

1 MICHELE BEAL BAGNERIS (SBN 115423)
City Attorney of Pasadena
2 LISA J. HOSEY (SBN 214745)
Assistant City Attorney
3 100 North Garfield Avenue, Room N-210
Pasadena, California 91101
4 Tel. 626 744-4141
Email: lhosey@cityofpasadena.net
5

6 **BEFORE THE HEARING BOARD OF THE**
7 **SOUTH COAST AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT**
8

9 **In the Matter of**

10 CITY OF PASADENA
11 WATER AND POWER DEPARTMENT
(Facility ID# 800168)

12
13 Petitioner.

14 vs.

15 SOUTH COAST AIR QUALITY
16 MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

17 Respondent.
18
19

CASE NO. 2244-36

**DECLARATION OF ARTURO
SILVA IN SUPPORT OF
PETITIONER CITY OF
PASADENA WATER AND POWER
DEPARTMENT'S PETITION FOR
REGULAR VARIANCE**

Hearing Date: February 29, 2024
Time: 9:30 a.m.
Place: Hearing Board Room
South Coast Air Quality
Management District
21865 Copley Drive
Diamond Bar, CA 91765

20 I, ARTURO SILVA, declare as follows:
21

22 1. I am employed by the City of Pasadena as the Power Plant Manager overseeing the
23 operations and maintenance at the Glenarm Power Plant ("Facility"). I have personal knowledge
24 of the facts and circumstances surrounding the present matter and if called upon to testify, I
25 could and would competently do so under oath as to the truth of the matters stated herein.
26

27 2. The Facility is owned and operated by the City of Pasadena, Water and Power
28 Department and houses the City's local electric generation units. There are four simple cycle gas

1 turbine units, GT-1, GT-1, GT-2, and GT-4 and one combined cycle gas turbine unit, GT-5. GT-
2 5 consists of one combustion gas turbine generator and a steam turbine generator. The California
3 Independent System Operator (“CAISO”) controls the Facility's generating units but the primary
4 purpose of the local generation is to supply electricity to Pasadena residents and businesses.
5

6 3. Petitioner conducts annual inspection and maintenance on the unit each year. The
7 inspection and maintenance includes but is not limited to an external engine inspection, replacing
8 lube oil and hydraulic oil in various unit systems, replacing engine and generator oil filters,
9 replacing water filters, lubricating fans and motors, greasing all fittings, alignment checks,
10 checking foundation bolts for tightness, generator visual inspection, inspecting piping and
11 checking for leaks, and water washing the engine. The annual maintenance was last conducted
12 on December 5, 2022. In addition, a borescope inspection was performed by a GE field core
13 technician on the unit on May 18, 2023. The inspection did not note any indication of an
14 impending bearing failure. Lube oil samples were collected and analyzed by Condition
15 Monitoring Services Inc. on May 23, 2023. The report indicates the lubricant for the GT-5 gas
16 turbine was in a normal condition. The bearing failure was an unexpected event and beyond the
17 Petitioners reasonable control and has created a situation that prevents the Petitioner from
18 complying with District Rules and Permit conditions. Immediate compliance is not possible. The
19 unit is inoperable and requires repairs to be completed so it can be returned to service. Once the
20 unit returns to service the Petitioner will promptly schedule and perform the required testing to
21 attain compliance.
22

23 4. GT-5 started experiencing issues in late October and early November. Over that span of
24 time, for four consecutive starts the unit experienced high oil consumption, a visible external oil
25 leak and high oil temperatures on scavenge oil turbine sump “D” and “E” during start-up. Each
26 period of operation resulted in a trip related to the variable bleed valve system after the unit
27 being online for a couple of hours. After the trip on November 16, 2023, a forced outage was
28 taken on the unit to perform troubleshooting and inspections on various systems to determine the

