



Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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California Energy Commission Votes Unanimously to Approve Victorville 2 Hybrid Power Project

SACRAMENTO, CA—Action taken today by the California Energy Commission (CEC) will clear the way for the construction of Victorville 2 Hybrid Power Plant (VV2)—a new 570-megawatt facility. The five-member commission unanimously adopted the “Presiding Members’ Proposed Decision.”

Today’s action is the culmination of a three year, multi-million dollar development effort by the City of Victorville. Located some 75 miles northeast of Los Angeles in Southern California’s High Desert, with a population of 107,000, Victorville was recently named the second fastest growing city in the United States.

The project reflects the determination of the City’s elected officials to ensure there will be sufficient energy to meet the region’s growing population. The CEC permitting process itself, one of the most comprehensive in the nation, took 15 months and involved detailed analyses of the project’s potential impacts on everything from air and water, to cultural, visual and historical aspects.

According to Victorville Mayor Terry E. Caldwell, the CEC decision is great news for Victorville residents. “Our desire to attract businesses and industry is borne out of a need to create local jobs. Early on we discovered that inexpensive, reliable power was one of the most important criteria for industries choosing Victorville.”

VV2 is the nation’s first state-of-the-art hybrid facility employing a natural gas fired combined cycle technology with the proven reliability of a solar thermal design as opposed to photovoltaic. The project will integrate a 2 on 1 (two gas turbines, one steam turbine) design using General Electric 7FA turbines with 50 MW of solar energy generated from a 250 acre array of parabolic trough mirrors. Southern California’s High Desert represents a unique solar resource in the world – unequalled solar insolation (more than 350 days of sunshine annually) combined with close proximity to one of the world’s major population concentrations. Most of the world’s high solar energy locations are in remote locations, making transmission of the power to the load centers a major problem.

In a move that is unusual in the power plant development business, the City of Victorville decided three years ago to undertake this development effort on its own. While the City has a Municipal Utility, it serves only a small commercial/industrial load. VV2’s development is being undertaken by the City itself in response to concerns that arose from the California energy crisis of 2001.



City Manager Jon Roberts added: “Not only will this power plant create competitively priced reliable energy, but it will also generate millions of dollars in property taxes for our redevelopment area.”

Both of the CEC Commissioners who comprised the presiding members of the project’s committee commented on the CEC’s action: Chairperson Jackalyn Pfannenstiel and Commissioner James Boyd remarked on the precedent setting nature of the Project’s hybrid design and suggested that it bodes well for development of more such innovative approaches to generating power in the future.

Thomas Barnett, the Executive Vice President of Inland Energy, Inc, which was retained by Victorville to manage the Project’s development, added, “We believe this hybrid technology will become a blue print for future renewable energy plants in California.”

Construction is expected to begin later this year with the plant expected to go online in early 2011.

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