

DOCKETED

Docket Number:	02-AFC-01C
Project Title:	Sonoran Energy Project (formerly Blythe Energy Project Phase II) - Compliance
TN #:	211000
Document Title:	Notice of Staff Soil & Water Resources Issues Resolution Workshop
Description:	Thursday, April 21, 2016
Filer:	Mary Dyas
Organization:	California Energy Commission
Submitter Role:	Commission Staff
Submission Date:	4/11/2016 2:59:43 PM
Docketed Date:	4/11/2016

CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION

1516 Ninth Street
Sacramento, California 95814

Main website: www.energy.ca.gov



In the matter of:)	Docket No. 02-AFC-01C
)	
SONORAN ENERGY PROJECT)	
_____)	

**NOTICE OF STAFF
SOIL AND WATER RESOURCES
ISSUES RESOLUTION WORKSHOP**

The California Energy Commission staff will conduct a workshop to discuss the Sonoran Energy Project (SEP) (formerly the Blythe Energy Project Phase II) as it affects onsite water use and water supplies for the project. The workshop will provide an opportunity for the project owner, interested agencies, and the public to make comments and work with staff to resolve issues related to the SEP Soil and Water Resources. Based upon information the staff receives at the workshop and written comments provided on the Preliminary Staff Assessment (PSA), staff will prepare and publish its Final Staff Assessment (FSA). The public, local, state, and federal agencies and tribal governments are encouraged to attend or participate by teleconference. See attached agenda for topics and issues.

Thursday, April 21, 2016
Starting at 10:00 a.m.

Colorado River Basin Regional Water Quality Control Board
73720 Fred Waring Drive, #100
Palm Desert, CA 92260
(see map)

Wheelchair Accessible

Remote Access Available by Phone via WebEx™

1. Please go to <https://energy.webex.com> and enter the unique meeting number: **921 368 540**
2. **This meeting does not require a password.**

Purpose

California Energy Commission staff will hold a workshop to provide an opportunity for agencies, the public, the project owner, and other parties interested in the proposed SEP to discuss Soil and Water Resources issues related to the SEP.

Summary of the Petition to Amend

The proposed SEP is a natural gas-fired, water-cooled, combined-cycle, 553 megawatt (MW) net electrical generating facility. SEP is a proposed amendment to the approved BEP II. Proposed modifications include the name change of the project to the SEP, and include the following:

- Define a new point of electrical interconnection via a 1,320-foot, 161-kilovolt (kV) transmission line to the Western Area Power Administration's Blythe substation located southeast of the project site via an existing transmission line located in the Southern California Edison (SCE) Buck Boulevard substation;
- Replace the two Siemens SGT6-5000F combustion turbines with a single, more efficient General Electric (GE) Frame 7HA.02 combustion turbine;
- Replace the Siemens steam turbine generator (STG) with a more efficient GE D652 STG on a single-shaft with the combustion turbine;
- Increase the size of the auxiliary boiler to support GE's rapid response fast start capability;
- Decrease the size of the wet-cooling tower from an 11-cell to a 10-cell tower in response to the reduced heat rejection requirements;
- Decrease the size of the emergency diesel fire pump engine; and
- Optimize the general arrangement.

In the Preliminary Staff Assessment Soil and Water Resources section, similar to staff conclusions during the licensing of the BEP II project in 2005, staff believes the SEP should implement dry cooling to address project water use impacts. In addition to the project's use of wet-cooling not complying with state water policy, the Palo Verde Mesa basin is now supporting unsustainable groundwater pumping. The additional groundwater demand required by the SEP would be expected to result in significant impacts to the Palo Verde Mesa groundwater basin and flows in the Colorado River.

Soil and Water Resources staff also believes the project owner has not produced meaningful evidence they can develop and implement a Water Conservation Offset Plan (WCOP) that would offset project groundwater use in accordance with the 2005 Decision. Staff recommends that the SEP be modified to incorporate dry-cooling. Though the proposed use of water is not currently regulated under the Accounting Surface Rule, it is not adequately reliable, and it is not adequately drought-proof. A dry-cooled version of the project would still be expected to be profitable and meet the project's objectives.

