

Review starts for Kings County power plant

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- **Avenal Energy would build a 600-megawatt plant**
- **Year-long licensing procedures now underway**

The review clock for a proposed 600-megawatt power plant in Kings County started ticking Monday. By a vote of 5-0, the California Energy Commission has determined that the Avenal Energy project is "data adequate," meaning the commission has enough information to begin the 12-month licensing process for the combined-cycle natural gas-fired facility.

Project owner Avenal Power Center LLC of Houston, Texas, plans to develop the Avenal Energy Project on 25 acres of a 148-acre site zoned for industrial use just south of the Fresno County line and two miles east of Interstate 5. The proposed project is six miles from the city of Avenal's residential and commercial districts.

The plant would use a dry cooling process with a zero liquid discharge system to cut water use and avoid dumping waste water altogether. The city of Avenal would provide water to the proposed project from the city's water treatment plant adjacent to the site. Groundwater from three local wells would provide a back-up water source to the project via two separate pipelines.

If licensed by the commission, the \$530 million power facility would begin construction in April 2010, with initial startup in October 2011 and full commercial operation by June 2012.

Throughout the project's 12-month licensing review, the California Energy Commission says it will conduct public workshops and hearings in Kings County on the proposed plant to determine whether it should be certified for a license and under what set of conditions.

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