

CPUC PUBLIC MEETING COMMENT SHEET

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Comment: Please see attached sheets

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[Begin BB1]

After attending the CPUC meeting at the Pittsburg Yacht Club on Aug. 25th concerning the sale of PG&E's Pittsburg power plant I came away with the feeling that very little concern had been given to the problem of noise pollution. We live approximately 3000' SE of the plant and noise, at the present production level, is a serious problem. In the summertime when the plant is operating at or near capacity the noise level is such that we must close our windows and turn on the airconditioning in order to sleep. This makes neither environmental or economic sense since our normal cooling evening breezes are free and ecologically safe. Walking, playing or just sitting in the back yard visiting with friends is less enjoyable because of the noise. Now you're considering a change which will almost certainly result in a doubling of electrical production and its partner noise. At the meeting when questioned about this one of the moderators replied that it would 'average out'. What could that mean?

We have lived in our home for over nine years and were aware and accepted the noise at its present level when we purchased. Now you are considering a move which could very well force us to move away from our friends if the noise level becomes untenable.

[End BB1]

[Begin BB2]

PG&E has had many incidences of personnel or mechanical failures which have resulted in the release of high pressure steam. The noise resulting from this, I am sure, exceeds any generally accepted standards. These releases have gone on for hours at a time and the only way to cope is to leave the area. They also had a boiler explosion in 1997 that besides creating tremendous amount of noise contaminated a large area with asbestos. Common sense tells me that the more you use a piece of machinery the more chance you have of these types of failures.

[End BB2]

[Begin BB3]

It was stated at the meeting that noise levels had been monitored and found not to be a problem. At what level was the plant operating when there readings were taken? This information should be readily available. If it was at less than peak production another more comprehensive study should be made to give you a truer picture of the problem.

[End BB3]

[Begin BB4]

A great deal of effort and money has been put into the New York Landing area rehabilitation. What you're considering will most certainly lower the quality of our life and lead to lower property values. We don't deserve this. We've worked too hard and long to reach our present aesthetic and cultural level and have high hopes for the future. Excessive noise is as much a pollutant as particulates or cooling water that is pumped back into the river at too high a temperature. Excessive noise is a significant problem for the residents of this area.

[End BB4]

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## BB. HARRY LENT

BB1 Noise impacts of the proposed sale of the Pittsburg Power Plant are addressed in Section 4.10 of the DEIR. The analysis included noise monitoring at the plant's eastern boundary during summertime operations. Noise monitoring revealed that summertime operations of the plant are within the County's land use compatibility guidelines for industrial land uses bordering residential land uses

The analysis in Impact 4.10-2 of the DEIR indicates that increased frequency of generation operations at the plant would not result in a significant noise impact, relative to noise and land use compatibility. Because power plant noise does not change substantially over a range of loads for each unit, the potential for increased noise would result from more frequent operation of multiple units. If a new operator wished to increase plant output over PG&E baseline operational levels, it could do so by either operating units at a higher capacity or operating more units simultaneously. However, given the time required to bring additional units on-line, an operator would have a tendency to increase output of units in operation before bringing additional units on-line. Because multiple unit operations currently occur within the land use compatibility guidelines of the County General Plan Noise Element, potential increases in multiple unit operations would be minimal (would not affect average noise levels) compared to existing operations that occur within County standards.

BB2 As stated in the Noise setting section of the DEIR, noise complaints from plant operations have primarily been the result of safety relief valves. Periodically, the automatic safety relief valves for the boilers are activated, resulting in the release of high-pitched noise levels for a short period of time. Currently, safety relief valves are activated very infrequently (estimated at two to three occurrences per year by the plant manager at the Pittsburg plant). The duration of these events is generally less than one minute and is a necessary function of power plants to avoid a boiler explosion.

Based on the relative infrequency and the short duration of these events, in addition to their importance relative to safety to plant workers and surrounding communities, the potential for increases in safety relief valve activation would not be considered significant. It is not foreseeable that major equipment failures would occur more frequently under new owners compared to PG&E ownership.

BB3 Noise impacts of the proposed sale of the Pittsburg Power Plant are addressed in Section 4.10 of the DEIR. The analysis included noise monitoring at the plant's eastern boundary during summertime operations. As stated on page 4.10-4 of the DEIR, daytime ambient noise measurements were conducted around the perimeter of the plant on July 2, 1998. At the time of monitoring, Units 5 and 7 were operating. These are two of the larger units of the plant. While monitoring events did not capture simultaneous operation of all units, such an event was a rare occurrence in 1998.

BB4 Please see response to Comment BB1.