NEWS

MAGNOLIA POWER PROJECT

A Southern California Public Power Authority Project

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6 Southern California Cities to Celebrate Dedication of Magnolia Power Project in Burbank on June 2

BURBANK, Calif.—The mayors and utility officials for six Southern California cities (Anaheim, Burbank, Cerritos, Colton, Glendale and Pasadena) participating in the 310-megawatt (MW) Magnolia Power Project (Magnolia) are expected here for the June 2 dedication ceremony. Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, a long-time proponent of building additional power generating plants in California, is among the federal, state and local invitees for the landmark event, which is open to the public. The dedication ceremony begins at 10 a.m. at the project site, 110 W. Magnolia Blvd. in Burbank.

The dedication celebrates the largest municipal power plant to be approved by the California Energy Commission and built since the energy crisis and culminates more than four years of planning, engineering and construction. The electricity the plant generates is immediately available to meet the customer needs of the six participating cities, as well as the possible needs by the state to avoid blackouts this summer.

The six cities have joined together under the Southern California Public Power Authority to secure lower cost energy supplies by building and operating their own power plant, which replaces a 1941 power plant that served the customers of Burbank Water & Power at the same location for almost 60 years. This modern combined-cycle, natural gas-fueled plant is twice as efficient and 90 percent cleaner for the environment than the older units it replaces.

Magnolia utilizes state-of-the-art electric generation technology that permits the maximum amount of energy for the least amount of fuel. In turn, air emissions will be controlled for nitrogen oxides and other gases with the use of the best available control equipment.

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The facility includes a combustion turbine engine, heat recovery steam generator and stack, steam turbine generator, cooling towers, a zero liquid discharge system, and the control and services building. The generation facilities have supplemental firing in the heat recovery steam generator and steam injection in the combustion turbine to increase power output from a normal level of 242 MW to up to 310 MW.

Magnolia is a base-load plant meaning that it will operate most of the time—approximately 8,000 hours per year—and is capable producing enough electricity for nearly 250,000 homes.

Along with utilizing the latest in air emissions controls, the project will use reclaimed wastewater from the city of Burbank for all of its power plant water requirements. All of this reclaimed wastewater will be used on site, thus eliminating any external discharge of water from the site to the ocean. A zero liquid discharge system will be used to remove all of the impure solids from the cooling water after they have passed through the cooling towers. The processed water will then be used for the plant systems, and the solids will be transported to a landfill. This will virtually eliminate the need to use potable (drinking) water.

Magnolia will not only provide electricity to the six cities, but its operations will also improve regional electricity reliability. By increasing the amount of local generation in Southern California, Magnolia helps to stabilize the electric grid. In addition, Magnolia is not dependent on long-distance interstate transmission lines.

The project achieved a remarkable safety record throughout its construction stages with over a million man-hours of work without a single loss-time accident. Cal-OSHA recognized the contractor, Kvaerner Songer, with a prestigious safety award to mark this accomplishment.

Burbank is the project manager and operator for Magnolia. Each of the six cities will schedule their own power output with Burbank for each hour of every day. This effectively makes the one large plant serve as six individual “smaller units,” providing scheduling flexibility and control for each city.

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