

MINUTE ITEM

This Calendar Item 45

was discussed by the Commission

on 1/26/78

at 10:00 AM

MINUTE ITEM

1/26/78
Priddy

45. APPROVAL OF PROPOSED DRILLING OF NEW WELLS "DX STATE 4596" 38 AND 39 "OTTOBONI STATE 4596" 25, GEYSERS STEAM FIELD; SONOMA COUNTY.

During consideration of Calendar Item 45 attached, Commission-
alternate Sid McCausland asked that he be briefed by staff concerning
whether the level of environmental review for development of
geothermal resources is adequate in terms of laying the groundwork
for future consideration of geothermal matters. Further, the
Commission expressed an interest in having the staff put together
a presentation for the Commission depicting both the legal and
other substantive issues involved in geothermal development.
They indicated that this presentation could involve the use of
slides or an actual field trip to a geothermal resources area.

Upon motion duly made and carried, the resolution as presented
in Calendar Item 45 was adopted by a vote of 3-0.

Attachment: Calendar Item 45 (3 pages)

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CALENDAR ITEM

45.

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"DX State 4596" 38 and 39

"Ottoboni State 4596" 25

Priddy

APPROVAL OF PROPOSED DRILLING OF NEW WELLS
"DX STATE 4596" 38 AND 39 AND "OTTOBONI STATE 4596" 25
GEYSERS STEAM FIELD
SONOMA COUNTY

LEASE: PRC 4596.

LESSEES: Union Oil Company of California
Magma Power Company
Thermal Power Company
P. O. Box 6854
Santa Rosa, California 95406

COUNTY: Sonoma.

AREA: Geysers Geothermal Field.

PERTINENT INFORMATION:

State Geothermal Resources Lease PRC 4596 was issued to Union Oil Company on May 27, 1971. On April 27, 1972, an undivided 25% interest in the lease was assigned to Magma Power Company and an undivided 25% interest was assigned to Thermal Power Company. Pursuant to the terms of the lease, Union has requested approval of the State Lands Commission to drill wells "DX State 4596" 38 and 39 and "Ottoboni State 4596" 25. The wells will be used as make-up wells for generating Unit No. 11. The proposed drilling and completion programs have been reviewed by the staff and determined to be in accordance with good engineering practices and the rules and regulations of the Commission.

The proposed drill site is an extension of the pad completed in 1974 for well DX 18. The fill portion of the pad covers bedrock on the crest of a ridge. After exposure to the weather for three years, the original pad area appears well compacted and shows no signs of major stability problems or hazards.

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ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT:

The Sonoma County Board of Zoning Adjustments, acting as lead agency, prepared and circulated an EIR covering Union Oil Company's geothermal leasehold operations in the Squaw Creek drainage area. By Notice of Determination issued on October 4, 1976, the Sonoma County Board of Zoning Adjustments certified that (1) the EIR was prepared pursuant to the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act of 1970, as amended; (2) the project will not have a significant effect on the environment; and (3) the project has been approved by the Sonoma County Board of Zoning Adjustments. The notice of Determination has been filed with the State Secretary for Resources, the State Lands Commission's Staff, and the County Clerk for Sonoma County, wherein the project is to be undertaken.

State agencies concerned with geothermal operations were notified that the staff intended to recommend approval of these wells. The only agency that responded was the Department of Fish and Game, and they have stated that implementation of mitigation measures proposed by Union Oil Company would resolve any concerns they might have.

APPROVALS OBTAINED:

1. Sonoma County Board of Zoning Adjustments.
2. State Division of Oil and Gas.
3. Northern Sonoma County Air Pollution Control District.
4. State North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board.

FURTHER APPROVALS REQUIRED:

None.

EXHIBITS:

- A. Location Map. B. EIR Summary.

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE COMMISSION:

1. DETERMINE THAT AN EIR HAS BEEN PREPARED FOR THIS PROJECT AND CERTIFIED BY THE SONOMA COUNTY BOARD OF ZONING ADJUSTMENTS.

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2. CERTIFY THAT THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THE ETR OF THE SONOMA COUNTY BOARD OF ZONING ADJUSTMENTS HAS BEEN REVIEWED AND CONSIDERED BY THE COMMISSION.
3. DETERMINE THAT THE PROJECT WILL NOT HAVE A SIGNIFICANT EFFECT ON THE ENVIRONMENT.
4. AUTHORIZE THE APPROVAL OF DRILLING WELLS "DX STATE 4596" 38 AND 39 AND "OTTORONI STATE 4596" 25 IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF STATE GEOTHERMAL RESOURCES LEASE PRC 4596, AND THE RULES AND REGULATIONS OF THE COMMISSION, SUBJECT TO THE INSPECTION AND APPROVAL BY THE STAFF OF THE COMMISSION OF THE DRILL SITE STABILIZATION PROJECT NOW BEING CONDUCTED BY LESSEE.