FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

energy solutions

erm power

NewGenPower

What is the Neerabup Power Project?

NewGen Power's Neerabup Power Project consists of a 330 MW gas-fired power station located in the Neerabup Industrial Estate in the City of Wanneroo; a 30km gas pipeline from the Dampier to Bunbury Natural Gas Pipeline (DBNGP) near Muchea and a 2km high voltage transmission line from the Estate to Western Power's Neerabup terminal substation. The gas-fired power station will utilise the best available, state-of-the-art technology, fuel and equipment to produce the most reliable, safe, clean and cost-effective electricity.

Why is a power station needed at Neerabup?

The power station is being developed to meet the growing peak demands for electricity in South West of WA. It will operate at peak usage times, usually in the mornings and evening and on very hot or cold days.

The site was selected as it is already cleared, is in an industrial estate, is close to Western Power's new terminal substation and is not too far from the DBNGP.

Will the power station cause local air pollution?

The power station will burn natural gas as fuel and will produce very low levels of air emissions of oxides of nitrogen and sulphur dioxide.
Studies have been carried out to determine the impact of the power station on the local and regional air quality. The studies show that:

- The power station is not likely to have any adverse affects on local or regional air quality;
- Maximum concentrations of the main pollutant of interest, nitrogen dioxide, is predicted to be well below government air quality goals and standards at any location;
- The contribution of the power station to the production of smog is predicted to be negligible.

Will the power station or pipeline emit chemicals and/or odours?

No odours will be emitted from the power station. Emissions would primarily comprise of odourless carbon dioxide and water. All gas handling equipment, including the pipeline, compressor and gas turbines will be sealed for safety reasons.

Why has the gas pipeline route been chosen?

The gas pipeline route is either in pine plantations near Old Yanchep Road or in the existing infrastructure corridor from near Muchea to the Pinjar Power Station.

The NewGen Gas Pipeline will be buried between the existing pipeline and the three existing power lines. This area has been previously cleared and the vegetation is considered degraded. The area will be revegetated after the pipeline is buried and impacts on plants and animals are not considered significant.

Will there be an increase in greenhouse gases as a result of the power station's operations?

Yes the power station will emit around 0.7 million tonnes per year of greenhouse gases. This is around half the amount that would be emitted if the electricity is obtained from the current grid and represents a significant environmental improvement. Current forms of renewable energy are too unreliable to provide energy for peak periods.

What will be the anticipated increase in noise during the construction and operation of the power facility?

The power station has been located within the Neerabup Industrial Estate to provide a buffer to residential development. The nearest residence to the power station is over a kilometre away with the Banksia Grove residential development over 2 kilometres away. The power station will be designed and built to minimise noise emissions.

Results from noise studies conducted show that noise expected from the power station is unlikely to be an issue even at the nearest residence as the expected noise levels comply with government regulations.

Strict noise limits will be applied during construction of the power station and its operation by the Department of Environment and Conservation. Noise levels will be monitored on a regular basis to ensure these limits are complied with.

How can this project be built without affecting the drinking water quality of the Gnangara Mound?

The gas pipeline route goes across the Gnangara Mound groundwater area which supplies drinking water for Perth. To ensure construction of the pipeline poses no threat to the groundwater detailed spill prevention plans will be put in place. Also, fuel and chemical use will be restricted.

The power station will use water to humidify and cool inlet air for the gas turbines. The demand is not large and is likely to be sourced from a licensed bore on the site. No water will be discharged from the site.

Will the project provide opportunities for local business and employment?

Neerabup Power Project is valued at around $425 million. There will be significant opportunities for local business associated with the construction of the power station, gas pipeline and transmission line. Construction workforce will be over 350, however, flow-on effects could create another 70 jobs for the two year construction period. Open cycle gas turbine power stations are modern, automated work places requiring a small but highly skilled operational team. Once commercial operations begin there are expected to be around 6 full-time-equivalent jobs, with additional contract work for maintenance work.

How can I find out more or give my views on the project?

Information about the project and about environmental management is available on the website.

www.ermpower.com.au

For further information contact:

Tony Petersen
WA Director
ERM Power and NewGen Power
Email: tpetersen@ermgroup.com.au

Phone: 9481 1100
Fax: 9322 6154

energy solutions
erm power