

MINUTE ITEM

This Calendar Item No. 45
Minute Item
to State Lands
at its 8/21/84
meeting.

CALENDAR ITEM

A Statewide
S Statewide

45

08/21/84
Hoagland
W 9301

DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY FOR
GEOTHERMAL WELL APPROVAL

BACKGROUND:

State geothermal prospecting permits and leases require the drilling of one or more geothermal wells. Lease terms further require that no well shall be drilled without the permission of the state. The purpose of this lease or permit requirement is to ensure that all wells are drilled in accordance with safety and good engineering practices. Prior to issuing a prospecting permit or a lease, a program environmental document assessing the environmental impacts of each permit or lease area is prepared as required by the California Environmental Quality Act. Specific impacts of subsequent exploratory and development drilling activities, as specified by law are assessed by the Division of Oil and Gas or, if required criteria are met, by the county in which the project is located.

In order to expedite exploration and development of geothermal resources from State lands, it is recommended that the Commission delegate to the Executive Officer the authority to approve wells specified in the exploratory or development plans analysed by the CEQA process, such approvals would be based on all available information and would include a review of the drilling program to verify that safety and good engineering practices are to be followed.

AB 884:

N/A.

(REVISED 08/20/84)

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OTHER PERTINENT INFORMATION:

1. Pursuant to the Commission's delegation of authority and the State CEQA Guidelines (14 Cal. Adm. Code 15061), the staff has determined that this delegation is exempt from the requirements of the CEQA because it is not a "project" as defined by CEQA and the State CEQA Guidelines.

Authority: P.R.C. 21065 and 14 Cal. Adm. Code 15378.

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE COMMISSION:

1. FIND THAT THE ACTIVITY IS EXEMPT FROM THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE CEQA PURSUANT TO 14 CAL. ADM. CODE 15061 BECAUSE IT IS NOT A PROJECT AS DEFINED BY P.R.C. 21065 AND 14 CAL. ADM. CODE 15378.
2. DELEGATE TO THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER THE AUTHORITY TO APPROVE THE DRILLING OF THERMAL WELLS IN EXPLORATORY OR DEVELOPMENT WELLS AS DESCRIBED AND SPECIFIED HEREIN.

(Revised 08/20/84)

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