

## News

### Licensing process begins for power plant

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A Houston, Texas-based company has filed a paperwork with the California Energy Commission to begin the licensing and permitting process for a natural gas-fired power generator known as Avenal Energy Project. Avenal Power Center LLC is the owner of the \$530-million project. In February, the company filed an application for its project.

On Thursday, the state energy agency unanimously voted to accept the application determining that enough information has been provided to begin the 12-month licensing process for the project.

The 600-megawatt power plant can provide enough electricity to serve about 600,000 households.

If licensed, the \$530-million power plant will begin construction in April 2010. If everything goes well, the plant will be in full operation by June 2012, according to the California Energy Commission.

Avenal Power Center hopes to build its plant on 25 acres just south of Fresno County line about six miles from the city of Avenal's residential and commercial areas.

The commission, the plant is designed to make efficient use of resources.

The city of Avenal will provide water to the plant from its wastewater treatment plant next to the site, and the plant will recycle water to the maximum extent possible through the use of a zero-liquid discharge system, according to the commission.

As part of efforts to educate the public about the project, the commission will conduct workshops and hearings in Kings County throughout the project's 12-month review period.