

## DOCKETED

<b>Docket Number:</b>	08-AFC-08A
<b>Project Title:</b>	Hydrogen Energy Center Application for Certification Amendment
<b>TN #:</b>	201114
<b>Document Title:</b>	Email correspondence between John Hope and CPUC re HECA proposed rail line
<b>Description:</b>	N/A
<b>Filer:</b>	Tiffani Winter
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## Hope, John@Energy

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**From:** Licon, Sergio [sergio.licon@cpuc.ca.gov]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 04, 2013 11:27 AM  
**To:** Hope, John@Energy  
**Cc:** Garcia, Oliver B.  
**Subject:** RE: Hydrogen Energy CA (HECA) Rail Line

Good Morning John,

I can tell you that based on the preliminary information provided their proposed design is in compliance and RCES/CPUC does support the HECA project. It is too early for RCES/CPUC to consider the information provided by the applicant to be sufficient and complete to meet the formal application requirements. I will not know if RCES/CPUC will require additional information until they provide me with the environmental documentation and a draft Formal Application. I have included Oliver Garcia in this email as he is now the Utilities Engineer for Kern County. Thank you, please contact me if you have any questions.

Sergio Licon, Utilities Engineer  
Rail Crossings Engineering Section  
California Public Utilities Commission  
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(213) 576-7085

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**From:** Hope, John@Energy [mailto:John.Hope@energy.ca.gov]  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 24, 2013 2:57 PM  
**To:** Licon, Sergio  
**Cc:** Flores, David@Energy; Heiser, John@Energy; DeCarlo, Lisa@Energy  
**Subject:** Hydrogen Energy CA (HECA) Rail Line

Hi Sergio,

I know it has been awhile since we spoke about the proposed Hydrogen Energy California (HECA) project that the Energy Commission is currently reviewing. To quickly refresh your memory, one of the project's options for transporting coal to the project site is to construct and operate a new rail line from near Buttonwillow then south to the project site. The route of the rail line would cross two public roads (Stockdale Highway and Adohr Road) at grade. At this time we are aware that the applicant has met with the CPUC in the field on two occasions (February 7<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> of this year). We also understand the applicant showed detailed drawings and descriptions of the proposed crossings during the second meeting.

As part of the *Preliminary Staff Assessment / Draft Environmental Impact Statement*, the Energy Commission requested the applicant detail what information they had submitted for the at-grade rail crossings. A copy of the Energy Commission's request and the applicant's response is copied below for your reference. It should be noted that the applicant references to "Data Request A155" which can be accessed at the link below.

<http://docketpublic.energy.ca.gov/PublicDocuments/Regulatory/08-AFC-8A/2013/MAR/TN%2070013%2003-20-13%20Applicant's%20Second%20Supplemental%20Response%20to%20CEC%20Data%20Requests%20-%20Nos.%20A155%20and%20A156.pdf>

**INFORMATION REQUEST** [from Energy Commission]

TRA-3. Under a proposed alternative, HECA would construct and operate a rail spur for delivery of fuel and products to and from the project site. Because the CPUC traditionally has jurisdiction over such facilities, staff will continue to coordinate closely with the CPUC to ensure appropriate design of the rail line for safe operation. In order to ensure that CPUC staff has sufficient information in order to assist in analyzing the proposal, the applicant must submit all the information otherwise required for a formal application pursuant to Title 20, California Code of Regulations, section 3.1 for all public at-grade rail crossings needed for the proposed rail spur. This information is outlined in the CPUC Rules of Practice and Procedure 3.7 to 3.11 under Section 1001 of the Public Utilities Code and should be submitted, to both the CPUC and Energy Commission staff.

**RESPONSE** [from Applicant]

There will be two public at-grade crossings associated with the proposed rail spur, one at Stockdale Highway and one at Adohr Road. The Applicant conducted a field diagnostic with the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) on February 7, 2013, to obtain preliminary comments on the public crossings from the CPUC. Participants at the field diagnostic included representatives from CPUC, Union Pacific Railroad, San Joaquin Valley Railroad, Kern County Roads Department, and the Applicant. The meeting notes from the field diagnostic were docketed on February 26, 2013, as part of the Applicant's Response to CEC Data Request A155. These meeting notes outlined CPUC's comments on the proposed rail spur. Additional information regarding the public crossings was also provided in the Supplemental Response to CEC Data Request A155, docketed on March 20, 2013. The Supplemental Response provided detailed drawings and descriptions of the proposed warning signals at the public crossings.

A summary of the information that has been submitted to date, as well as additional information required for the formal CPUC Application for public crossings, is provided below. The information referenced and provided below is considered sufficient to meet the formal CPUC application requirements.

**CPUC Application Requirements**

- Applicant Information:

HECA – Jim Croyle, 30 Monument Square, Suite 235, Concord, MA 01742, (978) 287-9529; [jcroyle@scsenergyllc.com](mailto:jcroyle@scsenergyllc.com).

- Proposed Public Crossings:

A new rail spur will be constructed that will include two new public at-grade crossings: one at Stockdale Highway and one at Adohr Road. Descriptions of the public crossings are provided in the Applicant's Response to CEC Data Request A155, docketed with CEC on February 26, 2013, and Supplemental Response to CEC Data Request A155, docketed on March 20, 2013.

- Describe proposed public crossings:

- Descriptions are provided in the Applicant's Response to CEC Data Request A155, docketed with CEC on February 26, 2013; and Supplemental Response to CEC Data Request A155, docketed on March 20, 2013.

- Vicinity maps, at a scale of 1 inch = 50 feet, for each of the two public at grade road crossings, were provided as Exhibits C and D in Attachment A155-2, docketed with the CEC on March 20, 2013.

- Plans that show the proposed public at-grade crossings in relation to the

existing roads were provided as Exhibits A and B in Attachment A155-2, docketed with the CEC on March 20, 2013. Because the topography in the Project area is relatively flat, profiles were not developed. However, typical track sections that show relative elevations were presented in Exhibit E of Attachment A155-2.

- Describe the public benefits:

Safety measures will be implemented to protect the public.

- Explain why a separation of grades is not practicable:

Due to the relatively flat topography of the area, it would be physically impracticable to construct grade-separated crossings.

- Describe the existing and proposed crossing warning devices:

The following rail safety devices are proposed at the two public at-grade crossings (see Attachment A155-2, docketed on March 20, 2013):

- Crossing materials consisting of precast concrete panels;
- Automatic warning devices, including two CPUC Standard No. 9s, three advance warning signs (two W10 1s and one W10 4); and
- Required Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) pavement markings.

- Temporary traffic controls:

During construction, temporary traffic control, including temporary crossing closures and detours, will be provided in accordance with the California MUTCD, Section 8A.05 and Figure 6H-46.

**At this point, the Energy Commission is requesting to know whether or not the CPUC considers the information provided by the applicant is considered sufficient and complete to meet the formal CPUC application requirements for at-grade rail crossings associated with the proposed HECA project.**

**Is the CPUC seeking or anticipating any further information regarding the at-grade rail crossings associated with the proposed HECA project?**

Thank you for your time and assistance with this project.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me anytime.

John Hope

Environmental Planner II

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California Energy Commission

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