted pursuant to section 3.A of the OTC Policy.

Pursuant to the OTC Policy and California Water Code section 13383, the State Water Board requests that NRG Energy (NRG) provide the most current information for Encina updated from the previously-submitted plan and respond to the questions in the attached document. Submission of the requested information is required no later than 60 days from the date of this letter.

The original OTC compliance date for Encina Generating Station (Encina) was December 31, 2017. On August 15, 2017, the State Water Board approved the amendment to the OTC Policy schedule to defer the compliance date for Encina Units 2-5 to December 31, 2018. The amendment is expected to take effect by December 2017.

Mr. George L. Piantka

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Should you have any questions on this matter please feel free to contact Rebecca Fitzgerald, Chief of the Water Quality Standards and Assessment Section, at (916) 341-5775 Rebecca.Fitzgerald@waterboards.ca.gov or Maria de la Paz Carpio-Obeso, Chief of the Ocean Standards Unit, at (916) 341-5858 MarieleaPaz.Carpio-Obeso@waterboards.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eileen Sobeck". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "E" and "S".

Eileen Sobeck
Executive Director

Attachment

Attachment:

ENCINA GENERATING STATION

- The following is the State Water Board's current understanding of the proposed mechanism to bring each unit into compliance:

Encina Unit 1 was retired on March 1, 2017. Carlsbad Energy Center (Carlsbad) is currently under construction, and NRG states that the facility will be online by the fourth quarter of 2018.

- Please respond to the following questions and requests for information:
 1. Please provide a schedule for the completion of construction and commercial operation date of each unit for Carlsbad.
 2. Are there any contingencies that could delay the completion of Carlsbad beyond the fourth quarter of 2018? If yes, please explain.
 3. Please provide a detailed plan to achieve compliance with the required interim mitigation measures, including the status of all components.
 4. Is there any other information that the State Water Board should be aware of?