

CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION

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

**RECORD OF CONVERSATION**

DOCKET	
07-AFC-5	
DATE	<u>APR 21 2009</u>
RECD.	<u>APR 21 2009</u>

Matter: Ivanpah AFC (07-AFC-05)

Date of Conversation: April 21, 2009

Persons Present: John Kessler, CEC Staff PM, Tom Hurshman, BLM PM, Dick Ratliff, CEC Staff Counsel, Paul Kramer (Hearing Officer)

I met with the above persons at their invitation to receive clarifying information about the intricacies of BLM's schedule for its portion of the Ivanpah project and how that might coordinate with the CEC process.

With the change in administrations in Washington, even though the new administration is giving a priority to renewable energy projects, new people and vacancies in some positions have the practical effect of maintaining or even slightly lengthening the time it takes for local BLM staff to obtain approval to publish notices of availability of documents such as a DEIS. Review of a Notice of Availability focuses on the Notice itself, not the document whose availability it announces. Changes to the underlying document, while possible, are not expected.

Although they are not required to hold a public meeting to receive comments on the Draft EIS, BLM staff is leaning toward doing so in this case. When they do hold such meetings, they tend to do so in the range of 45 - 60 days after publication of the NOA. Comments collected at the meeting are in addition to the normal written comments they accept. If the timing is right, it may be possible to combine the meeting with the receipt of public comment during our evidentiary hearing(s).

BLM and CEC staff are concerned that evidentiary hearings not begin so early as to deny the public sufficient time to review the FSA/DEIS and submit comments. And if the evidentiary hearing marks the close of the public comment period in the CEC process, and that closure comes before the 90-day DEIS comment period ends, they wonder how comments submitted after the evidentiary hearings will be handled?

Both staffs recommend that the Energy Commission's final decision come no earlier than the release of the Notice of Availability of the Final EIS. In their view, this will help avoid inconsistency between the Commission Decision and BLM's Right of Way requirements without extending the time at which the applicant can begin construction (if the project is approved). (There may be an opportunity for CEC staff to preview the information in the FEIS, specifically the responses to comments and any changes they are expected to cause in the BLM's permit, during the 45 to 60 day period in which BLM staff is obtaining approval to publish the NOA for the FEIS. This preview would not shorten the time to ultimate decision but would provide the information to the CEC process sooner.)

Paul Kramer



**BEFORE THE ENERGY RESOURCES CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT
COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
1516 NINTH STREET, SACRAMENTO, CA 95814
1-800-822-6228 – WWW.ENERGY.CA.GOV**

APPLICATION FOR CERTIFICATION
FOR THE *IVANPAH SOLAR ELECTRIC
GENERATING SYSTEM*

DOCKET No. 07-AFC-5

PROOF OF SERVICE
(Revised 4/16/09)

APPLICANT

Solar Partners, LLC
John Woolard,
Chief Executive Officer
1999 Harrison Street, Suite #500
Oakland, CA 94612

Steve De Young, Director
Project Manager
Ivanpah SEGS
Environmental, Safety
and Health
1999 Harrison Street, Ste. 2150
Oakland, CA 94612
sdeyoung@brightsourceenergy.com

APPLICANT'S CONSULTANTS

John L. Carrier, J. D.
2485 Natomas Park Dr. #600
Sacramento, CA 95833-2937
jcarrier@ch2m.com

COUNSEL FOR APPLICANT

Jeffery D. Harris
Ellison, Schneider
& Harris L.L.P.
2600 Capitol Avenue, Ste. 400
Sacramento, CA 95816-5905
jdh@eslawfirm.com

INTERESTED AGENCIES

California ISO
e-recipient@caiso.com

Tom Hurshman,
Project Manager
Bureau of Land Management
2465 South Townsend Ave.
Montrose, CO 81401
tom_hurshman@blm.gov

Sterling White, Field Manager
Bureau of Land Management
1303 South Highway 95
Needles, CA 92363
sterling_white@blm.gov

Becky Jones
California Department of
Fish & Game
36431 41st Street East
Palmdale, CA 93552
dfgpalm@adelphia.net

INTERVENORS

California Unions for Reliable
Energy ("CURE")
Tanya A. Gulesserian
Marc D. Joseph
Adams Broadwell Joseph &
Cardozo
601 Gateway Boulevard, Ste 1000
South San Francisco, CA 94080
tgulesserian@adamsbroadwell.com

*Gloria Smith, Joanne Spalding
Sidney Silliman, Sierra Club
85 Second Street, 2nd Fl.
San Francisco, CA 94105
gloria.smith@sierraclub.org
joanne.spalding@sierraclub.org
gssilliman@csupomona.edu
E-mail Preferred

Joshua Basofin, CA Rep.
Defenders of Wildlife
1303 J Street, Ste. 270
Sacramento, CA 95814
jbasofin@defenders.org
E-MAILED PREFERRED

ENERGY COMMISSION

JEFFREY D. BYRON
Commissioner and Presiding
Member
jbyron@energy.state.ca.us

JAMES D. BOYD
Vice Chairman and
Associate Member
jboyd@energy.state.ca.us

Paul Kramer
Hearing Officer
pkramer@energy.state.ca.us

John Kessler
Project Manager
jkessler@energy.state.ca.us

Dick Ratliff
Staff Counsel
dratliff@energy.state.ca.us

Elena Miller
Public Adviser
publicadviser@energy.state.ca.us

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DECLARATION OF SERVICE

I, RoseMary Avalos, declare that on April 21, 2009, I served and filed copies of the attached Record of Conversation, dated April 21, 2009. The original document, filed with the Docket Unit, is accompanied by a copy of the most recent Proof of Service list, located on the web page for this project at:

[www.energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/ivanpah]. The document has been sent to both the other parties in this proceeding (as shown on the Proof of Service list) and to the Commission's Docket Unit, in the following manner:

(Check all that Apply)

FOR SERVICE TO ALL OTHER PARTIES:

X sent electronically to all email addresses on the Proof of Service list;

X by personal delivery or by depositing in the United States mail at Sacramento, California with first-class postage thereon fully prepaid and addressed as provided on the Proof of Service list above to those addresses **NOT** marked "email preferred."

AND

FOR FILING WITH THE ENERGY COMMISSION:

X sending an original paper copy and one electronic copy, mailed and emailed respectively, to the address below (***preferred method***);

OR

_____ depositing in the mail an original and 12 paper copies, as follows:

CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION

Attn: Docket No. 07-AFC-5
1516 Ninth Street, MS-4
Sacramento, CA 95814-5512
docket@energy.state.ca.us

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Original Signed By: _____
RoseMary Avalos