Public Comment

The workshop will have time set aside for interested agencies and members of the public to provide comments and ask questions related to Soil and Water Resources for the SEP.

Oral Comments. Staff will accept oral comments during the workshop. Comments may be limited to 5 minutes per speaker. All comments will be considered by staff.

Written Comments. Written comments to be addressed at the workshop should be submitted to the Dockets Unit by 5:00 p.m. on April 20, 2015. Written comments will be also accepted at the workshop; however, the staff may not have time to review them before the conclusion of the meeting.

Written comments may be submitted via the Energy Commission's e-Commenting system at: <https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/EComment/ECommentSelectProceeding.aspx> and selecting 02-AFC-1C Sonoran Energy Project (formerly Blythe Energy Project Phase II) – Compliance.

Please note that your written and oral comments, attachments, and associated contact information (e.g. your address, phone, email, etc.) become part of the viewable public record. This information may become available via Google, Yahoo, and any other search engines.

The Energy Commission also accepts comments by e-mail. Please include your name and any organization name. Comments should be in a downloadable, searchable format such as Microsoft® Word (.doc) or Adobe® Acrobat® (.pdf). Please include the docket number 02-AFC-1C and indicate the workshop title in the subject line. Send comments to docket@energy.ca.gov, or if you prefer, you may send a paper copy of your comments to:

California Energy Commission
Dockets Office, MS-4
Re: Sonoran Energy Project, Docket No. 02-AFC-1C
1516 Ninth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814-5512

Public Adviser and Other Commission Contacts

The Energy Commission's Public Adviser's Office provides the public assistance in participating in Energy Commission proceedings. If you want information on how to participate in this forum, please contact the Public Adviser, Alana Mathews, at PublicAdviser@energy.ca.gov or (916) 654-4489 (toll free at (800) 822-6228).

If you have a disability and require assistance to participate, please contact Lou Quiroz at lquiroz@energy.ca.gov or (916) 654-5146 at least five days in advance.

Technical questions concerning the project should be addressed to Mary Dyas, Compliance Project Manager, at (916) 653-4677 or e-mail mary.dyas@energy.ca.gov.

Media inquiries should be sent to the Media and Public Communications Office at mediaoffice@energy.ca.gov or (916) 654-4989.

Availability of Documents

Information regarding the status of the project, as well as notices and other relevant documents pertaining to this proceeding, may be viewed on the Energy Commission's Internet web page at <http://www.energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/sonoran/>.

Remote Attendance

You may participate in this meeting through WebEx, the Energy Commission's online meeting service. Presentations will appear on your computer screen, and you may listen to audio via your computer or telephone. Please be aware that the meeting will be recorded.

To join a meeting:

VIA COMPUTER:

1. Please go to <https://energy.webex.com> and enter the unique meeting number:
921 368 540
2. This meeting does not require a password.

TELEPHONE ONLY (NO COMPUTER ACCESS):

Call 1-866-469-3239 (toll-free in the U.S. and Canada) and when prompted enter the unique meeting number: **921 368 540**.

If you have difficulty joining the meeting, please call the WebEx Technical Support number at 1-866-229-3239.

Date: April 11, 2016

<< Signature on File >>

ROGER E. JOHNSON
Deputy Director
Siting, Transmission, & Environmental Protection Division

