

DOCKETED

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VIA ELECTRONIC FILING

The Honorable Janea A. Scott, Presiding Commissioner
The Honorable Karen Douglas, Associate Commissioner
California Energy Commission
1516 Ninth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: Sonoran Energy Project (02-AFC-01C)
AltaGas Sonoran Energy Inc.'s Status Report #5**

Dear Commissioners:

Pursuant to the Committee's October 27, 2016 Scheduling Order, Project Owner AltaGas Sonoran Energy Inc. ("Project Owner" or "AltaGas Sonoran") herein submits its fifth Status Report related to the pending Petition to Amend ("Petition") the Sonoran Energy Project (formerly Blythe Energy Project Phase II) ("SEP").

Since providing a Status Report to the Committee on February 12, 2016, Project Owner docketed a technical memorandum outlining the details of Project Owner's proposed water conservation offset program (canal lining) (TN# 210520), participated in Staff's Preliminary Staff Assessment ("PSA") Workshop on February 24, 2016, docketed comments on the PSA (TN# 210578), and docketed information and analysis related to Project Owner's revised wastewater disposal method (TN# 210635). The revised wastewater disposal method proposes to discharge SEP's wastewater to the existing Blythe Energy Project evaporation ponds, while retaining the licensed right to construct and operate the proposed SEP ponds only for emergency purposes as set forth in existing Conditions of Certification BIO-12 and SOIL&WATER-4.

As discussed during the February 24, 2016 Workshop and in Project Owner's PSA Comments, Project Owner is currently working on compiling information in response to various questions raised during the PSA Workshop in the areas of Soil & Water Resources, Transmission System Engineering, and Traffic and Transportation. Project Owner anticipates submission of such additional information within the next few weeks.



The Honorable Janea A. Scott, Presiding Commissioner
The Honorable Karen Douglas, Associate Commissioner
March 15, 2016
Page 2

At the request of EPA Region 9, on February 11, 2016, the Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District (“District”) issued a revised Preliminary Determination of Compliance (“PDOC”), which incorporates comments received on the PDOC, for a second public comment period. The second public comment period closed on March 14, 2016. The District confirmed that no additional comments were received regarding the revised PDOC. It is Project Owner’s understanding that the District anticipates issuing the Final Determination of Compliance (“FDOC”) by the end of next week.

Project Owner recently received Western Area Power Administration’s Final System Impact Study (“Study”). Project Owner has reviewed the Study and has accepted the Study results. Project Owner is moving forward with the System Facilities Study and will provide Staff with the schedule for completion of the same upon receipt. Project Owner anticipates docketing a redacted copy of the Study in the coming weeks. Project Owner does not have any other information regarding timing of issuance of Southern California Edison’s Affected System Study, but will update Staff regarding the status of this item when such information is available.

AltaGas Sonoran remains confident that the Petition can move swiftly through the CEC process. Project Owner looks forward to discussing the items addressed herein with the Committee during the March 30, 2016 Status Conference. As discussed at the February 24, 2016 Workshop, AltaGas Sonoran also looks forward to participating in a second Workshop prior to Staff’s issuance of the Final Staff Assessment to discuss aviation and water-related issues.

Respectfully submitted,

Melissa A. Foster
MAF:jmw

cc: Christopher J. Doyle, AltaGas Sonoran Energy Inc.
Jerry Salamy, CH2M Hill