Elk Hills Power, LLC, the owner/operator of the Elk Hills Power Project, has requested to extend the duration of cold startup time limits from four to six hours. The modifications were approved by the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District and a revised Authority to Construct was issued on December 29, 2004.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

The Energy Commission staff reviewed the petition and finds that it complies with the requirements of Title 20, Section 1769(a) of the California Code of Regulations and recommends approval of the Elk Hills Power, LLC, petition to modify the Elk Hills Power Project and amend the air quality Condition of Certification AQ-11.

COMMISSION FINDINGS

Based on staff’s analysis, the Commission concludes that the proposed changes will not result in any significant impact to public health and safety, or the environment. The Commission finds that:

- The petition meets all the filing criteria of Title 20, section 1769(a) of the California Code of Regulations concerning post-certification project modifications.
- The modification will not change the findings in the Commission’s Final Decision pursuant to Title 20, section 1755.
- The project will remain in compliance with all applicable laws, ordinances, regulations, and standards, subject to the provisions of Public Resources Code section 25525;
- The modification will be beneficial to the project owner by allowing for operation of the equipment in accordance with the manufacturer’s specifications and warranties;
- There has been a substantial change in circumstances since the Commission certification justifying the change because this operational information was not available to the project owner during the certification process.
CONCLUSION AND ORDER

The California Energy Commission hereby adopts Staff’s recommendations and approves the following changes to the Elk Hills Power Project’s Decision. New text is underlined and deleted text is shown in strikeout:

REVISIONS TO AIR QUALITY CONDITIONS OF CERTIFICATION:

AQ-11 Startup is defined as the period beginning with initial turbine firing until the unit meets the lb/hr and ppmv emission limits in Condition AQ-15. Shutdown is defined as the period beginning with initiation of turbine shutdown sequence and ending with cessation of firing of the gas turbine engine. Startup and shutdown duration shall not exceed the following:

- two hours for a regular startup,
- four six hours for an extended (cold) startup,
- and one hour for a shutdown, per occurrence. [District Rule 2201 and 4001]

Verification: The project owner shall provide records of compliance as part of the quarterly reports of Condition AQ-35.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Date: March 16, 2005

(signed by)

Jackalyne Pfannenstiel, Vice Chair