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License Approved for Kings County Power Plant

Sacramento – The California Energy Commission today approved the construction of the Avenal Energy Project in the city of Avenal in Kings County.

In a unanimous vote, the Energy Commission adopted the presiding member's proposed decision (PMPD) that recommended licensing the 600-megawatt facility.

Commissioner Jeffrey D. Byron served as the presiding member of the committee that reviewed the plant's application for certification.

The PMPD said the plant would conform to all laws, ordinances, regulations, and standards.

The Project will produce a nominal electrical power output of 600 MW for delivery to California's grid system using natural gas. Construction is expected to begin in April 2010 and should be completed in approximately 27 months. Initial plant start-up is scheduled for October, 2011, with commercial operation expected in June, 2012.

The Avenal Energy Project is proposed by Avenal Power Center, LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Macquarie Energy North America Trading, Inc of Houston, Texas. The plant would be built on 25 acres of a 148-acre site that is just south of the Fresno County line and about two miles east of Interstate 5. It is located approximately 6 miles from the city of Avenal's residential and commercial districts.

More information about the project is available at
www.energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/avenal/