

MINUTE ITEM NO. 2676

REPORTED 2/26/76

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DES

41. STATE LEAD AGENCY DESIGNATION - STANDARD OIL COMPANY OF OHIO PROJECT - W 30001.

During consideration of Calendar Item 41, Mr. Lauren Smith, representing Standard Oil Company of Ohio, appeared. He stated that SOHIO agrees with the State Lands Division staff in that negotiations should be entered into to determine the State lead agency for the project.

The Commission unanimously approved the resolution as presented in Calendar Item 41 attached.

Attachment:

Calendar Item 41 (2 pages)

A 57, 58  
S 51

LEAD AGENCY DESIGNATION  
STANDARD OIL COMPANY OF OHIO

Standard Oil Company of Ohio (SOHIO) proposes to develop a crude oil transmission system which would offload incoming Alaskan Crude oil at a Long Beach marine terminal and transport it overland to Midland, Texas, for distribution to consumers in the North Central, East Coast, and Gulf Coast regions of the United States.

Components of the proposed system include a marine terminal at the Port of Long Beach, a pipeline system, and necessary support facilities. Current plans call for the transmission of oil through the system in 1978.

The Federal Bureau of Land Management has been designated as the lead agency in the preparation of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the project pursuant to the provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). According to the State of California's Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) guidelines, the lead agency in the preparation of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for a project "shall be the public agency with the greatest responsibility for supervising or approving the project as a whole". (Section 15065) The guidelines further provide that where more than one agency has significant responsibility, the lead agency shall be the "the agency which is to act first on the project".

The Port of Long Beach is currently acting as lead agency and is engaged in the process of preparing all necessary environmental reports, under the provisions of CEQA. It has been suggested, however, that a State agency might be more appropriate in assuming this role because the SOHIO project is such an extensive and critical energy project. Quite clearly, the SOHIO proposal has statewide, regional, and national impacts from an energy, environmental, and economic standpoint. The project raises many broad policy questions that are of clear significance to the State of California. Any decisions that are made will have a long lasting influence on energy and environmental matters.

Given the guidelines established under CEQA, there are several State agencies that could logically assume this lead role on this project. Among these State agencies are the Coastal Commission, the Air Resources Board, the Public Utilities Commission, and the State Lands Commission. If several State agencies "volunteer" to assume the lead role, the Office of Planning and Research may become involved and designate the lead agency under the provisions of CEQA.

CALENDAR ITEM NO. 41.(CONTD)

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE COMMISSION DIRECT THE STAFF OF THE DIVISION TO CONSULT WITH THE OFFICE OF PLANNING AND RESEARCH IN ORDER TO FACILITATE THE DESIGNATION OF A STATE LEAD AGENCY FOR THE SOHIO PROJECT.