

A. DESIGN SITE PLAN

Subsequent to the preparation of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS), there have been three minor design changes as a result of continued project engineering and design refinements. The first design change concerns the size and location of the air cooled condenser (ACC). The dimensions of the ACC have been modified so that the structure is narrower and longer. The ACC structure will be five feet lower in height than previously proposed. The ACC has been moved 60 feet further east from the western boundary as compared to the location shown in the DEIS. The net result of this change is a slight improvement both in visual quality and a slight reduction in noise in the boundary line. The analyses contained in this Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) do not reflect these improvements. The analyses, therefore, present a more conservative assessment of potential environmental impacts related to the operation of the ACC.

The second design change is the identification of the location for the gas metering station. The DEIS did not identify a specific location for the gas metering station. It is now shown on the revised site plan drawing contained in Appendix C. The structure is located just northeast of the 15-acre project site. The addition of the specific location for this equipment would have no effect on the analyses contained in the DEIS or the FEIS.

The third design change involves a reduction in the air emission profile for the facility. Based upon comments and discussions with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 2, and technical discussions with the equipment and air pollution control manufacturers, Caithness is proposing to make improvements in the control equipment which would further reduce emission rates for ammonia, particulate matter, and volatile organic compounds. The specifics of these reductions will be addressed as part of the air permitting processes with DEC and EPA. The analyses contained in this FEIS do not reflect these anticipated control equipment refinements and resulting emission improvements. The analyses, therefore, present a more conservative assessment of potential air quality impacts related to the operation of the facility. Even with the current more conservative assumptions, pollutant concentrations would be below significant impact levels, and there would be no significant air quality impacts. It is expected that the final control equipment design will result in even lower concentrations.

In response to comments received on the DEIS, the FEIS contains several extensions to analyses previously presented. The visual analysis has been refined to include a photo simulation of impacts of the proposed Caithness facility when viewed from the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, located on Bald Hill. That assessment demonstrated that the proposed facility would not have any significant adverse visual impacts. The intersection of Horseblock Road and Bellport Avenue/Station Road was added to the traffic analysis. That assessment showed no long-term significant adverse impacts due to project-generated traffic at this location. The assessment of impacts due to alternative sources of natural gas supply, contained in Chapter 19, has been

Caithness Long Island Energy Center

expanded to provide more details. This more detailed assessment does not change any of the conclusions contained in the DEIS, and the selected alternative would undergo its own separate environmental review, which would be independent of this project.

Other various minor changes have been included throughout the document. All changes are indicated with double underlining.

In addition, a Response to Comments chapter has been added at the end of the FEIS. The Response to Comments chapter summarizes both oral and written comments received on the DEIS and provides detailed responses to each. Finally, copies of the hearing transcript and written comments are included in the Appendix.