1 cause of the trips and the oil consumption. Inspection findings on the gas turbine lube oil systems
2 included carbon seal material in the inlet screens and apparent metallic material on the chip
3 detector. Facility staff reached out to the OEM, General Electric (GE), to request assistance with
4 troubleshooting the issues on the unit. A GE field core technician was on site on November 20,
5 2023. Further inspection of the turbine lube oil system revealed visible particles in the gas
6 turbine lubrication oil and filters. GE recommended that the oil filter and a sample of the lube oil
7 get sent to Failure Analysis Service Technology, Inc. (FAST) in Prescott, AZ for further analysis
8 to help determine the source of the particles in order to determine next steps. Based on the initial
9 findings, GE advised the City that continuing to operate the unit under the current state was not
10 advisable. GE's preliminary recommendation was to pull the engine for transport to a certified
11 repair facility for disassembly, assessment, and repair of the engine prior to placing the unit back
12 in service. As a result, the required compliance testing originally scheduled to be performed on
13 November 28, 2023 could not be performed. The equipment malfunction was unexpected and
14 unforeseeable event that is beyond the City's reasonable control. Until repairs are completed the
15 unit cannot be placed online to perform the required compliance testing.

16
17 5. Staff requested a proposal for the repair of the unit from GE. Staff also reached out to the
18 two other LM6000 certified repair facilities that service the west coast, IHI and TransCanada.
19 Both entities declined the work as their certification does not extend to the LM6000 PG units. In
20 addition, Staff contacted a reputable but not certified repair facility, ProEnergy. They also
21 declined to provide a proposal due to the unit being a PG model. GE provided quote 1668098
22 dated January 18, 2024. The City issued a Purchase Order to GE for the repair in accordance
23 with quote 1668098. The engine was removed and shipped to the GE repair facility in Houston,
24 TX on February 19, 2024. The preliminary schedule is for induction at the repair facility on
25 March 14, 2024 with an expected 190 days of repair time. The preliminary return to service date
26 is September 25, 2024.

1 6. South Coast Air Quality Management Rule 1134(e)(2)(C)(iii) states the ammonia slip
2 testing of natural gas fired turbines, such as the ones at the Facility, must be conducted by the
3 end of the calendar year. Condition D29.7 of the Facility's Title V Permit to Operate issued on
4 November 3, 2022, contains a similar condition. District testing standards require that the unit
5 operate at normal load. The required ammonia slip test and RATA were scheduled on November
6 28, 2023. However, Unit D56 was taken out of service on November 16, 2023 and deemed
7 inoperable until repairs are completed.

8
9 7. There are no excess emissions associated with the condition of Unit D56. D56 is
10 currently inoperable. Curtailing operation or limiting excess emissions is not applicable in this
11 case as the unit will be offline for the majority of the variance period with only a brief period of
12 operation between the unit's return to service and the required emissions test date which is
13 limited to a maximum of 15 days by the variance conditions.

14
15 8. The unit is currently in an inoperable condition. Closing or taking the generation unit
16 would not result in a corresponding benefit in reducing air contaminants during the variance
17 period as the unit will not operate and generate any contaminants or emissions. Conversely, the
18 closing or taking would impact PWP's ability to serve its municipal customers.

19
20 9. The Continuous Emissions Monitoring System ("CEMS") will monitor the exhaust from
21 the Gas Turbine GT-5 (Device Nos. D56 & C67) and record all required parameters (i.e. NOx
22 concentration, oxygen content, and fuel flow) pursuant to Rule 2012, Appendix A, Chapter 2 for
23 the duration of the variance period, including showing valid zeros for all parameters when the
24 turbine is not operating. In lieu of the of the above-mentioned requirement, the Facility may
25 choose to comply with the requirements in Rule 2012(c)(2)(D) and 2012 (c)(2)(E), as amended
26 on November 3, 2023

1 10. I have reviewed Health and Safety (“H&S”) Code Section 41700. The suspension of
2 operation of D56 pending repair and related delay of the ammonia slip test beyond the 2023
3 calendar year are not expected to result in a violation of H&S Code Section 41700.
4

5 11. Without a regular variance, the Facility will be in violation of South Coast Air Quality
6 Management District rules due to the inability to adequately perform the annual ammonia slip
7 test for Unit D56 which was due during calendar year 2023.
8

9 I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is
10 true and correct. Executed on February ___, 2024, at Pasadena, California.
11

12
13 DATED: February 27, 2024

14 By: 
ARTURO SILVA
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28

