

**CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION**

1516 NINTH STREET  
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814-5512  
www.energy.ca.gov



November 15, 2007

The Honorable Bill Maze  
California State Assembly  
State Capitol, Room 5160  
Sacramento, CA 95814

<b>DOCKET</b>	
<b>07-AFC-5</b>	
<b>DATE</b>	NOV 15 2007
<b>RECD.</b>	NOV 16 2007

Dear Assembly Member Maze:

On August 31, 2007, Solar Partners I, LLC, Solar Partners II, LLC, Solar Partners IV, LLC, and Solar Partners VIII, LLC submitted a single Application for Certification (AFC) to the California Energy Commission (Energy Commission) to develop a 400-megawatt (MW) solar power plant. The proposed project would be comprised of three solar electric power plants; two 100-MW facilities and a single 200-MW plant. The combined projects are referred to as the Ivanpah Solar Electric Generating System (ISEGS). The proposed ISEGS project is in close proximity to the Ivanpah Dry Lake, north of Interstate 15 near the Nevada border in San Bernardino County, California.

The proposed ISEGS is based on distributed power tower and heliostat mirror technology in which heliostat fields focus solar energy on power tower receivers near the center of each heliostat array. Each 100-MW site would require approximately 850-acres (or 1.3 square miles) and would have three tower receivers and arrays; the 200-MW site would require approximately 1,600-acres (or 2.5 square miles) and would have four tower receivers and arrays. The total area required for all three plants would be approximately 3,400-acres (or 5.3 square miles). The three plants would share common administration, operational and maintenance facilities, access roads, a substation and the reconducted transmission lines connecting the ISEGS to the grid. Construction of the project, if approved, is anticipated to begin in the first quarter of 2009, with construction being completed in the last quarter of 2012.

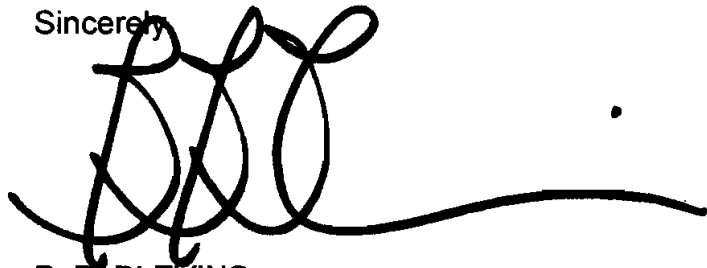
The ISEGS would be developed on Federal land managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). The Energy Commission and the BLM have executed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for this project and other proposed solar project proposals located on land managed by the BLM. The MOU provides a framework for the Energy Commission and the BLM to share in the preparation of a joint environmental analysis of the proposed project to avoid duplication of staff efforts, to share staff expertise, and information, to promote intergovernmental coordination at the local, state, and federal levels, and to facilitate public review by providing a joint document, and a more efficient environmental review process.

On October 31, 2007, the AFC for the ISEGS was deemed data adequate by the Energy Commission, and our staff will now begin the discovery and analysis phases of our permitting process. Over the coming months, the Energy Commission and the BLM will conduct a number of public workshops and hearings on the proposal to determine whether the ISEGS should be approved for construction and operation and under what set of conditions. These workshops will provide the public and local, state and federal agencies the opportunity to ask questions about, and provide input on, the proposed project. The Energy Commission will issue notices for these workshops and hearings at least 10 days prior to the meeting.

We are available to brief you and your staff on the Energy Commission's power plant review process and the specifics of the ISEGS application. Please contact Michael Smith, Director of Governmental Affairs, at (916) 654-4942, if you would like a briefing. If your constituents would like to participate in the Energy Commission's review of the project, they should contact the Energy Commission's Public Advisers office, at (916) 654-4489 or toll free in California, at (800) 822-6228.

The status of the project, copies of notices, an electronic version of the AFC, and other relevant documents are available on the Energy Commission's Internet web site at: <http://www.energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/ivanpah>. You can also subscribe to receive e-mail notification of all notices at <http://www.energy.ca.gov/listservers/index.html>.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

B. B. BLEVINS  
Executive Director

cc: The Honorable Senator Roy Ashburn  
The Honorable Brad Mitzelfelt, Supervisor, 1<sup>st</sup> District County Board of Supervisors