

Bill Powers, P.E.

Bill Powers, P.E., is Chair of the Border Power Plant Working Group (BPPWG). The BPPWG was formed in May 2001 to address concern over the potential environmental impacts of the ongoing power plant construction "boom" in the region. The BPPWG advocates for the development of environmentally sustainable energy facilities in the U.S.-Mexico border region. Most population centers along the border suffer from poor air quality and very limited water, and construction of large fossil-fuel power plants in the region will exacerbate these problems. Accelerated development of renewable energy resources in the region, specifically solar, wind, and geothermal, is a priority objective of the organization.

However, it is clear that additional fossil fuel-fired power plants and supporting infrastructure will be built along the border. In this context, BPPWG defines "environmentally sustainable" for fossil fuel power plants as: 1) air quality protection - use of advanced catalytic air emission control systems and air emission offsets, 2) water resource protection - use of dry cooling and no wastewater discharge. For the liquified natural gas (LNG) regasification terminals proposed for the Baja California coast this signifies: offshore and no use of seawater for regasification.

Mr. Powers is also principal of Powers Engineering, an air quality consulting/engineering firm established in San Diego in 1994. Mr. Powers has a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from Duke University and a master's degree in environmental science from the University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill, and is a registered mechanical engineer in California. His project work focuses on air emission control technology assessments for new power projects and existing industrial sources. Recent projects in the U.S. include: 1) successful representation of interests of Carlsbad, CA to prevent weakening of utility boiler NO_x rule that would have allowed major utility boiler plant (Encina Power Plant, 960 MW) located in Carlsbad to operate without catalytic NO_x control systems, 2) co-authorship of Electric Power Research Institute gas turbine power plant siting document, including authorship of sections on dry cooling and zero liquid discharge systems, and 3) preparation of air permit applications for cleanest simple-cycle gas turbine peaking plants currently in operation in the U.S. (NO_x limits of 2 ppm).