

REFERRAL 2008R00010
Attachment 3 RECOMMENDATION FOR DECISION ON PROJECT REFERRED UNDER ENVIRONMENT EFFECTS ACT 1978

TITLE OF PROPOSAL	Shaw River Power Station
Location	Orford in Moyné Shire
Proponent	Santos Ltd
Date referral received	29 September 2008
Date referral accepted ('basic adequacy')	2 October 2008
Date request for further information	NA
Date further information received	NA

Description of Project:
 The project involves a gas-fired power station of a nominal 1500 MW capacity using combined-cycle turbine technology. The project requires a new high-pressure gas pipeline from Port Campbell (about 105km long) and possibly a new water supply pipeline from Port Fairy (about 30 km).
Project setting:
 The power station would be constructed on a farming property north of the township of Orford and adjoining the Moorabool to Portland 500 kV transmission line. The site is gently undulating cleared land with blue gum plantations along the southern and western boundaries. The gas pipeline would traverse predominantly freehold agricultural land.

DECISION CRITERIA	RESPONSE	ADVISER'S COMMENTS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The potential for significant adverse effects on individual environmental assets, taking into account the magnitude, geographic extent and duration of change in the values of each asset 	<p>The main potential effects are likely to be the flora/fauna, cultural heritage and surface water impacts of the high-pressure gas pipeline and possibly the water supply pipeline. The pipeline would traverse 7 vulnerable or endangered EVCs and 4 biosites. It would cross 4 major rivers and numerous minor waterways. The length of the pipeline (about 105 km) and the number of waterway and road crossings indicate that effects could occur at a regional scale.</p> <p>The power station could have significant greenhouse gas emissions together with significant visual, noise, air quality, safety and traffic effects in its quiet rural setting.</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The likelihood of effective avoidance and mitigation measures 	<p>It may be possible to avoid major stands of remnant native vegetation by deviations along the pipeline route. Horizontal directional drilling would be used a major river crossings to reduce direct impacts on surface water conditions.</p> <p>Noise and air emission controls at the power station are likely to reduce potential effects on nearby dwellings but the ambient noise and air environment of the current rural setting would be affected by the proposal.</p>	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The likelihood of adverse effects and associated uncertainty of available predictions 	<p>It is likely that the project would residual effects that could be significant in the current quiet rural environment of the power station site. Likewise there would be residual effects on native flora and fauna and surface water hydrology which may be significant. There is a large degree of uncertainty about the magnitude of potential effects at this stage given the very limited information provided in the referral documentation.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The likelihood that available environmental standards provide a sufficient basis for managing key issues 	<p>Not known at this stage given limited information in referral documentation.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The likelihood that the project is not consistent with applicable policy 	<p>The proposal is likely to consistent with Australian and Victorian Government policy initiatives to reduce the greenhouse gas intensity of electricity generation.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The range and complexity of potential adverse effects 	<p>There is a wide range of potential adverse effects at both the power station site and along the gas pipeline route.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The availability of project alternatives that may warrant investigation to assess opportunities to avoid or minimise adverse environmental effects 	<p>Options for varying the pipeline route in environmentally sensitive areas should be considered.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Other available assessment processes that may be suitable to address potential environmental effects 	<p>The proposal would require primary approvals under the <i>Planning and Environment Act 1987</i>, <i>Pipelines Act 2005</i>, <i>Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006</i> and the <i>Environment Protection Act 1970</i> as well as myriad secondary consents (eg waterway crossing permits, FFG consents</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The likely level of public interest in a proposed project 	<p>There is likely to be a high degree of interest by local communities and Corangamite and Moynere Shire Councils. There has been strong criticism of the effects of the earlier construction of the SEAGas pipeline through the south-west of Victoria.</p>