More Information and Documents

Public Adviser's Office

Phone: (916) 654-4489
Ca Toll Free Voicemail (800) 822-6228
FAX: (916) 654-4493
E-mail: publicadviser@energy.state.ca.us

Energy Commission Website

www.energy.ca.gov

Energy Commission Library – open to the public

1519 Ninth Street, Sacramento, CA 95814-5512
Phone: (916) 654-4292
E-mail: library@energy.state.ca.us

Siting and Compliance Office

Phone: (916) 654-3924
Website: www.energy.ca.gov/siting

Dockets Unit

Phone: (916) 654-5076
FAX: (916) 654-4365
E-mail: docket@energy.state.ca.us

Media and Public Communications Office

Phone: (916) 654-4989
E-mail: mediaoffice@energy.state.ca.us

Below are some of the publications available on the Energy Commission website

- Warren-Alquist State Energy Resources Conservation and Development Act
- Rules of Practice and Procedure & Power Plant Site Certification Regulations (Siting Regulations)
- Public Participation in the Siting Process: Practice and Procedure Guide (Siting Guidebook)

You can find more information at your local public library.

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HOW THE PUBLIC ADVISER'S OFFICE CAN ASSIST YOU

CALIFORNIA
ENERGY COMMISSION

Participation is Important

Participation improves Energy Commission proceedings. The public is welcomed and encouraged to participate in publicly noticed meetings, workshops and hearings. There is no road map or pre-arranged calendar for how many workshops or meetings will be scheduled on a specific topic or power plant licensing case. It's important for interested parties to sign up to receive notification of upcoming events, and the Public Adviser can assist you.

What's a Public Adviser?

The Energy Commission's Public Adviser helps the public understand the process and complexities of all Commission meetings, workshops and hearings, and makes recommendations for the best way to be involved. The Public Adviser, an attorney appointed by the Governor, is a unique position within government agencies. The Public Adviser assists any public member or interested group in how to most effectively participate in all Commission proceedings. Although the Public Adviser will not represent any public member or advocate their position, the Public Adviser does provide independent advice on procedures so involvement in Commission proceedings is effective and meaningful.

"The Energy Commission has an open process where public participation is valued."

—Public Advisor

How to Participate

Getting Notified

- Sign up for an automated electronic notice at www.energy.ca.gov/listservers/index.html for specific energy topics and proceedings or power plant licensing cases.
- Get on a specific mailing list by signing in at a proceeding and requesting information be sent by U.S. mail.
- Contact the Public Adviser.

Participation

The Energy Commission has two types, or levels, of participation. They are informal and intervention. Both types allow written and oral comments.

Informal Participation

Informally attending and participating at Energy Commission meetings, workshops and hearings provides an opportunity to learn about the topic, hear the positions of others and decide if individual interests are being protected. Public comments may raise issues and concerns that influence how a project is analyzed by Commission staff. At the informal participation level, public comments are considered by the Commissioners and are part of the record, however they are not evidence and not supportive of a decision.

Becoming an Intervenor

Any person may file to intervene in any proceeding. Becoming an Intervenor means participating as a formal party in a proceeding.

In power plant licensing or "siting" cases, intervenors have the same rights, responsibilities and obligations as other parties, such as the applicant and Energy Commission staff. An interested party must file a "Petition for Intervention" that is then considered by the two Commissioner committee assigned to the specific siting case. If you are considering becoming an intervenor, please contact the Public Adviser's Office for assistance.

Why Become an Intervenor?

- Present evidence and witnesses to strengthen your position.
- Fully participate in the process to obtain information from all parties.
- Have the ability to file relevant motions, petitions, objections and briefs.

Intervenor Responsibilities

- Must serve documents on all parties.
- Must comply with all requirements of the parties.
- Must make witnesses available for cross examination by other parties when witnesses have presented testimony.
- Must respond to data or information requests from other parties.

The Siting Process

The Energy Commission has a 12-month Application for Certification (AFC) process for licensing power facilities. This process is divided into the following phases:

Pre-filing – clarifies filing requirements.

Data adequacy – determines if the application contains enough information to begin the staff review.

Discovery – data collection (includes an Informational Hearing, site visits, data requests, and workshops).

Analysis – evaluation of data (includes data responses, workshops, Preliminary and Final Staff Assessments, and Prehearing Conference).

Committee Hearings – testimony and evidence is submitted to build the record (includes evidentiary hearings).

Decision – full Commission decision is rendered (includes the Presiding Member's Proposed Decision, and hearings).

Compliance

If a power plant license is issued then Commission staff monitor the construction, operations and conditions to make certain the facility complies with the siting certification. Any post-certification modifications are compliance matters.