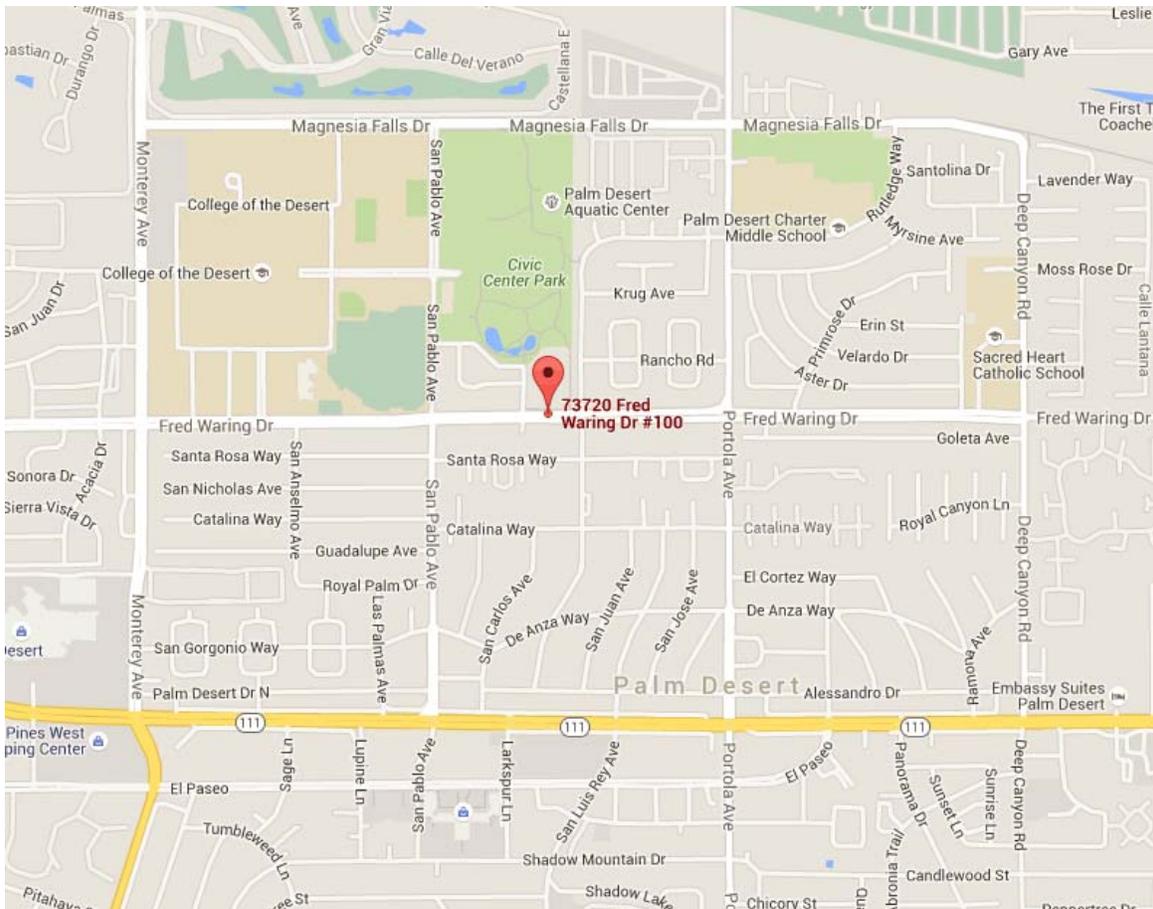
Mail List: 7088
ListServ: Sonoran Energy Project

**ENERGY COMMISSION PUBLIC WORKSHOP
SONORAN ENERGY PROJECT PETITION TO AMEND
PRELIMINARY STAFF ASSESSMENT (02-AFC-1C)**

**April 21, 2016
Starting at 10:00 a.m.**

Colorado River Basin Regional Water Quality Control Board
73720 Fred Waring Drive, #100
Palm Desert, CA 92260

(Wheelchair Accessible)



**SONORAN ENERGY PROJECT (02-AFC-1C)
SOIL AND WATER RESOURCES ISSUES RESOLUTION WORKSHOP**

April 21, 2016, Starting at 10:00 a.m.

Webex: <https://energy.webex.com>: Meeting No. **921 368 540**

MEETING AGENDA

I. INTRODUCTIONS

- Workshop Purpose & Format (Mary Dyas, Energy Commission)
- Energy Commission Staff, AltaGas Team, Agencies, Tribal Governments and other participants

II. SOIL AND WATER RESOURCES DISCUSSION

- Water Conservation Offset Program
 - ✓ Canal lining
 - ✓ Fallowing
 - ✓ Other
- Evaporation Pond Use / Zero Liquid Discharge
- Dry-Cooling
 - ✓ Feasibility
 - ✓ Staff Analysis of alternative
- Other water topics may be discussed.